

*Rudolf Steiner on his book
The Philosophy of Freedom*

Selections arranged and annotated by
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Neill Reilly

Epilogue

New Year's Day 1919 stands out in my memory as a never-to-be-forgotten date. At the time, I was one of a group of prisoners housed in the barracks of the French Alpine Chasseurs at Albertville, Savoy, near Conflans, the confluence of the Isere and the Arly. Despite the fact that it was a holiday, mail was distributed. Mine brought me a copy of *The Philosophy of Freedom*. That was the fulfillment of a burning wish. I had been on leave in Hamburg half a year earlier-it must have been in June or July 1918-and was introduced there to Rudolf Steiner by my mother. Not long afterwards I was taken prisoner. One of the first letters I was permitted to write was to Dr. Steiner, asking for a copy of *The Philosophy of Freedom*. I did not know at the time that the second edition of the book was just appearing. Now it lay before me like a gift from heaven.

That was the start of a study that has never known an interruption and will never end as long as I live.

Such modest fruits of study as I have been able to garner in forty-five years of work on this book have found literary expression in several small publications.

The idea of collecting perhaps not all, but at least the most important comments Steiner made in the course of time about *The Philosophy of Freedom* had long occupied me, but it shared the fate of a good many ideas in that nothing was done about it. Only now has sufficient leisure come my way to bring this long-cherished plan to fulfillment.

"I asked Rudolf Steiner: 'What will remain of your work thousands of years from now?'

He replied: 'Nothing but *The Philosophy of Freedom*.

But in it everything else is contained.

If one realizes the act of freedom described there, one can discover the whole content of Anthroposophy.'"

From the conversation between Rudolf Steiner and Walter Johannes Stein Den Haag, April 1922

The above appears on the dedication page of Sergei O. Prokofieff's *Anthroposophy and the Philosophy of Freedom*.

Dr. Steiner referred to *The Philosophy of Freedom* every year from 1905 to 1923.

“The Mystery of Golgotha, The Turning Point in Time”

Incarnation, “The Logos became flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His Glory.” John 1:14

- Baptism, Preaching and Healing, Transfiguration, Last Supper, Communion
- Passion, Crucifixion, Death, descent to Hell
- Resurrection, Second Coming. “Io, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world.” Matthew 28:20

- Christ, “To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice.” John 18:37
- Pilate “What is truth?” John 18:38
- Christ, “I am the way, the truth, and the life:” John 14:6
- CS Lewis, “Truth is whatever is in accordance with the way in which God created the world;” what is real, Realism
- Christ, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32
- Christ, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself.” Luke 10:27

- Dr. Steiner stated the return of Christ in the etheric would be starting in 1933, 91 years ago
- The role of the Archangel Michael, 1879 within The Age of the Consciousness Soul, 145 years ago
- *The Philosophy of Freedom*, 1894, to think etherically, via sense free thinking, 130 years ago.
- *The Philosophy of Freedom* is a Pauline, Christic book preparing us for the Second Coming of Christ now.

“Not I, but Christ in me.” Galations 2:20

“...a Pauline concept in the field of cognitive theory.” Rudolf Steiner on his book The Philosophy of Freedom, Palmer, page 105

- Saul, the devout, intellectual Jew, knew Jesus could not be the Christ and he persecuted Christians, until the road to Damascus and his meeting with the Resurrected Christ. Saul could not deny his experience.

As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?”

⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked.

“I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” Acts 9:3-6

- “Cognitive theory is how people learn, understand, and think about the world.”
Wikipedia
- “Epistemology is the branch of philosophy that examines the nature, origin, and limits of knowledge. Also called the theory of knowledge.” Wikipedia



Conversion of St. Paul, Murillo Circa 1675-1682

Rudolf Steiner on his book The Philosophy of Freedom Chapter XII The Book's Christian's Substance.

...we are born into physical bodies just in order to have eyes to see the world with ears to hear it, and so on. What our senses perceive is one half of reality, not the whole thing. I stressed the same fact in my *Riddles of Philosophy*. It is the way we are organized that makes the world in some sense what the Orientals call Maya, or illusion. As we make mental pictures of the world, we restore to it in thought what we suppressed on entering a body. That is the true relationship between fact and science. Genuine science is the completed thought of the thing perceived. On the basis of this idea: 1) that the unreality of the aspect first presented to our senses by the world is due to the way we, not the world, are made, and 2) that we restore to the world by our own effort. the reality of which our perceiving deprived it, I call this thought *a Pauline concept in the field of cognitive theory*. For what is it if not a carrying over into the realm of philosophy the Pauline idea that man in the person of Adam entered upon an inferior experience of the world, and only comes to experience it as it really is through Christ's influence on him?

... So I may say that a Pauline spirit lives in the books, *Truth and Science* and *The Philosophy of Freedom*..

Ibid, page 105 from Lecture 6

Das Karma des Materialismus.

- ... “to live permeated in thought in reality is simultaneously to live in God.” Ibid, page 101
- “The soul of man lives in the Logos.” Ibid, page 103
- “What you yourself made into Maya you must now set right again in your own being, and that you can do by receiving Christ into your soul. He will show you the outer world in its reality.’ Ibid, page 106
- The mission of my book, *Truth and Science* and of *The Philosophy of Freedom* was to put cognitive theory on a Pauline basis. Both these books fit into the Pauline view of man in the Western world that was such an important goal. Ibid, page 107
- This is why my *Philosophy of Freedom* has been called a philosophy of individualism in the most extreme sense. It had to be such because it is also the most Christian of philosophies. Ibid, page 107

Earlier Quotations

- “The very first requirement for entering the spiritual world is to learn to think entirely on your own.” Ibid, page 19
- ... “that might be likened to the striking of steel on flint.” Ibid, page 22
- “In thinking we really lay hold of a corner of the secret of the universe.” Ibid, page 24
- “For intuition is simply a living into the supersensible with one’s own being, an immersion of the self in the supersensible.” Ibid, page 38
- “The basic fact here is that every human being is an individual. I tried in my *Philosophy of Freedom* to establish this as a fact in the face of the levelling inherent in Kantianism and Socialism.” Ibid, page 69
- “Catharsis is an ancient term for the purifying of the astral body by means of meditation and concentration exercises. Catharsis, or purification, serves the purpose of ridding the astral body of any elements that keep it from being properly and harmoniously organized, so that higher organs can develop in it. It is endowed with the potential for these higher organs; all one has to do is clear the way for the forces that are inherent in it.” Ibid, page 83

Quotations for small groups to discuss

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