

Rudolf Steiner's indications for the Holy Nights given to Herbert Hahn

Below is the text of the Instructions given by Rudolf Steiner to his pupil Herbert Hahn the Thirteen Holy Nights (without the indications for the Four Weeks of Advent).

The original text 'indications', stenographed in German, immediately after this introduction, is without author, but is believed to have been transcribed by Herbert Hahn during a private conversation with Steiner for the biographical work.

It was shared online in December 2013 by Jean Benedicte who in turn received it from his grandmother Sunhilt Benesch.

The translation is edited by Laura Zanutto, later revised by Mark Willan and with the fundamental contribution of a German native speaker who wants to remain anonymous.

Indications

On December 24th the 12 holy nights begin.

The 12 holy nights are symbols for the 12 forces of the soul that live in us. And so this indication is valid forever, not only for the 12 holy nights.

On January 1 at noon we have the Sun as close as possible to the Earth and that is why there are just five and half days before and five and a half days later, which is the time of the 12 holy nights.

On these nights, the darkest of the year, we are closest to the Sun's Spirit and this means that the Spiritual Sun shining from inside the Earth makes it translucent and illuminates everything from the inside, not as it is afterwards when the Sun illuminates the Earth from above, from the outside.

You have to enter these 12 holy nights wide awake and very conscious. It is important that the first night (Dec. 24th) we only stay awake until one or two in the morning. On the other nights, if possible, try to go to bed regularly at the same time.

It is of principal importance to live in a regular rhythm at this time, if this is not possible in the active life, one has to try to do so internally. Those who cannot be silent in the external life should seek constantly to be inwardly aware of the sanctity of the time.

It is important to perform daily duties without losing sight of this realization, of the sacredness of the time, allowing nothing unhealthy, no ugly movement to enter the soul, remaining always attentive and severe on oneself in this regard.

During the experience of Christmas, with its 12 holy nights, we sow the seed for the next 12 months. Therefore these 12 days are important, if for example we make mistakes on the first day, we lay a seed, which, in the first month, will germinate negatively in the blood.

We must try to pass the 12 holy days properly, according to the law, because we need each year to work on our rebirth and we cannot lose any year.

24/25 December

Capricorn

On Christmas Eve, when Christ is born into the soul, the soul asks: Can I be heard with all my weaknesses, my faults and my passions?

Symbol: The Stable of Bethlehem, in whose humility and poverty the Light of the World was born. The Voice of Silence penetrates the soul and teaches us to joyfully affirm the good in us and in others.

Capricorn. The Divine Spirit was born in the Matter. Spirit and Matter. The Alpha and Omega touch and life is born.

Mystery: The soul yearning in the darkness of a forest without paths.

25/26 December

Aquarius

Night of John. The Eagle of the Soul hovers high on its wings, looking back from a great height and observing its own life. Now man recognizes the laws of Karma.

Mystery: choose the narrow and difficult path or the wide and simple way. It is difficult for the one born of the flesh to find the path of the spirit.

Bhagavad Gita: a selfish life or a life dedicated to humanity?

26/27 December

Pisces

The Three Nights of the White Lily.

The soul recognizes that it cannot linger upwards and is pulled downwards again, as it still has much earthly weight in itself.

The soul consciously begins to purify the earthly body, considering every food a "Holy Viaticum". "I am the bread..."

"We come from bread, we live from bread along the path of formation and return to bread."

Mystery: Never forget the Goal of Destinations along the wide paths in the Earthly Kingdom.

27/28 December

Aries

Consciously purify the astral body: antipathy and sympathy are transformed into Love. Passions and cravings are silent. The strength of Christ penetrates with His light and His strength into what is Luciferic in us.

Mystery: the work on ourselves serves the well-being of all. The archangel Uriel places us before a mirror in which we see ourselves as we are.

28/29 December

Taurus

Consciously purify the body of thought.

Discipline the thought. Focus on positive things. Convert the black doves of thought into white doves, because our thought can be compared to a dovecote, until it is consciously conducted with discipline. We must close this dovecote to negative and strange thoughts.

Mystery: The purification of the Temple through Jesus Christ.

29/30 December

Gemini

Now follow the three Nights of the Sword.

The Night of Peter. Night of the Consecration of the Sword.

Each of us must forge our own sword of discernment. Each of us must unite with increased willpower the two sides, the Immortal, the Eternal and the Perishable, so as to recognize the truth.

Mystery: Merging the Son of God with the Son of Man – Unity!

30/31 December

Cancer

The Serpent to the Hilt of the Sword. Wisdom. Devote yourself to high readings. It is the night of the Great Commandment.

Mystery of activity: Who rules our souls? Who is the Lord of our soul, the author of our actions? We have the freedom to strengthen the good will within us.

31 December/1 January

Leo

The Cross on the Hilt of the Sword. Sacrifice. The tongue, encircled with the sword of the Christic force, speaks the truth without hurting. It is the night that drives away terror.

Mystery: the knight, the fighter with the spear of the will and the sword of knowledge. The dog as a symbol of obedience. Behind him Death and the Devil! To a certain degree of knowledge, every wrong move quickly leads to perdition. Victory is achieved through the Fullness of God and untiring loyalty to the tasks of the Lion.

1/2 January

Virgo

Now to follow the three Nights of the Crown.

The detachment from the cold intellect or the separation of the intellect from earthly constraints and ends. This is the triple Holy Night, in which the lower self surrenders and all that remains is the desire to serve and to give oneself.

2/3 January

Libra

It is the night when the greatest Sacrifice develops and grows from serving (and giving oneself).

Learn to listen obediently to the Inner Voice and the Signs of the Divine.

Mystery: the Voice within us that calls through the various incarnations: its clarity increases through sacrifice and decision.

3/4 January

Scorpio

The eleventh night: the fight with the Threshold Keeper.

Mystery: building within us the Castle of the Grail. To profess more and more loyalty to the Most High.

4/5 January

Sagittarius

On the Twelfth Night the Crown obtained at the feet of the Divine is laid because, if it was we who fought to conquer the Crown, it was Grace, the divine law, that granted it to us. Because Grace is the inflow from a spring that man, with human strength alone, is unable to reach. Now the Beginning and the End are one. Time-without space and Space-without time. All is eternal and holy now! The focused and resolute forces of Sagittarius must be engaged so that they can receive the spiritual good.

Adam Kadmon as archetypal man contained in the human embryo.

5/6 January – Future Year – Adam Kadmon – Epiphany

What we have understood and received in the Twelve Holy Nights, we must now bring into life and spiritualize matter and soul.

The Dante Twelve Nights are important for life and destiny throughout the year. They can plant a seed of Good Will.