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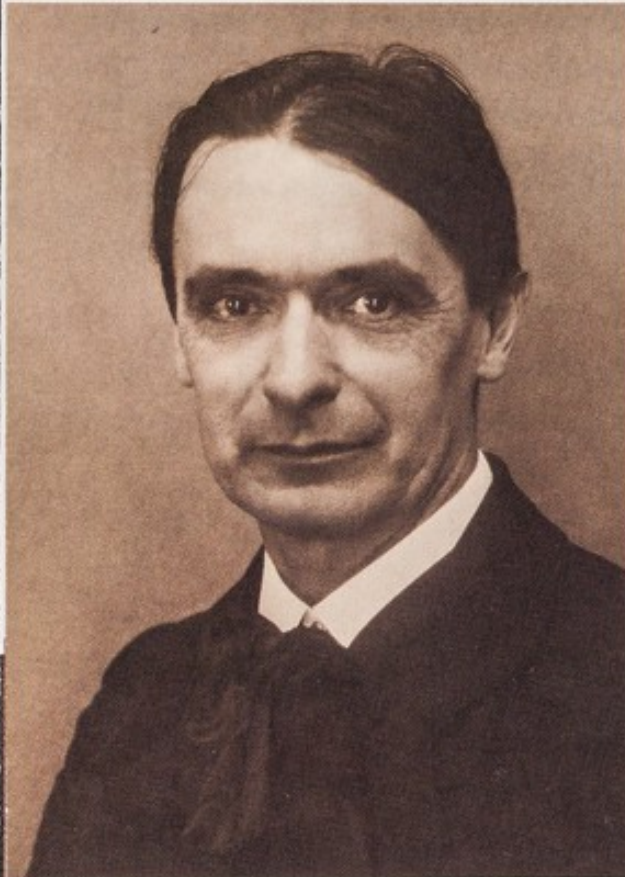
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Towards a More Human Future

Activities arising from the Impulses of Rudolf Steiner



As we approach the twenty-first century remarkable changes are beginning to take place in human awareness. Despite disturbing social and ecological symptoms the opportunity to build a new future is opening up, but this depends on the quality of our thoughts and actions now. A true understanding of the nature and destiny of humanity is essential if we are to prove adequate to meet the needs of our time.

All over the world, but particularly in Western Europe, activities are to be found – schools, communities for the handicapped, farms, hospitals and medical practices, architects and artists, banks and businesses – whose work acknowledges a special debt to Rudolf Steiner. These activities call for the personal development of the individual to forge new relationships between people and with this planet.

Rudolf Steiner was born on 27 February 1861 and grew up in a rural community on the border of Austria and Hungary. His formative years were influenced both by his close contact with nature and his great interest in science and technology. As a boy he experienced the reality of the spiritual aspects of the world, which he sought to harmonise with the findings of science. Later on he was invited to edit Goethe's scientific work, which helped him to achieve this integration. His book *The Philosophy of Freedom* shows how thinking is an organ for all scientific work, both natural and spritual.

He reported the results of his spiritual research in many books and lectures, and eventually founded the Anthroposophical Society in 1913. He died on 30 March 1925, but his inspiration is proving capable of reaching into the next century with enhanced vigour.

Rudolf Steiner (Waldorf) Education

Seventy years ago many people doubted whether the old principles were capable of solving the social and cultural problems of the day. It was with such concerns that a Stuttgart industrialist asked Rudolf Steiner to found a new type of school. The Free Waldorf School in Stuttgart, which resulted, is now recognised as the parent of some 450 schools around the world, practising the same educational principles. More than 25 of these are in the United Kingdom and Ireland, with many new projects under way.

Rudolf Steiner (Waldorf) Education is concerned with developing all faculties of the human being as a necessary means of support for the modern intellect. In the Kindergarten, the main educational medium is 'activity' — the element in which the pre-school child abounds.



In the Lower School, the emphasis shifts to the education of the imaginative, rhythmical and emotional faculties. In the Upper School the emphasis is on clear, informed, integrated and directed thinking, together with the development of personal judgement.

Each school is autonomous, the teachers making their own corporate decisions and administering them without a headmaster or hierarchy, financial or otherwise. At national level, the schools in the United Kingdom and Ireland are represented by the Steiner Schools Fellowship. The schools in these countries are not yet state-aided, relying on contributions from parents in one form or another. All the schools have day pupils; some also make provision for boarding. Children are admitted after interview and entry is according to age; all classes are co-educational and unstreamed.

Steiner Schools Fellowship, Kidbrooke Park, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5JB

Curative Education and Social Therapy

The many Rudolf Steiner homes, schools, community houses, training centres and villages for people with special needs always strive to have an innovative approach to this work. Concepts such as: education for all handicapped children; the living together in 'family units'; village communities with adults, and the very term 'those in need of special care' have all been pioneered and are now generally accepted expressions.

Children in need of special care have a destiny to fulfil, in spite of their afflictions, and it is the special task of the curative teacher to help them to fulfil it.



Curative education is a multi-disciplinary approach which combines the work of doctor, nurse, teacher and therapist, musician, artist and craftsman. Professionals work alongside voluntary 'co-workers' for whom an in-service training is offered. In its widest aspect, curative education is not only science, not only practical art, but a human attitude. The direct and lively contact amongst co-workers and children leads to a full and vibrant life together. At the same time, the individual's encounter with these special children can lead to a path of mutual personal development and growth.

From large farming villages in the countryside to sheltered housing and workshops in industrial areas and New Towns, many centres endeavour to create a mutually supportive environment where the handicapped adult can live and work together with co-workers and their families, students and retired folk. These are communities 'with' and not 'for' the person with special needs, which attempt to stand in the mainstream of modern life, not withdrawing from it. The element of production, therefore, becomes important as the sale of products is needed to supplement government grants.

Further information about Camphill from Delrow House, Hilfield Lane, Aldenham, nr. Watford, Herts WD2 8DJ, and for Steiner Special Education from The Committee for Steiner Special Education, Philpots Manor, West Hoathly, Sussex RH19 4PR.

Adult Education Emerson College



Founded in 1962 by the late Francis Edmunds, Emerson College is a centre for Adult Education. It is open to all who search for a renewal of personal and social life. Its essential work lies in the fields of Education, Ecology and the Arts. These connect and unite in the imagination of the human being which must live again in human hearts.

A Foundation Year provides social, artistic and intellectual preparation for specific training in Education, Biodynamic Agriculture, Sculpture, Music and Social Development work.

In July/August of each year there is a full programme of summer courses, including a 'Lifeways' course which offers the possibility of sharing a week together, both adults and children, exploring ways of enhancing their lives and relationships.

The Centre for Social Development, a part of Emerson College, aims to further the development of training, research and practice in social life out of the perspective of Anthroposophy. Programmes include a full year Social Development Programme, a Counselling Programme, an Organisation Development Programme for Consultants and many week-long courses and week-end workshops.

Emerson College, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5JX.

Biodynamic Agriculture

The practise of biodynamic farming and gardening arises from the idea that the whole earth is a living organism and each farm has a unique entity within it.

This method builds on sound husbandry as practised in mixed farming and organic garden systems. This is possible by using special herbal preparations for enhancing and guiding life activities in compost and manure. In addition, spray preparations of especially treated cow manure and silica quartz are used directly in both fields and gardens.

By working with natural rhythms such as the seasons, the moon phases and the time of day, it is possible to retain the maximum life forces in the products, and thus offer nourishment for body, soul and spirit.

Food produced in this way is marketed under the Demeter symbol and is guaranteed to be free from the use of any additives, hormones and chemicals.

**The Biodynamic Agricultural Association,
Woodman Lane, Clent, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY9 9PX.**



Demeter

Anthroposophical Medicine

Anthroposophical medicine is an extension of orthodox medical practice, rather than an alternative. It does not see illness merely as an unfortunate accident or mechanical breakdown, but as intimately connected to the whole person and potentially positive. If met and treated in an appropriate way, illness may bring opportunities for a new balance to be achieved in our lives.

Besides medical techniques and treatment, this holistic approach may include dietary and nutritional therapy, rhythmic massage, hydrotherapy, artistic therapies (painting, sculpture, movement, music) and counselling.

Each human being is seen as a unique individual with a spiritual as well as a physical and mental constitution, and needs to be treated accordingly. Life has a meaning and purpose and the loss of this sense is often reflected in the deterioration of general health.

Anthroposophical doctors are fully qualified in conventional medicine. A comprehensive list of registered practitioners as well as addresses of clinics may be obtained from:
The Anthroposophical Medical Association, The Old Forge, Bell End, Belbroughton, Stourbridge, West Midlands DY9 9UJ.



Weleda Medicines

There are 26 Weleda companies throughout the world. Weleda (UK) Ltd was founded in 1925 and is now based in Ilkestone, Derbyshire. All the manufacturing processes for their natural medicines and toiletries take place there – from the growing of the plants which form many of the raw materials through to the finished product.

Weleda products are prepared without artificial additives, preservatives, sweeteners or colourings, and they are not tested on animals. They are manufactured to the highest pharmaceutical standards.

The medicines, which include homoeopathic remedies, can be bought from health stores, pharmacies or direct from Weleda and all are available on NHS prescription.

Weleda (UK) Ltd., Heanor Road, Ilkeston, Derbyshire DE7 8DR.



Architecture



Potentially the home of all the arts, architecture aims to be the unifying element, creating an artistic environment, in which human qualities are supported. In the past, man went to the temple or church to commune with his 'maker'. Today, the challenge is to design the classroom, office, supermarket or airport so that people are able to relate to their surroundings and activities on a human as well as on a material level.

*Camphill Architects:
Michael Chapel, Newton Dee*

Painting

The art of creating out of colour is like the art of conversation and as with the power of the word, colour and the way colours commune with one another, can have a healing or disturbing, relaxing or awakening effect on the human soul.

The artist working out of the anthroposophical impulse not only tries to come closer to an understanding of truth in relation to colour and form, but through his works of art or the sharing of his creativity in the various community settings in the world around him, he endeavours to provide others with the opportunity to enter on a similar path of experience in colour and form.

Caroline Chanter: Blue Bird



Eurythmy

Eurythmy is an art of movement which seeks to make speech and music, usually only perceptible to the ear, visible in spatial form, gesture and colour.

Unlike dance and mime, the movements and choreography of eurythmy are not based on self expression, but follow definite laws inherent in the sounds themselves. In stage performances, this is further enhanced by the use of colour in costume and lighting relevant to the themes or instruments being represented.

Through eurythmy the effect that music and speech has on the listener is greatly enriched by adding a visual experience to the purely aural one.



*Ashdown Eurythmy:
Sonata for Cello and Piano by Britten*

Speech and Drama

The anthroposophical impulse in speech and drama seeks to renew our relationship to the artistic forming of the word.

In the art of speech formation the word is experienced as a creative and healing power. The speech artist seeks to release into the outpouring stream of the breath the inherent movements and gestures of the consonants and vowels. In this way he can bring the word to life again and reveal the working of the poetic imagination as it takes hold of the very substance of language, creating from it a world of sound, image and movement beyond the prosaic meaning of words.

Also the actor, by uniting again with the essence of the word, can find new ways of revealing on the stage the inner world of the human soul and spirit.



*Mystery Drama Group:
The Portal of Initiation by Rudolf Steiner*

Virbela Flowforms

The flowform method was discovered and developed from 1970 by John Wilkes. Flowforms are sculptured vessels designed to induce rhythmical movements in streaming water.

Aesthetically, they provide a unique experience of water movement. On a more functional basis, they provide a means of treating water and liquid manures for organic and biodynamic farming and gardening operations. In heavily polluted waters, rhythmical movements support bacterial, plant and animal organisms with oxygen-penetrated water, and helps the breakdown and digestion of foreign substances.

Research has shown that such treatment can influence plant growth, enhance seed germination and improve the storage quality of produce. A world-wide association links 23 groups through which nearly 200 projects have been completed in eighteen countries.



Virbela Flowform Research, Emerson College, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5JX.

Consultancy

Individual and Organisational Development

Various institutions, companies and individuals act as consultants to a wide range of organisations in industry, commerce, social services, educational institutions, and in the community. They seek to humanise work, life and social relationships as well as finding appropriate organisational forms that meet the challenges of our times in a rapidly changing world.

Among those providing these services are:

The Centre for Social Development, Old Plaw Hatch House, Sharpthorne, West Sussex RH19 4JL.

Transform (a Business Consultancy), Suite 55-56, 22 High Street, Sheffield S1 2GE.

They work with their clients on:

- achieving economic objectives
- empowering and developing employees
- building mutually sustaining relationships between management and work force, and customer and suppliers.

Banking-Mercury Provident plc

Money, used consciously, can be a powerful tool for social good. This was the founding philosophy of Mercury Provident plc, an ethical bank launched in 1974. Since then it has grown to serve over 1000 depositors and shareholders, with deposits totalling over £3 million and a capital base of over £600,000. Although unique in the United Kingdom, Mercury is part of an international network of ethical banking in twelve countries, with combined assets of over £100 million.

Mercury seeks to fund projects which are socially constructive. Such projects are typically community-oriented, friendly to the environment, and many are charities or co-operatives. Borrowers can make use of Mercury's innovative forms of financing and security, such as "borrowing communities" and personal guarantees.

Mercury operates a unique deposit-to-loan allocation system, which allows depositors to identify which projects their savings support. Depositors can also choose the rate of interest which they feel they need, and the level of interest chosen is reflected in the interest charged to the projects.

Orlingbury House, Lewes Road, Forest Row, Sussex RH18 5AA.

Anthroposophical Society

The Society aims to support and nurture the life of the soul, both in the individual and in society, on the basis of a true knowledge of the world of the spirit, bringing into the culture of our time a Science of the Spirit with all that results from it for brotherhood, for moral and religious life and for the practical, artistic and spiritual life in general.

An essential keynote of this world-wide Society is individual freedom. Membership implies friendship and support of the work, but involves no commitment to particular doctrines or beliefs. It recognises as valid the method of spiritual research initiated by Rudolf Steiner.

Regular lectures, study groups and artistic activities take place at many centres, including Rudolf Steiner House in London, which has a lending library, bookshop and theatre. Further information regarding any of the activities can be obtained from the secretary who can also put you in touch with local groups of the Society.

**Rudolf Steiner House, 35 Park Road, London NW1 6XT.
Telephone: 071-723 4400/8219**

