



Adolf Stieler: Goethe and the
Dachau Hall (1864)

First Steps in a Life of Service

"I was always a sociable person. This led to many friendships during my school days in Wiener-Neustadt, and then in Vienna. I often held an opinion different from that of my friends, but it never became an obstacle to the intimacy and strong mutual encouragement that lived in these friendships."



Life in Vienna

After graduating from the Technical University Rudolf Steiner remained in Vienna until 1890. During that time he continued editing Goethe's scientific studies while working as a tutor to the four sons of the Specht family. Rudolf Steiner's first book (*Goethe's Theory of Knowledge*) was published in 1886. He made many new acquaintances in the circle around the Austrian poet Marie delle Grazie, and he edited a current affairs journal (*The German Weekly*) for a short time. "The barometer of progress for the evolution of humanity is, in fact, the concept we have of freedom and how we transform it into a practical reality." (1888)



Rudolf Steiner, 1883



Otto Schulz and Anna Specht, 1890



Ernst Specht



Marie delle Grazie



"When I went to Weimar my mood was colored by my earlier intensive work with Platonism. I think this mood was a great help as I began to orient myself in the Goethe-Schiller Archive. How did Plato live in the world of ideas, and how did Goethe live in that world? I pondered this on my walks to and from the Archive; I also thought about it as I sat working on the papers Goethe had left behind as his legacy."

Weimar

In the fall of 1886 Rudolf Steiner was invited to edit several volumes of scientific works for the great Weimar Goethe edition. From 1890 to 1897 he lived in Weimar where he encountered many well-known personalities including Herman Grimm and Friedrich Nietzsche. Although Nietzsche was ill at the time, Rudolf Steiner also became involved in the work of the Nietzsche Archive in Weimar. In 1891 he received a doctorate from the University of Rostock with his dissertation on the theory of knowledge. His *The Philosophy of Freedom* was published in November, 1893.



Rudolf Steiner, 1892



Hermann Grimm



Friedrich Nietzsche



The Page for the
Philosophy of Freedom



Rudolf Steiner, 1900

"These people saw me in Berlin, saw me appear in their circle, learned that I edited the Magazine, was trying to work with the Independent Literary Society — but they couldn't understand why. With their soul's eye they saw me pass among them, but they had no desire to find out more about me."



Anna Eunike



Page from the
Workers' School

Berlin

In 1897 Rudolf Steiner moved to Berlin to edit the *Magazine for Literature*. It was a cosmopolitan atmosphere where he met and worked with many leading literary figures of the day. From 1899 until 1904 he was also a popular teacher of history and public speaking at the Workers' School. In Weimar Rudolf Steiner had boarded with Anna Eunike, a widow who had been left with a large family. They married in 1899; Anna Eunike died in 1911.

