

Abstract

This thesis deals with the philosophical works of Austrian thinker, Rudolf Steiner (1861–1925). Focusing mainly on his epistemological thinking, its main objective is to interpret Steiner's Theory of Knowledge. This work is structured in four chapters. After giving the reader insight into Steiner's life, it goes on to deal with the development of his thinking and work, with particular attention paid to the substance of his first and truly philosophical (not yet theosophical-anthroposophical) phase of working life. Following from this is a passage on his relationship with J. W. Goethe, whose intellectual (and especially scientific) legacy served as Steiner's main source of inspiration, while also laying out the basic form of Goethe's scientific methodology and its epistemological background, namely its empirical and simultaneously objective idealism, which deeply spoke to Steiner and motivated him to write his first philosophical work: *Grundlinien einer Erkenntnistheorie der Goetheschen Weltanschauung* (1886). The third chapter approaches this particular work, in which Steiner presents and describes the theory of knowledge, as aligned with that of Goethe. Analysed and interpreted are the three main successive sections of his work, in which he expresses his notion of experience, thinking and knowledge. The final chapter contains an interpretation of the noetic part of Steiner's philosophical *magnum opus*: *Die Philosophie der Freiheit* (1893). Particular emphasis is placed on clarifying his rather idealistic opinions and theses on the (spiritual) substance of thinking, because it is predominantly on that, that not only his approach to knowledge stands, but basically his whole (monistic) philosophy and, in a certain sense, even his anthroposophy.