



# Christianity As Mystical Fact: And the Mysteries of Antiquity

*Rudolf Steiner*

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**Christianity As Mystical Fact: And the Mysteries of Antiquity** Rudolf Steiner  
**Written 1902 (CW 8)**

“Because of his sense of the interconnectedness of the spiritual world with nature, art, medicine, and all the rest of life, Rudolf Steiner was a profound polymath. In his seminal study *Christianity as Mystical Fact* he turned his esoteric genius to interpreting the Christ event as the turning point in the world's spiritual history?an incarnation whose significance he saw transcending all religions.”

**Bishop Frederick H. Borsch**, professor of New Testament and chair of Anglican Studies, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia

“As simultaneously mysticism and fact, Christianity is a breakthrough in the historical development of humanity for which the mysteries, with the results that they brought about, form a prior evolutionary stage.”  
**Rudolf Steiner**

During the fall and winter of 1901–1902, Steiner gave a series of lectures called “Christianity As Mystical Fact” to members of the Theosophical Society. The lectures were rewritten and issued as a book later that year. They mark a watershed in the development of Western esotericism. Steiner wrote of the idea behind his book:

“The title *Christianity As Mystical Fact* was one I gave to this work eight years ago, when I gathered together the content of lectures given in 1902. It was meant to indicate the special approach adopted in the book. Its theme is not just the mystical side of Christianity in a historical presentation. It was meant to show, from the standpoint of a mystical awareness, how Christianity came into being.

Behind this was the idea that spiritual happenings were factors in the emergence of Christianity, which could only be observed from such a point of view. It is for the book itself to demonstrate that, by "mystical," I do not in any way imply a vague intuition rather than strict scientific argument. In many circles, mysticism is understood as just that, and therefore it is distinguished from the concerns of all 'genuine' science.

“In this book, however, I use the term to mean a 'presentation of spiritual reality'?a reality accessible only to a knowledge drawn from the sources of spiritual life itself. Anyone who denies the possibility of such knowledge in principle will find its contents hard to comprehend; any reader who accepts the idea that mysticism may coexist with the clarity of the natural sciences, may acknowledge that the mystical aspect of Christianity must be described mystically.”

This is a fundamental book, in Steiner's own development, in that of Western esotericism, and for our understanding of the Christ event. Readers will find the evolutionary development from the ancient Mysteries through the great Greek philosophers to the events portrayed in the Gospels.

Included are an informative introduction and annotated notes by Andrew Welburn and an afterword by Michael Debus, a priest of the Christian Community, who summarizes the book and places it in context.

## Contents:

- Introduction by Christopher Bamford
- Translator's Preface by Andrew Welburn
- The Mysteries and Mysteriosophy
- The Mysteries and Pre-Socratic Philosophy
- Platonic Mysteries
- Myth and Mysteriosophy
- The Egyptian and Other Eastern Mysteries
- The Evidence of the Gospels
- The “Miracle” of Lazarus
- The Apocalypse of John
- Jesus in His Historical Setting
- The Essence of Christianity
- Christian and Pagan Wisdom
- Augustine and the Church
- Original Prefaces and Additional Materials
- Afterword by Michael Debus
- Translator's Notes

This **Collected Works** edition contains a new introduction, a chronology of Rudolf Steiner's life, and an index. **German edition:** «Das Christentum als mystische Tatsache und die Mysterien des Altertum»

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#### **David Sayre:**

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, magazine, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to you is Christianity As Mystical Fact: And the Mysteries of Antiquity this book consist a lot of the information of the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented how do the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some

study when he makes this book. That's why this book ideal all of you.

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