



# A Christian Mysteries Study

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From Egypt to the  
Founding of America

With Andrew Linnell

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# About

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- How I came to Anthroposophy
- Online – how to make a community
  - Your voice, our heart – a group
  - A being
- Context – human evolution

# Schedule (Intense!)

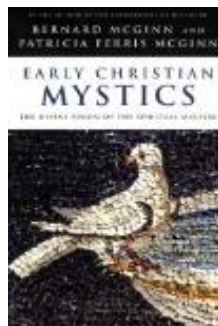
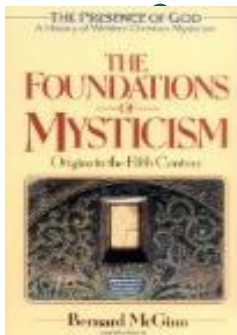
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**Sept 9: Christians before the term Christianity - the Ancient Mysteries**  
**Sept 23: Vanishing of the Mysteries leading to the Mystery of Golgotha**  
**Sept 30: Early Christianity: Heretics & the Struggle for a Catholic Church**  
**Oct. 14: Eurythmy with Cynthia Hoven**  
**Oct. 28: Materialism, Islam, and the Knights Templar**  
**Nov. 11: Rosicrucians, the Renaissance, and the Fall of Constantinople**  
**Nov. 25: *no class***  
**Dec. 9: The Hidden Heretic of the Renaissance: Leonardo**

# Overview

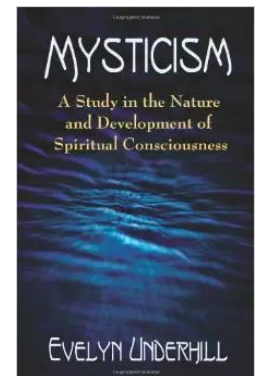
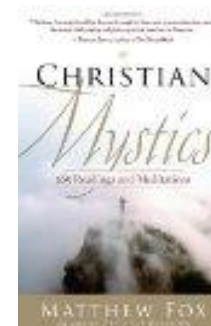
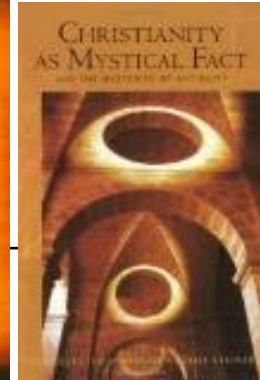
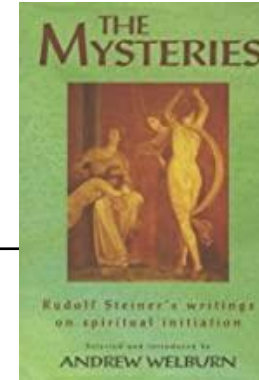
- Way too much material
  - How to condense without making it superficial?
  - History classes largely ignore role of Mysteries
- Key Points:
  1. Spread of Christianity via Mystery Centers
  2. Roman Christianity sought to free itself of past
  3. Mysteries continued, underground, rising up from time to time

Anthroposophy is its latest flowering



[www.thechristianmysteries.com](http://www.thechristianmysteries.com)

<http://www.rsarchive.org/>





**What were the Mysteries?  
What role did they play?**

## SESSION 1

# St. Augustine of Hippo (354 – 430)

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- “that which is know as the Christian religion existed among the ancients and never did not exist from the beginning of the human race until Christ came in the flesh at which time the true religion, which already existed, began to be called Christian” -- Augustine, *Contra Faustum*, 33:6.
- “What is now called the Christian religion already existed among the ancients and was not lacking at the very beginnings of the human race. When Christ appeared in the flesh, the true religion already in existence received the name of Christian.” – (Steiner) Augustine, *Contra Faustum*, 33:6.

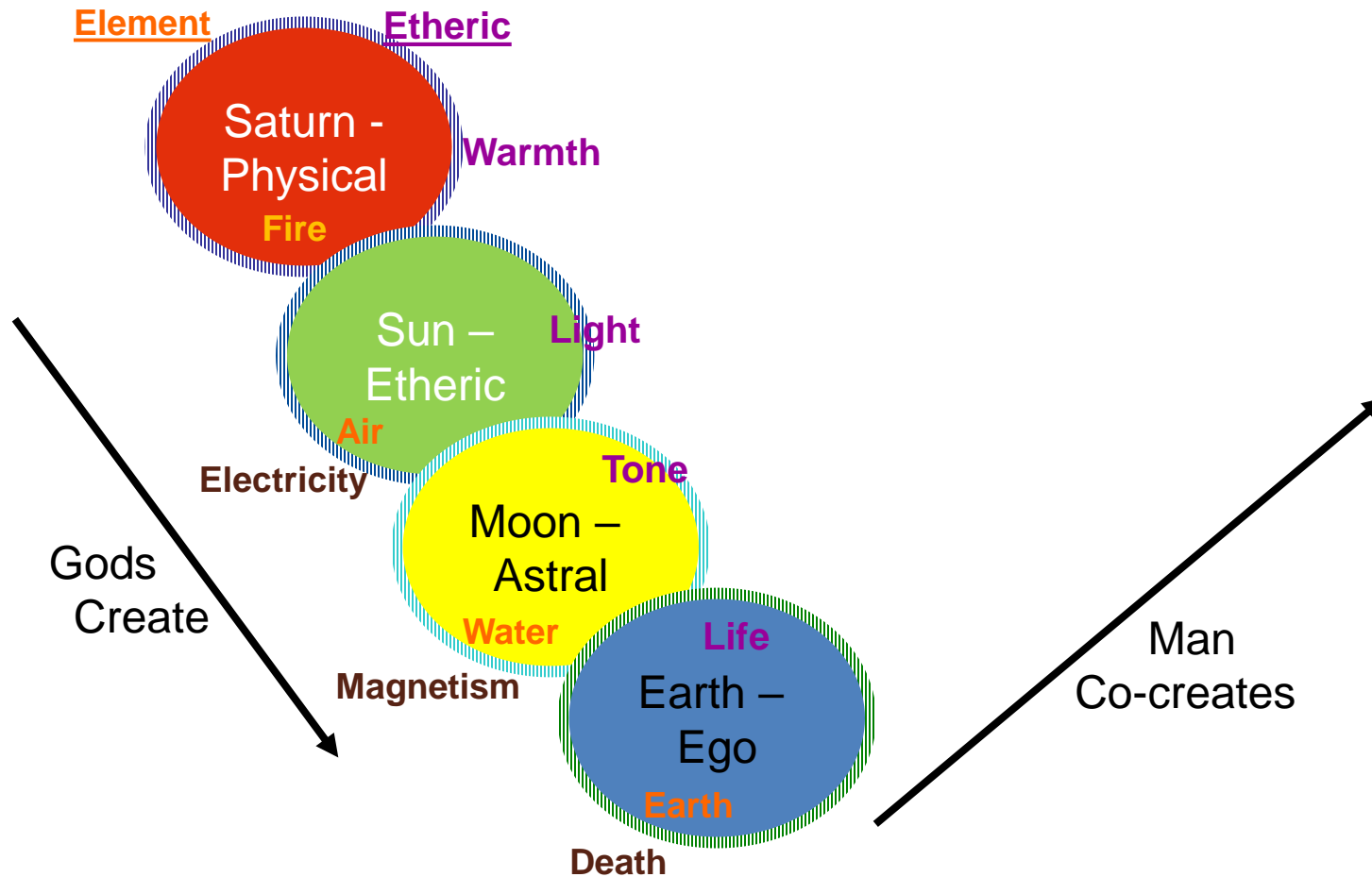
# From the Beginning of the Human Race

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- When did the human race begin?
- What is the human being?
- Cosmic origin?
- Earthly origin?
- Legend of Light and Dark
- Story of Eden – Fall of Mankind

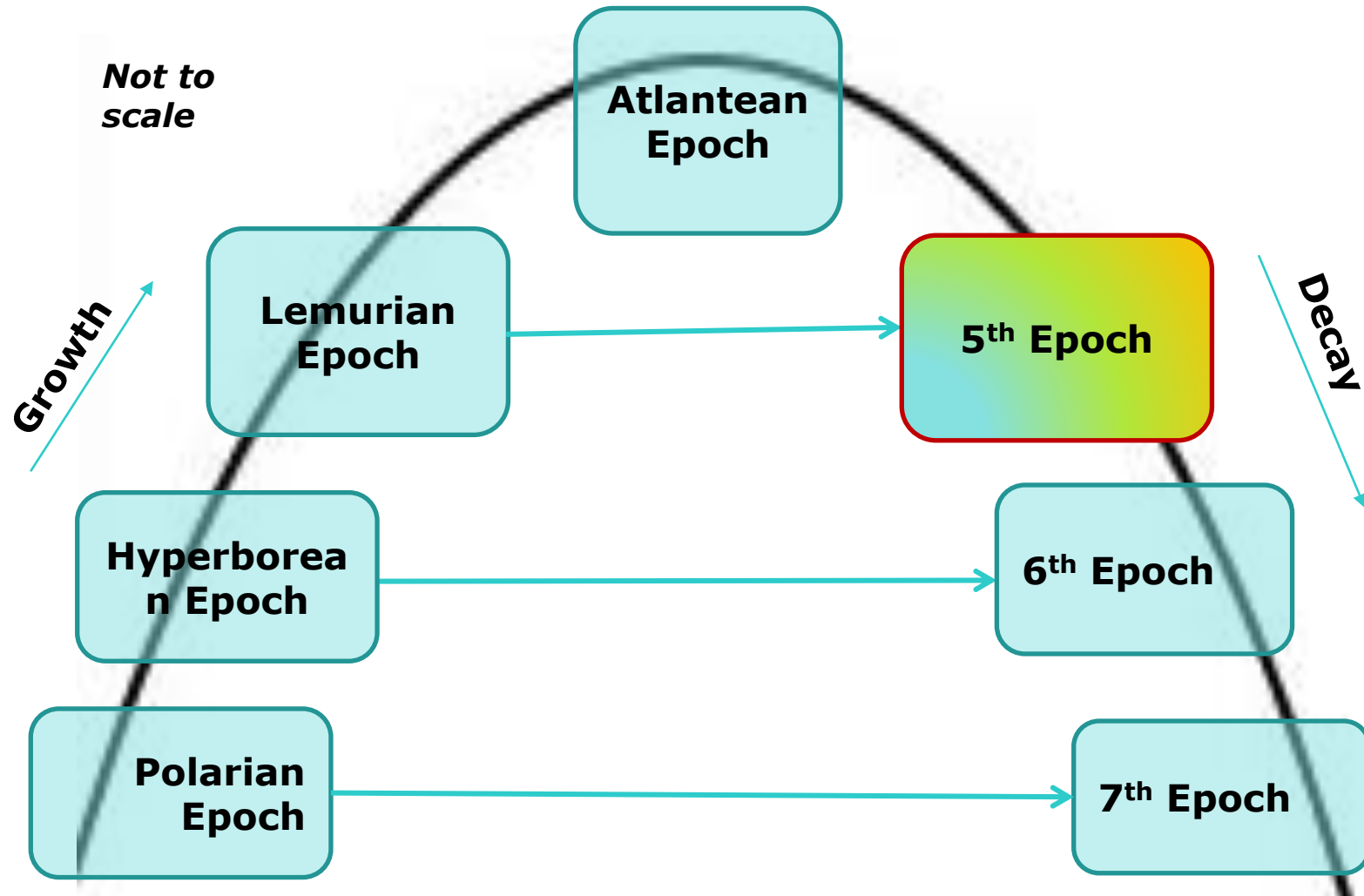
# Cosmic Evolution: Planetary Conditions

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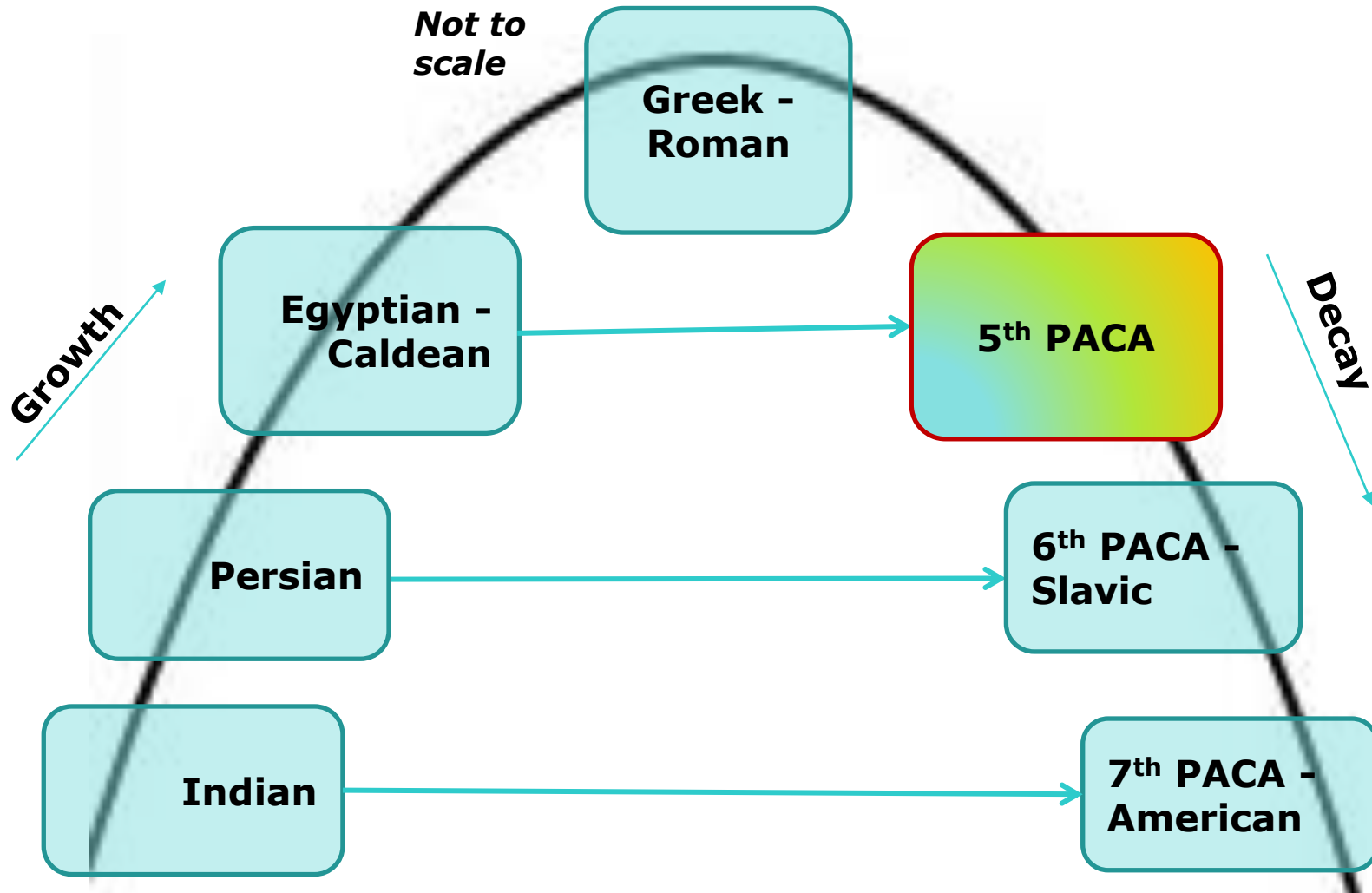




# The Epochs of Evolution on Earth



# Cultural Ages of Post-Atlantean Epoch

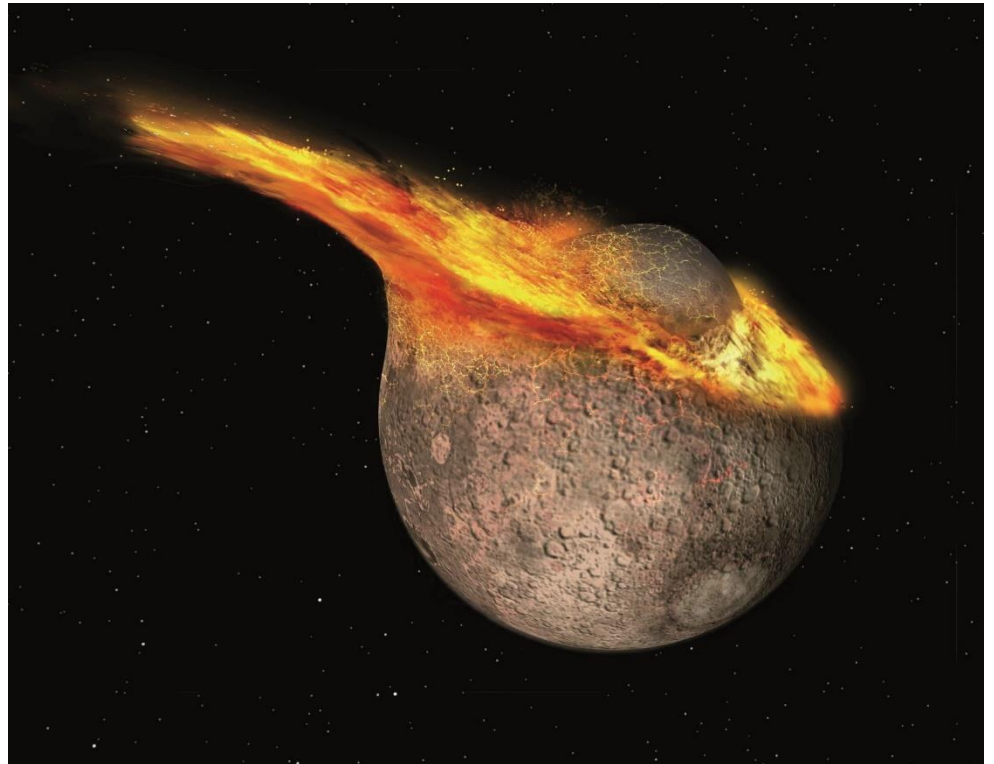


# From All-One to Extrusion of the Moon

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- Old Saturn ... to
- Earth
  - Epochs - Lemuria



# In the Beginning

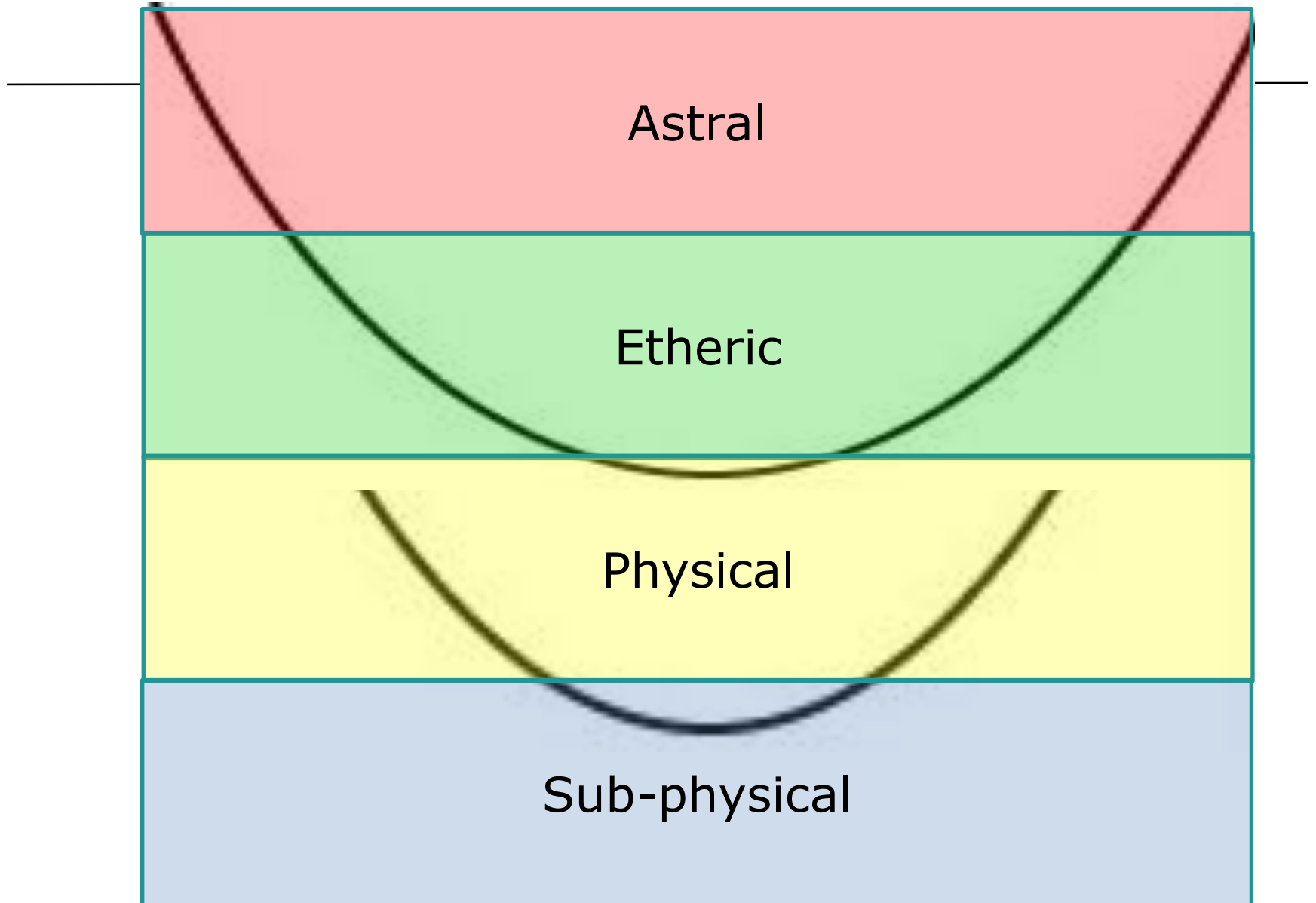
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The Logos was ...

Eve and Adam: Lineages

- Separate creations of Elohim
- Androgynous, clone
- Connection to parent lasted 100s of years
  - Included memories and even identification
  - Group/family/bloodline identification







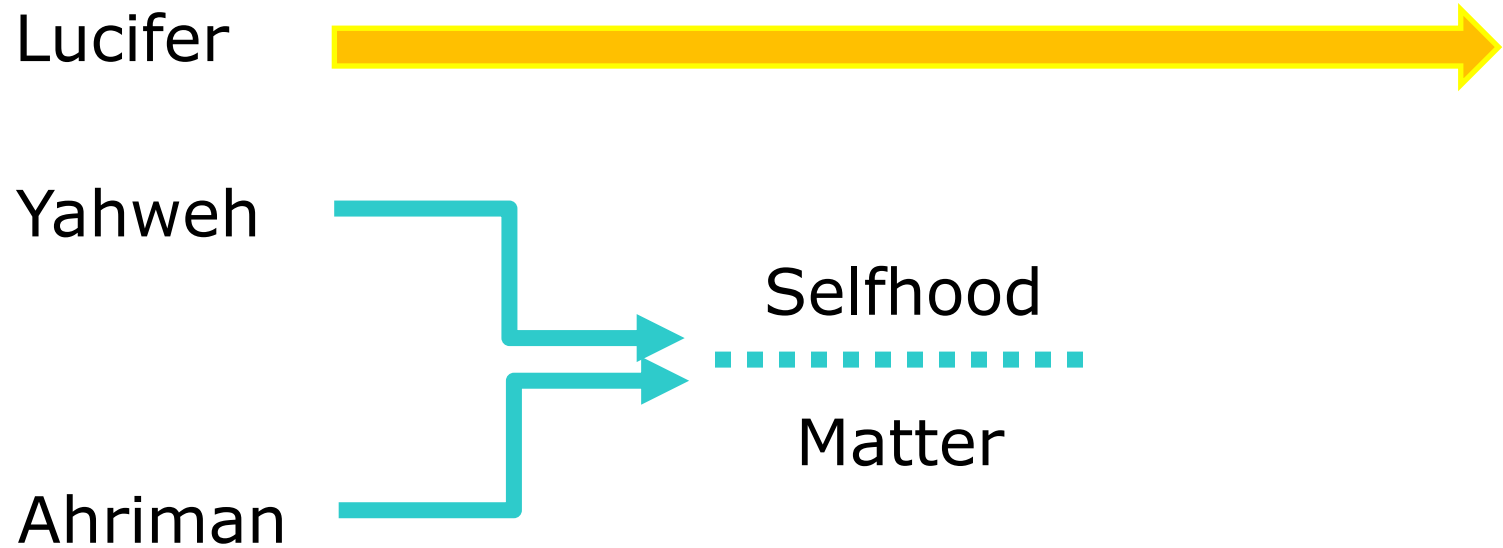
# Intentions of the Gods

- Our Past
  - *World of the Senses and the World of the Spirit, [lecture 4](#), 30Dec1911, GA 134*
- Our Present
- Our Future
  - Become the archetype
  - As we leave behind what has coarsened



# Cosmic Intentions

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# Body-Soul Development by Era

- Lemuria (moon separated)
- Atlantis (sex procreation)
- Post-Atlantean
  - I. 56 49 earth
  - II. 48 42 speech
  - III. 41 35 stars
  - IV. 34 28 33 – Christ
  - 1879 V. 27 21 Today 27 (Michael's era)
  - VI. 20 14 Year 4,000
  - **VII. 13 7** Year 6,000 – women are infertile  
Year 8,000 – moon returns



*Evolution of Human Freedom and Personal Consciousness, 19Jan1905*



# Transition From Eden to Earth

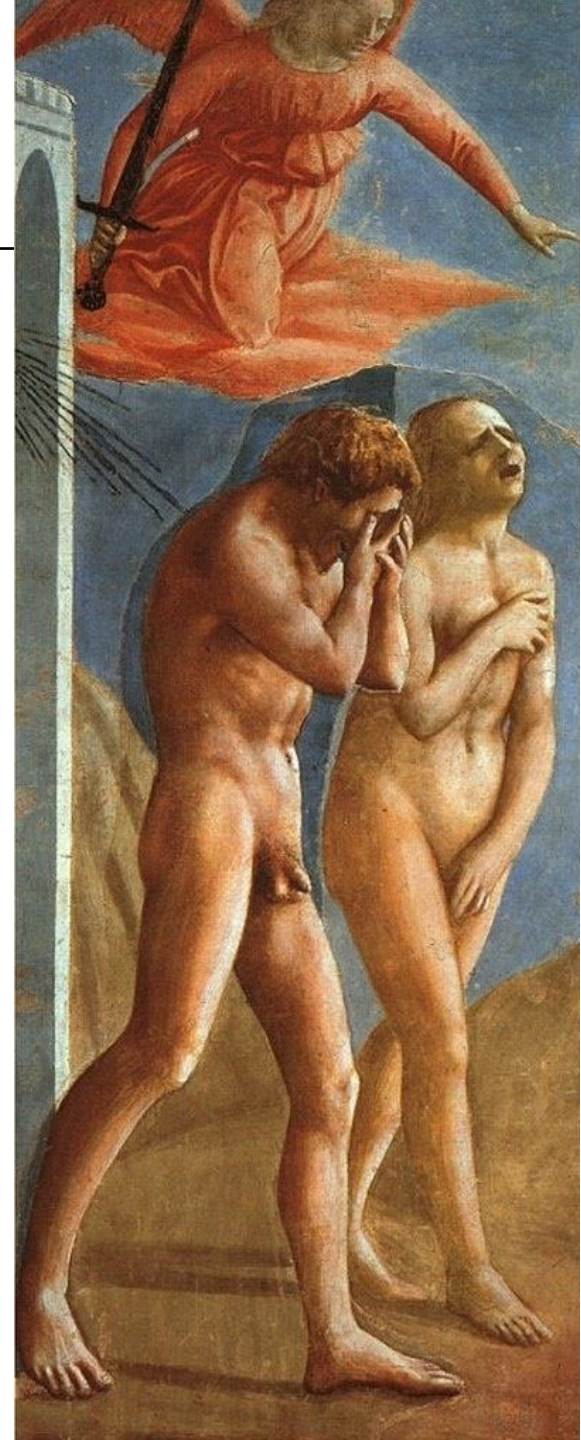
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## Cain and Abel

- Androgynous at first
- Male / female separation as result of *moon leaving*

## Seth

- From sexual procreation of Adam & Eve
- Mid Atlantean Epoch
- Abel men took wives from the Cain women – Niphilim giants, immorality
- Offspring of the "sons of God" and the "daughters of men" (Genesis 6:1–4)



# What Did Lucifer Want?

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- Advance us to the level of “god” more quickly
- To reveal to us the glories of Old Moon
  - “We did it right back then”
  - Humans were there as resistance to the angels
- As evolution progressed, Lucifer provided the
  - Wisdom of the past
  - Remembrance of one’s ancestors
- Focus on astral & etheric
  - Physical as part of evil
- Separation from physical body
  - Initiation: Maximum time - 3.5 days

# Guidance of Humanity - Teachers

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- Archai
- Archangeloi
- Angeloi
- India
- Persia
- Egypt/Chaldea
- Greece/Rome
- 7 Holy Rishiis
- Zarathustra
- Scythianos
- New religions
- Intelligence -- Ego -- Individual
- 747 BCE onwards – increasingly more difficult
- Rise of egoism, corruption of the sacred
- When does freedom enter?
  - Freedom from what? Spiritual world, nature, laws?
- Concept of the citizen - Science of Law - Ahriman

# Moon Extrusion

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- “This densification took place because of the moon separation and the incorporation of the mineral kingdom. The human being became a personality and thus accessible to freedom.” -- *Materialism and the Task of Anthroposophy*, Lecture 14
- Spiritual Deed – has a beginning and end
- Return of the moon planned for about 8000 AD



# Mysteries of the Moon

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Jehovah was honoured as a Moon-Divinity. It was clearly seen that cosmologically, behind all the processes of birth throughout all the kingdoms, there ruled the laws of the Moon, And so one could, I might say, symbolically utter a deep secret of Cosmology by saying, when the Moonlight falls on the Earth, on what is represented through this light, depends everything connected with all the Sprouting, Growing and 'being born' on the Earth. In those pre-Christian ages one did not turn in the highest Mysteries to the life of the Sun, one turned to the reflected sunlight, that is, to the Moon, whenever the secret of Birth was alluded to. And the peculiar "Nuances" which were poured over the depths of those pre-Christian conceptions depended on the fact that the Initiates knew the Mysteries of the Moon. [What religions use the symbol of the moon?]

# Mysteries of the Sun

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They regarded the Sun Mysteries as something quite veiled, something hardly bearable for a humanity not fully prepared, because they knew that it is a deception, a maya, to believe that through the rays of the Sun falling on the Earth those things which Sprout and Grow are enchanted out of the various kingdoms of nature. That is a deception, a Maya. It was known that the *life of the Sun* did not depend the process of Birth, but, on the contrary, the decaying, decreasing life, the *process of Death*. These were the secrets of the Mysteries.

*The Moon causes things to be born, but the Sun causes them to die.* And, however highly for other reasons the Sun-life was honoured in those pre-Christian Mysteries, the Sun-life was honoured as the cause of death. The fact that beings had to die was not to be ascribed to Old Sun but to the present Sun, which appears so magnificently on the horizon. [human gestation = 10 moons (tenth hierarchy) or 280 days]



# Consciousness From the Sun

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Well, the decay of life, the opposite of birth, is connected with the Sun-life, but, my dear friends, there was something else, not so important in that pre-Christian age, but very specially important in our post-Christian age, and that is, that all conscious life is connected with Sun-life, and that conscious life through which man has especially to pass in the course of his earthly evolution, that consciousness which shines forth especially in the 5<sup>th</sup> Post Atlantean Cultural Age to which we ourselves belong, that is most intensely connected with the Sun-life. Only we must consider this Sun-life Spiritually, as we have attempted to do in the course of lectures given this Summer. For, if indeed the Sun is the creator of Death, of the decaying life in the Cosmos and also of man, yet the Sun is at the same time the creator of conscious life. The conscious life was not so important in the pre-Christian ages, because it was then replaced by an atavistic clairvoyant life, which remained as an inheritance of the Moon. For our post-Christian age, it has, however, become important, far more important than life. Consciousness has become more important than life, because only through consciousness can the goal of earthly evolution be reached — which is, that this consciousness should be attained in the corresponding way by the humanity on earth. You must receive this consciousness from the giver, the Sun, from which comes the living into Death and not the life of Birth.

# From Moon (ancient mysteries) to Sun (Christian)

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Therefore the Mystery of Golgotha appears as that power in earthly development which has now become the most important thing for this evolution, — the Son of the Sun, the Christ, Who passed through the Body of Jesus of Nazareth, — That is connected with the deepest Cosmic secrets. The ancient Mystery Initiates said to their pupils: “Try to recognise through your sleep-life how the Moon-forces are playing into it. (We know that even waking-man is partially asleep). Try to recognise the Moon-life in your sleep-life, for it plays into your sleep-life, as the Silvery Moon-shine plays into the darkness of night.”


The Christian Initiates on the contrary said to their disciples: “Try to recognise that in your waking-life consciousness shines; for the Sun-Forces pour into your waking-life, just as from morning till evening the Sun shines outside in the life of the Earth.”

You see, this reversal was fulfilled through the Mystery of Golgotha, and, whereas in pre-Christian ages the most important thing was to recognise the origin of Life, it has now become the most important thing to recognise the origin of Consciousness. -- *The Cosmic Prehistory of Humanity*, GA 184 [https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/SA3554\\_index.html](https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/SA3554_index.html)



# Timeline

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	Ancient Mysteries
▶ 747 BCE	4 <sup>th</sup> Post-Atlantean Cultural Age, founding of Rome
▶ 333 BCE	Aristotle & Alexander, Hellenism
▶	Mystery of Golgotha
▶ 333 CE	Ego enters Intellectual Soul
▶ 529 CE	All Mystery Centers closed or destroyed
▶ 869 CE	8 <sup>th</sup> Ecumenical Council, Charlemagne & Harun al Raschid
▶ 1054 CE	Great Schism
▶ 1250 CE	Scholasticism, Rosicrucianism, Fall of Baghdad (1258)
▶ 1312 CE	Destruction of the Knights Templar
▶ 1413 CE	5 <sup>th</sup> Post-Atlantean Cultural Age, Renaissance begins
▶ 1517 CE	Protestant Reformation begins
▶ 1776 CE	America as the "Holy Experiment"
▶ 1879 CE	Michael's reign begins (Kali Yuga ends 1899)
▶ 1933 CE	Reappearance of Christ in the Ethereal Realm

# When Did the Mystery Centers Begin?

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- Gurdjieff claims the mystery schools went back at least 30,000 to 40,000 years (Atlantis)
- Rudolf Steiner also points to the Atlantean Period
  - 'Modern' mysteries continued after the flood
  - Seven Oracles of Atlantis
  - Vulcan Oracle betrayed
- Lemuria – all clairvoyant
  - Need arose when moon left
  - Some legends trace back to
    1. Abel
    2. Cain



# Post-Atlantean Ancient Mysteries

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## ○ India

- Oneness
- Saw back to Polaris

## ○ Persia

- Duality
- Saw back to Hyperborea

## ○ Egypt / Chaldea

- Trinity
- Saw back to Lemuria

## ○ Greece

- The Human
- Saw back to Atlantis

## Mystery Sources

### ○ Abel (& Seth)

- Shepherd
- Priest (priestess)
- As God gives it to me
- Receives

### ○ Cain

- Tiller of the ground
- Arts and sciences
- Technology
- Earthly wisdom
- Spiritualizes the Earth

# Solomon's Temple

- Built 960-931 BCE
- Ruined 587 BCE
- Priest rulers
- Kings of Israel:
  1. Saul, 1027–1010 BCE
  2. King David (a shepherd) next: 1010–970 BCE
  3. King Solomon next: 970–931 BCE
- “Abel” calls on “Cain” to help build the Temple
  - Queen of Sheba
  - Story of Hiram Abiff
  - Who is Hiram’s offspring? Rehoboam, 931–913 BCE?



# King Nebuchadnezzar's *Dream*

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- Daniel [600 BC, Babylon]
  - Spiritual experience from dream
- 10: The astrologers answered the king, "There is no one on earth who can do what the king asks! No king, however great and mighty, has ever asked such a thing of any magician or enchanter or astrologer.
- 11 What the king asks is too difficult. No one can reveal it to the king except the gods, and they do not live among humans."





# Mystery Centers Existed Everywhere

- Indian Mysteries: Brahman
- Mysteries of the Persian: Zoroaster and Mithra
- Egyptian Mysteries: Osiris, Isis, & Horace
  - Hermes Trismegistus
  - Babylonian Mysteries: Nimrod & Queen Semiramis
  - Mysteries of the Near East: Hanmi, Tao
- Greece: the Eleusinian, Delphic, Orphic, Dionysian, Samothracean Mysteries
  - Others: Syrian Adoniac, Phrygian Cabirian, Minoan



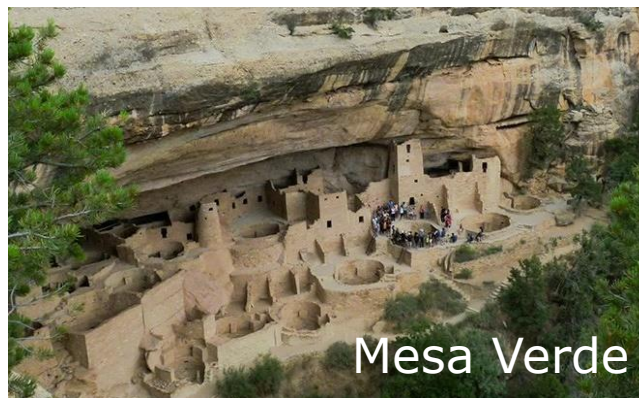
Phrygian



Egypt



Peru



Mesa Verde



Minoan

# What Were the Ancient Mysteries?

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- Mystery Centers in all societies
  - Oral tradition
  - This “secret” wisdom existed side by side with local religions
  - It shed light upon the highest questions of contemporary times
  - Their sages speak of the Mysteries with the greatest reverence
  - Offered wisdom and guidance from the gods to their people
- What was concealed in them? What did they reveal?
  - Those initiated are in the position of a man who can see and who imparts his visual impressions to one born blind
  - The spiritual eye also sees what the material eye sees, but in a higher light (consciousness)
  - Carried one back to when one could address a god



# Experience Within a Mystery Center

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- Mysteries were seen as something dangerous
  - The way to the secrets of existence went through a world of terrors beginning with the sensation of death, the underworld before climbing to the Eternal
  - Woe to him who tried to reach them unworthily
    - Purification, moral stature
- No greater crime than the “betrayal” to the uninitiated
  - The “traitor” was punished with death and confiscation of property
- All ancient schools of learning were ‘connected’
- Real Purpose?
  - To prepare for the coming of Christ (aka Ahura Mazdao, Ra, Vishnu, the Sun God (Acts 17:16-34))



# Mystery Center Experiences

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## ○ Humans go there

- To experience beings of the spiritual world
- Egyptians journeyed back to Lemuria
  - **Bloodline** carried ancestral memory
  - Memories of when Gods were present
  - Pictures of the Gods (phantoms) rather than full experiences
- Greeks → Atlantis

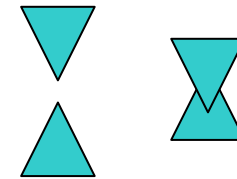
## ○ Gods come here

- Appeared in Mystery center, Temple
  - Time aligned – long waits possible
  - For example: Saturn: 30 yrs, Moon: 18 yrs
- Building suitable temple for the god to be physically present
- Prepare a body4Christ

# Concept of the Human in the Mysteries

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- We come from extra-planetary into the planetary
- We are a microcosm of the macrocosm
- We consist of Body, Soul, and Spirit
- Planetary relations to Human members
  - Mercury, Venus, Moon: Astral
  - Saturn, Jupiter Mars: Etheric
- Sun: Insofar as the human being raises himself with his ego beyond the etheric and astral body
  - Leads beyond one's earthly life
- Earth: forces that led one into earthly existence
  - Ensure physical body is fitted into this etheric body
  - That of the physical body where the etheric body has expressed itself



# Steps to Initiation

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- Study and preparation (for years)
- Purification of Astral body - catharsis
- Purified can astral imprint upon etheric
- But physical-etheric bond too strong
- 3.5 days – etheric lifted out of physical
- Neophyte experiences spiritual world
- Guided by hierophant – very dangerous journey
- Returns a new person, new name, initiate
- Some organ(s) opened for spiritual perception

# Pyramids, Temples, and Cathedrals

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## Egypt

- Pyramid
- See how the Gods acted
- Physical body as sp. labor



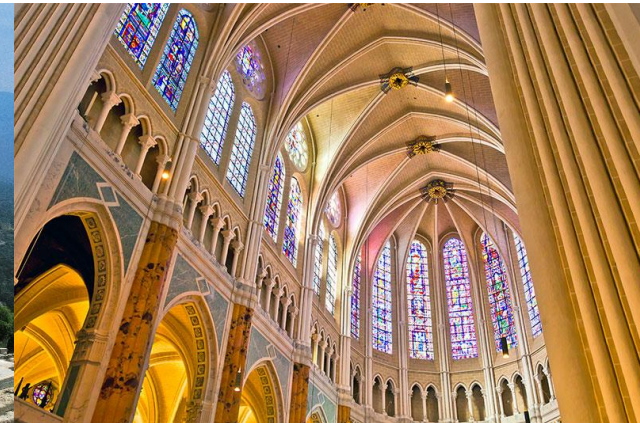
## Greece

- Temple
- Marriage of sp and physical
- Physical body for a god



## Christian

- Cathedral
- Congregation praying within
- Community as body of Christ



# Greek Temples and Art

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- Evolution of human relationship to Physical Realm
- Marriage of spirit and matter
- Temple: a place where the god could dwell
- Sculpture: Imprint of spirit on matter
- Conquered matter without losing the spirit
- Not for satisfaction of bodily desires/needs
- “Cain coming into his own”

# Discussion



"Thrice happy they, who, having seen these rites,  
Then pass to Hades: there to these alone  
Is granted life, all others evil find."

-- Sophocles, Fragment 719

Slides are available at [www.thechristianmysteries.com](http://www.thechristianmysteries.com)