

Anthroposophy 101

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1. Behind every material phenomenon is a spiritual reality with consciousness, thought, and intention. Spirit is primary and matter derivative and survives the transformation and disappearance of the material.
2. This spiritual world contains a multiplicity of beings, the nine divine hierarchies—angels, archangels, up through the cherubim and seraphim, which are all expressions of a single creator God who is the foundation of all existence, elementals, fallen and unfallen, group souls of animal, plant, and mineral life, folk souls of different racial and national groups, the souls of human beings who are between incarnations on the material plane, and so on.
3. The human being is a creation of this cosmos of spiritual beings. They have acted consciously and willfully and out of self sacrificing love. Hence, the human being is not an accident, the chance product of an impersonal, mechanistic evolutionary process. We are not the descendant of lower primates, not just a hairy ape. The human being is the crowning jewel of the creation. The entire created universe has been brought into being so that the human being might come into existence.
4. The human race has gone through a long process of evolution and this process of evolution is still going on.
5. Each individual human being is also going through a process of evolution. This individual destiny that is realized over many lifetimes. In other words we have an undying spiritual essence which incarnates or takes on human form in different cultures at successive points in history and the one's personality and circumstances in one life are in part determined by one karma, the carried over effects of one's act in former lives. Cosmic recycling program. We get to make the same mistakes over and over again. Or to grow out of them.
6. Part of our individual and collective task at this stage in history is to rediscover as something known and experienced the spiritual dimension of reality. It is in the power of every human being through conscious striving and self discipline to develop the capacity for perceiving the spiritual world.

7. Another part of our task is to become able to act freely and acting out of selfless love for the other.
8. Human culture must be transformed according to a spiritual vision of the human being. Every domain of human thought and activity—education, medicine, agriculture, social, economic, and political life, art, architecture, religious life, care for the elderly, and so on—must be renewed on the basis of a spiritual understanding of the human being. Only if we do this will the evolution of humanity and of the earth continue in a positive way.
9. Among the myriad spiritual beings there are power spiritual beings who oppose the evolution of the human being toward love and freedom. In other words there are bad guys as well as good guy and these are very skilled at forming culture so as to make it difficult for human beings today. These adversarial powers are necessary because without evil there could be no choice for human beings and hence no freedom.
10. A truth manifested in the *Representative of Humanity*, which represents that ideal being, manifest in the Christ, characterized by compassion, wisdom, and conscience, which should be the goal of our striving. In the end everything will be all right. Steiner portrayed this truth in the sculptural group called *The Representative of Humanity*. World Humor the Muse of Humor looking down on the entire wrenching drama of human history with all its suffering and torment. But in the end everything is going to be all right.

If these ideas are not true. They should be true. What we believe shapes the reality. If we become conscious of these ideas and hold them they will become true.

We are potentially at least, God's greatest work of art. So let's not blow it. We are all that God has got.