



## Where Rudolf Steiner was going

Rudolf Steiner's work radiates into the world as a powerful antidote to the predominance of unconsciousness, power, and money and its attendant servant of violence. This radiance goes beyond the many actual places and activities, often done with little money but with devotion and grace. But, without question, the immediately available 'results' of a narrow scientific, technological, materialistic consciousness are always ahead of the unfolding of practical world-work done in fully awakening consciousness.

Attempting to remain fully conscious is the task, more so than all the application that can occur within the movement of Anthroposophy. It is of importance to hold the question – 'Where was Rudolf Steiner going', what did he still have in mind to develop? This question is not so much looking for the regions of future application – such as psychology, that he did not delve into because no one asked him to – but rather, seeing that his future unfolding, had it taken place, would necessarily reconfigure all that he had done. Therapeutics based in the work of Rudolf Steiner, it seems to me, requires developing the sensibility: 'how would he be doing this work now?'

The two areas Steiner was deeply concerned with at the time of his death were the spiritual-physical reality of the heart, and developing communal contemplative practices. Actually, the two are in deep connection, and both carry an aura of how therapeutic activities, of all sorts, need to reconfigure the contributions of Rudolf Steiner in all areas – education, medicine, art, architecture, movement, science ... and all the rest.

His concern with the heart foresaw the possible development of a primacy of heart-awareness for this time – something quite different from anthroposophical awareness of the heart. And, his concern, expressed toward the young and rebellious youth who were already seeing the limitations of Anthroposophy when trying to hold onto structures, his movement toward communal contemplation, together, suggest a new therapeutics – communal contemplative heart-awareness.

One additional connection, one showing that this time of amazing world breakdown which can be and is, 'breakthrough', the nemesis of materialistic consciousness that produces skepticism toward Rudolf Steiner, and America, the citadel of materialistic consciousness, is exactly where Steiner foresaw the opening of new therapeutic awareness. His Verse for America is perhaps voicing a new activism of heart and community:

### *Verse for America*

May our feelings penetrate  
Into the center of our hearts  
And seek in love  
To unite with human beings  
Seeking the same goal  
With spirit beings  
Who full of grace  
Behold our earnest, heartfelt striving,  
And in beholding

Strengthen us from realms of light  
Illuminating our life in love

Rudolf Steiner


### Disclosure statement

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the author.

### Notes on contributor



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