

MysTech Study Group Guide, Autumn 2018

This document is intended to be a guide for participants and instructors of the Beginner's MysTech Study Group. This group meets online via Zoom's video conferencing software every Monday.

Verses:

We must eradicate from the soul all fear and terror of what comes toward us out of the future. We must acquire serenity in all feelings and sensations about the future. We must look forward with absolute equanimity to all that may come, and we must think only that whatever comes is given to us by a world direction full of wisdom. This is what we have to learn in our times. To live out of pure trust in the ever-present help of the spiritual world. Surely nothing else will do, if our courage is not to fail us. Let us properly discipline our will and let us seek the inner awakening every morning and every evening.

*The Stars once spoke to Man.
It is World-destiny
That they are silent now.
To be aware of the silence
Can become pain for earthly Man.*

*But in the deepening silence
There grows and ripens
What Man speaks to the Stars.
To be aware of the speaking
Can become strength for Spirit-Man.*

I want with cosmic spirit
To enthuse each human being
That a flame they may become
And fiery will unfold
The essence of their being

What will extinguish flames
And pour paralysis
Into all inner being.

The other ones, they strive
To take from cosmic waters
-- Rudolf Steiner

O joy, when human being's flame
Is blazing, even when at rest.
O bitter pain, when the human thing
Is put in bonds, when it wants to stir.

September 17 Week 1

Preparation: Mechanical Occultism from *The Challenge of the Times*, lecture 3

- <http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA186/English/AP1941/19181201p01.html>

Theme: Getting to Know Each Other and Overview of Mechanical Occultism

- **Introductions:** Say a bit about why you are taking part and hope to learn.

- Name, location, background, and interest (2 min each)
- Social rules: prepare, focus, listen, build upon via pithy statements or questions
- Element of self-development for each participant
- Use of Steiner as an authority of the Akashic Record (*if not, then group not for you*)
- Open mind about the future, some likely will not be comfortable with where this leads
- **Goal:** initially, let's get to know each other, form social bonds, participation alignment
 - Become Michael's ambassadors - we must learn and grow together, not only individually
 - "To tell mankind 'just use Ahriman responsibly' without profound guidance, is like giving a gun to a child. Ahriman would crush you to dust." [anonymous]
 - Work according to Rosicrucian Ideals: i.e. be in life selflessly.

September 24 Week 2

Preparation: Cosmic Understanding of Technology.

Read either (different translations of the same lecture):

1. *A Picture of Earth-Evolution in the Future* (earlier translation)
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/19210513p01.html>
2. *Materialism and the Task of Anthroposophy*, lecture 14 (later translation)
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA204/English/AP1987/19210513p02.html>
3. *Evolution of Human Freedom and Personal Consciousness*
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/19050119p01.html>

Theme: Cosmic Understanding of Technology. Return of the Moon.

- **Goal:** Understanding Cosmic Events as They Relate to the Need for Technology
 - Return of the Moon, what will this mean for life on earth?
- Human Evolution from a Cosmic Perspective
 - Age at which the physical body exhausts its ability to stimulate soul growth

October 1 Week 3

Preparation: Role of the Elemental Spirits of Birth and Death in Evolution, Vulcan Help

- *The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness*, Lecture 4,
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA177/English/RSP1993/19171006p01.html>
- *Fall of the Spirits of Darkness*, lecture 5
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA177/English/RSP1993/19171007p01.html>

Theme: Understanding these Spiritual Beings

- Goal: Confronting with Strength

- Automatic intelligence versus fully human
 - The brood of automata
- Incarnation: When it ceases, what will we be?
 - What kind of body-members will we have?

October 8 Week 4

Preparation: What Might We Use to Build a Technology that Only Responds to Moral Impulses

- John Worrell Keely bio: <https://www.lhup.edu/~dsimanek/museum/keely/keely.htm>
- *The Temple Legend, lecture 20*
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA093/English/RSP1985/19060102p01.html>
- *The Wrong and Right Use of Esoteric Knowledge, lecture 3*
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA178/English/RSP1966/19171125p02.html>
- *Reappearance of Christ in the Etheric, lecture 12* (same as Wrong and Right Use above)
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/ReapChrist/19171125p01.html>

Theme: Introduction to Moral Technology

- Goal: The Machines of the Future
 - Man-Machine Interfaces
 - Welding Mankind to Machines: Moral Technology

October 15 Week 5

Preparation: The Role of the Double

- *Geographic Medicine, lecture 2*
 - <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA178/English/MP1986/19171116p01.html>

Themes: Applications of Moral Technology, Technology and the Double

- **Goal:** Understanding Moral Technology
 - What is the Double?
 - America and the Double
 - How many doubles are there?
 - Wearable Technology and the Double

October 22 Week 6

Preparation: Vulcan Help

- *Evolution of Human Freedom and Personal Consciousness*

- <https://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/19050119p01.html>
- **Theme: Understanding these Vulcan Beings**
 - Help from Super-Earthly beings

October 29 Week 7

Preparation: More on a 'Moral' Technology, what is it, what does it mean?

- Posting in MysTech FB group page (4 questions & comments)
 - See "Excerpts" attachment
- Pastoral Medicine: Lecture 7 (note the discussion on breathing and thinking)
- Extras
 - <http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/ReapChrist/19111001p02.html> (Q&A at the end)
 - <http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA186/English/AP1941/19181201p01.html>
 - <http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/ReapChrist/19171125p01.html>
 - Paul Emberson's book *Machines and the Human Spirit* (if you have it)

Theme: Developing a Moral Technology I

- **Goal:** grasp what is possible by 'us' and by humanity in the next 25 years
 1. What are the inner requirements of the researcher?
 2. What knowledge/wisdom is necessary?
 3. What is required in society?
 4. How do we know that what is introduced is, in the end, beneficial for human and earthly evolution?

November 5 Week 8

Preparation: What vibrations could be used by Moral Technology?

- Broken Vessels: Lecture 8 or
- Pastoral Medicine: Lecture 8
- Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts: Memory and Conscience
- Extra study:
 - Karmic Relationships, Volume II: Lecture VIII

Theme: Theme: Developing a Moral Technology II (harmonious vibrations)

- **Goal:** Understanding resonance and how it might drive an engine

November 12 Week 9

Preparation: Relationship of Thought, Light, and Electricity - and the atom.

What really is Light, EMR, Maya? How Else Might We See Reality?

- Concerning Electricity

- There is a Steiner lecture with this title that is part of GA 220 but has appeared separately in various places including

<http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/19230128p01.html>.

This translation typically ends after the reference to Steiner's First Mystery Drama but by doing so we miss significant paragraphs and a closing remark that appears now in the new publication of GA 220 entitled *Awake! For the Sake of the Future*. Here is one previously omitted paragraph: "We could learn [from conventional science] about the function of the circulatory and nervous systems, but there would be no mention of morality. Likewise, scientists talk about electricity and even recognize the presence of electricity within the human being, but they have nothing to say about the fact that the electricity within the human being can absorb immoral impulses. Today we talk about the absorption of oxygen and many other examples of absorption in a material sense. But you never hear that the electricity within the human being absorbs the immoral impulses within us, and that this phenomenon is a natural law like other natural laws. Nor is it ever mentioned that the light that we take into our bodies from the outer world conserves the absorption of good, moral impulses. We need to bring spiritual knowledge into the science of physiology. We shall be able to achieve this only when we free ourselves from the ideas and theories espoused in the past that irritate and suffocate us ..." This absorption of immoral impulses, for me, has been an important realization for my current work. In *Geographic Medicine* (lecture 2) where the ahrimanic double is discussed, it is indicated that the presence of electricity within the body comes (as a gift?) from this double and is necessary for our physical body to function upon the earth. Now, we can see this electricity as the absorber of our immoral actions. This puts the role of the double in a different light. Without this absorption, what would happen to our physical body?

- Lecture 1, First Scientific Lecture Course: Kinematics or the Science of Movement
 - http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA320/English/GSF1977/LitCrs_index.html
- Quotes from Steiner lectures concerning light and electricity on FB Group page
- Extra study:
 - Reciprocal System Theory, <http://www.lrcphysics.com/rst/>
 - Projective Geometry

Theme: What is electricity, the atom, light, and thought?

- **Goal:** Exploration into the atom, what the Rosicrucians experienced, changing our models

November 19 Week 10 Graduation

Preparation: Statement on 1) Brain-Computer Interfaces, or 2) AI and discuss Mankind's Future.

1. Explore Brain-Computer Interfaces – State of the Technology

- **Suggested Reading List: pick some to read and digest**
- https://www.sciencedaily.com/news/mind_brain/brain-computer_interfaces/
- <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2018/jan/01/elon-musk-neurotechnology-human-enhancement-brain-computer-interfaces>
- <https://neurosciencenews.com/neuroscience-terms/brain-computer-interface/> (pick 2 or 3)
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-24465-1>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-24008-8>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-018-04673-z>
- <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-018-29091-5>
- <http://bcisociety.org/meetings/bci-2018-welcome/>
- <https://singularityhub.com/tag/brain-computer-interface/>
- <http://openbci.com/>

2. Modern Issues of AI and Transhumanism. Reading examples:

- <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2017/apr/18/god-in-the-machine-my-strange-journey-into-transhumanism>
- <http://whatistranshumanism.org/>
- <https://futureoflife.org/background/benefits-risks-of-artificial-intelligence/>
- <https://www.rt.com/news/383029-human-ai-implant-slavoj-zizek/>

Theme: Transhumanism, Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Artificial Soul (AS) - Discussion

- **Goal:** understand AI and AS goals as software for the next 25 years
- 1. What is Transhumanism?
- 2. What is already there?
- 3. AI and machine learning
- 4. What is required for 'release' into society?

What effect does it have on humanity and our evolution?

Your job for last meeting: Research from above list. Prepare your “*Valedictorian Statement*”

Congratulations to all!

What questions linger? What initiatives would you like to be part of?

Would you be interested in joining the next Advanced Study Group?