

Illness, Elementals and the Double

We are now moving into the subtler perception of forces at work in illness. We will first look at the perceptions of healers with a degree of spiritual clairvoyance before turning to the results of Rudolf Steiner's spiritual scientific investigations.

Are Thoresen, who has spent decades performing spiritual healing, directs our gaze to the beings that generate illness. He is able to perceive the elementals we ourselves have generated, or those subsisting from previous phases of cosmic development as the main agents in illness.

Thoresen recognizes that the elementals generated from past egoistic human actions also emanate from the demonic layers of the earth, and much of this comes to the surface in the so-called ley lines and earth grids. To these Thoresen gives the name of "earth radiation." Here he differentiates three kinds of beings:

- Luciferic elementals, fed and generated by passions such as greed, hate, jealousy, and anger
- Ahrimanic elementals, formed through cold, heartless thinking and/or with the help of machines, especially in the destruction of nature
- Azuric elementals, generated in instances in which truth is obliterated or people are led astray through sorts of mass hypnosis

Thoresen's descriptions complement what we have already uncovered so far. The following are the stages that the healer recognizes in the development of illness:

- Improper living through any of wrong thinking, feeling, acting (drinking, eating, etc.) is the origin of a deficiency in some organ, a sort of empty space.
- The space emptied in the organ can be occupied most of the time by an Ahrimanic demon.
- The weakness in one organ will be compensated through an excess in another organ, or in the same organ in cancer. The Ahrimanic being invites a Luciferic being to root itself in the excess. The Ahrimanic being occupies the etheric part of a process; the Luciferic being the astral counterpart.

- The two beings' action can eventually reinforce each other, leading to a further weakening of the organs involved.¹

Behind the Ahrimanic elementals through which illness first arises, Thoresen recognizes the forces of what Steiner calls the "Double" or Doppelgänger. This is so at least of all "organ-based illnesses." How this being operates in the human being is described by Steiner in the lecture of November 16, 1917, given in St. Gallen. "These beings [Dopplegänger] have an extraordinarily high intelligence and a significantly developed will, but no warmth of heart at all, nothing of what we may call human soul warmth [*Gemüt*]." These beings enter the human being a short time before birth and leave it a short time before death. Steiner declares in the same lecture, "As I have said, this Ahrimanic Doppelgänger is really the creator of all illnesses that have an organ-based foundation, that are not merely functional."

¹ Are Thoresen, *Demons and Healing*, 110–111.