

Rudolf Steiner, South Tyrol by a Mountain Peak 1911

Rudolf Steiner's Early Years



Childhood

Rudolf Steiner was born on February 27, 1861 in Donji Kraljevec, part of the Austrian Empire at the time. His father worked for the South Austrian Railway, and was reassigned to stations closer to Vienna. In 1869 the family moved to Neudörf, only a few miles from Vienna. Rudolf Steiner was in school there until 1879 when the family moved to Inzersdorf so that he could attend the Vienna Technical Institute. "At that point, spirit and nature stood before my soul as complete opposites. For me, there existed a world of spiritual beings I could perceive directly that the 'I' itself was a spirit living in a world of spirits."



Rudolf Steiner - 1867

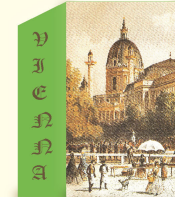


Donji Kraljevec



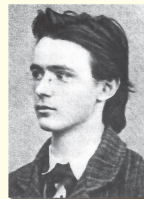
Franziska and Johann Steiner

"My parents loved what they had experienced in their homeland. And when they spoke of it, you had the instinctive feeling that—in their souls—they had never left it, though destiny had led them to places far away."



Student Years

In the October of 1879 Rudolf Steiner began his studies (natural science and mathematics) at the Vienna Technical University. He continued until 1883. There he encountered three individuals especially significant in his later work. The first was Prof. Karl Julius Schröer who opened the door to Johann Wolfgang Goethe's science (1879). The second was the herbalist Felix Koguzki (1880) who was "somewhat of a precursor" for a third unnamed individual. It was this third individual (1882) who led Rudolf Steiner to "things that hold the seeds of esoteric science."



Rudolf Steiner - 1879

"A unique stream now vividly arose before the young man's soul, the stream that passes through the esoteric world. It can be recognized only when we see a double streaming from above and below."



Karl Julius Schröer



Felix Koguzki

An Editor at 21

On Schröer's recommendation, Rudolf Steiner was entrusted in 1882 with the editorial responsibility for Goethe's scientific studies in the series *German National Literature*.



Johann Wolfgang Goethe

