

Rudolf Steiner, *Beethoven's Song*
In original Latin: *Die Welt*
Seen As The Expression of Love

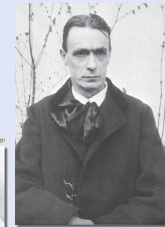
Foundations of Anthroposophy

New Beginnings

In September, 1900, Rudolf Steiner gave a lecture on Nietzsche for the Berlin circle of the Theosophical Society, a Society founded in New York by Helena Blavatsky and Col. Henry Steel Olcott in 1875. The lecture was so powerful that he was invited to return the following week. On September 29, 1900, he gave his first openly esoteric lecture, *Goethe's Esoteric Revelation*; it dealt with Goethe's *Fairy Tale*. Rudolf Steiner later termed this lecture the "seed of the anthroposophical movement." He was invited to join the Theosophical Society in 1901, and became General Secretary of its newly-organized German Section in 1902. It was understood that he would present his own spiritual insights. He worked tirelessly with Marie von Sivers to organize the Section, and soon the Section began to grow. By 1912 there were over 2,500 members of the German Section, and he was being sought out by many leading figures of the time.



Marie von Sivers, 1901



Rudolf Steiner, 1901

"And in this lecture about the Fairy Tale I spoke in a fully esoteric way. I had the important experience of being able to use words coined in the spiritual world. Until then I had been forced by the situation in Berlin to express the spiritual only through the radiant light that could be sensed behind what I said."



Helena Blavatsky



Henry Steel Olcott

The Berlin building where Rudolf Steiner lived for several years was like a series of small "rooms" each "room" functioned as a workplace or reception area. Some resembled a common post—a small room, for instance, filled with "office ladies" and the constant clatter of the Remington typewriters. All of these people above and below Steiner raced from floor to floor with papers and carbon copies, worked away at typewriters, and made phone calls.

My impression: Steiner's apartment was always open like a communal room with no provision for comfort. Every minute is scheduled—and projects, projects, projects. Proof pages are read, tickets for a lecture are distributed, books are sent out, letters are written—and all the while some text is being corrected or someone is being helped. There were several apartments within the apartment. Past these interweaved, started apartments, disturbing the breathless ladies in their work, passed streams and streams and streams of people with appointments for a conversation with Steiner—people not actually a part of this seeming life.

But these people arrive with a question more important to them than any other. You might imagine that a personal interview with the teacher would take place in a solemn setting. But simplicity prevails here, and a mundane atmosphere almost unworthy of this teacher and the student's question. There is no room for solemnity. There are probably open suitcases, still packed, lying around in some back room. He returned from Switzerland yesterday and tomorrow he is off to Hannover.

—Andrei Belyi

A Way of Knowledge

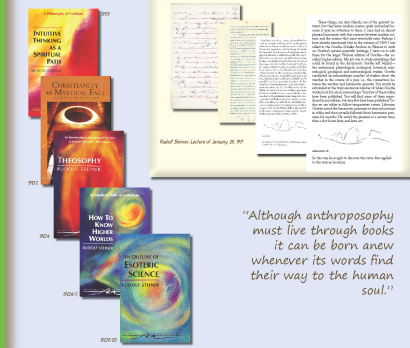
Rudolf Steiner's approach to the spiritual world is a Western one. It begins with disciplined human thinking warmed by the heart. In his many writings, thousands of lectures, and through personal encounters with his esoteric students, he addressed a panoramic range of subject matter from human destiny to cosmic evolution, from the qualities of an inner life to the alchemy of nature. This path of esoteric knowledge led away from the more Eastern path taken by the Theosophical Society. In 1913 Rudolf Steiner founded the Anthroposophical Society with a group of members who chose to join him in this work, and on December 24, 1914, he married Marie von Sivers.

"Anthroposophy is a path of knowledge that would lead from the spiritual in the human being to the spiritual in the universe. It arises in the human being as a need of the heart..."

He spoke. And as he spoke, there appeared in him The zodiac, cherubim and seraphim, The solar star, the planets wandering From place to place.
—Christian Morgenstern on Rudolf Steiner

Living Language

In addition to his many written works, Rudolf Steiner gave some 6,000 lectures during his career. Of these about 4,500 were recorded by stenographers. Rudolf Steiner's work has been made available in over 350 volumes in German by the Rudolf Steiner Legacy in Dornach, Switzerland. They are also translated into many languages—from English to Japanese. These books provide a rich source of knowledge and inspiration for further spiritual investigations by spiritual seekers around the world.



"Although anthroposophy must live through books it can be born anew whenever its words find their way to the human soul."

