

Christian Ways of Farming Contribution from K. Castelliz

What do Christ's words "I am with you every day even to the end of the world." signify? For us who in childhood have had religious tuition it meant you need not fear but trust in Him, He will always be near at hand. This childish interpretation melts away under Rudolf Steiner's words explaining how epoch follows epoch to the end of the world and in every epoch the message is new.

In ancient Persia when wild plants could no longer serve as food, food plants were bred from them, to support the changing and advancing soul qualities. Then the plough was used to open up the soil for the sun rays to shine into it and with them the influence of the Christ for Whom the Earth thirsted, and Who was still with the Sun. Here we can speak of a pre-Christian Christian ritual.

After the Mystery of Golgotha the sowing of the seed, submitting it to the care of the Earth - now the body of Christ - became the christian ritual.

Our time has again a new message. Without the Koberwitz impulse we should have gone back to organic farming. "Conventional" farming went astray. Organic farming is going back into the past. Bio-dynamic farming is the christian way for the modern farmer. It is the way forward. Do not, however, let us rest on our (or rather Rudolf Steiner's) laurels. We have to endeavour to fully comprehend the preparations and their working, only then could we see through the processes in the wrought work of the Gods and it's needs now and into the future. (Into the Future: see R. Steiner "Man and the World of Stars")

Look at the oak bark Preparation 505. Everything we use in it's making stands at the border between life and not-life. Bark, skull, water, decaying plant matter.

We read in the Agriculture Course: "We take oak bark, the resin of which is still pretty active." This can only mean that it is then still involved with the cambium, which reaches out to the stars, the whole heaven, and works into the seed development. (See Workmans' Lecture of 10/11/23 * This is important as before I read it I saw in the bark a dying away into a flowing process, and involvement with the astral, the world of the stars, in this way.)

We put the bark into a skull which is part of the skeleton, and as such under Saturn influence. In the brain we see the workings of the Moon. While still in the skull, the brain swims in the cerebral fluid, which, according to Dr. Karl Konig is a direct daughter of the mother ammonion water. So the brain is in an etheric space. The "oak bark brain" takes on the same position and "inherits" the influences which linger on. We have the influence of the skeletal part of the skull as well as that of the brain cavity. It seems to me that etheric and astral are in perfect balance.

The whole is put into the living water with the decaying plant substances. A new ammonium fluid. So everything has again the emphasis on perfect balance of etheric life and astral influence.

505 can now act on plants which are unable to hold fast their etheric spiritual archetype. The living lime of the bark can now restore order "where the astral was not able to gain access to the organic processes", and now can impress an image into the substance of the growing plant.

505 is just one of the preparations. Can we imagine a time when we would have to live without them? If we had to do it, we would return to the past. If Rudolf Steiner had not lived and taught when he did, the Christian way of farming belonging to our time would not have been born. However, we cannot rest where we stand. We have a long way to go until we really understand and can develop it further. Beware of the adverse powers!