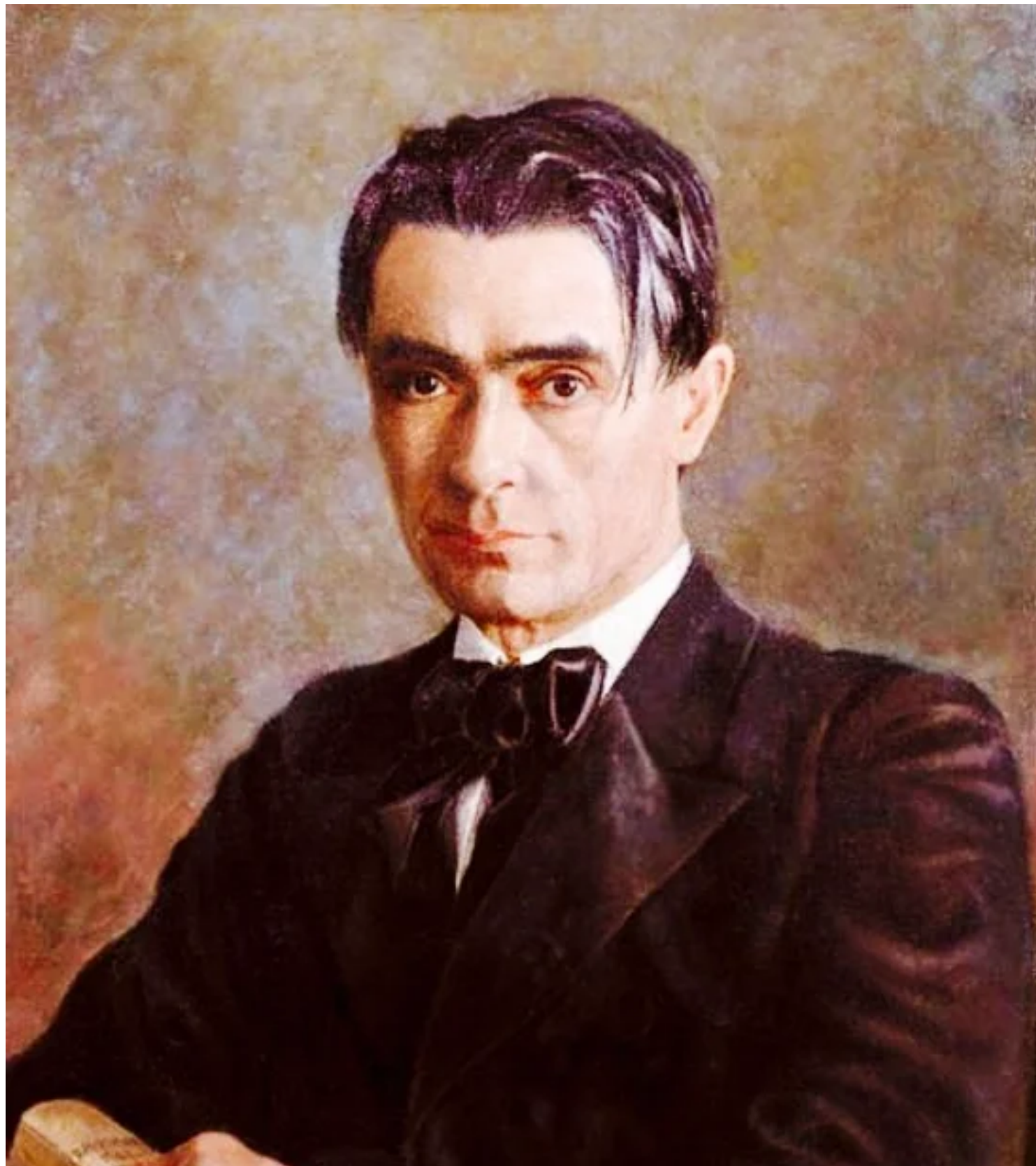


5 Mar 2013 Reading time: 4 min

The newspaper alchemist: Rudolf Steiner

Update: Jan 18, 2021



D. Huschke: Portrait of Rudolf Steiner (1906)

I have decided that I want to scandalize you a little , those who know me well and even more those who know me badly and who perhaps missed some pieces of my training on the street. I want to scandalize you by escaping the prison of materialism in which I found myself and in which many would have hoped to remain good good. And even if materialism is in fashion and makes it seem very intellectual immediately, it was close to me. Very tight.

Recently, at the presentation of my friend Chiara Ceci's book on the life of Emma Wedgwood Darwin, I was publicly apostrophized by a former university professor of mine because I study the work of Rudolf Steiner. They told me more or less like this:

“ Everything is fine. But Steiner is not. We have to eliminate it. ”

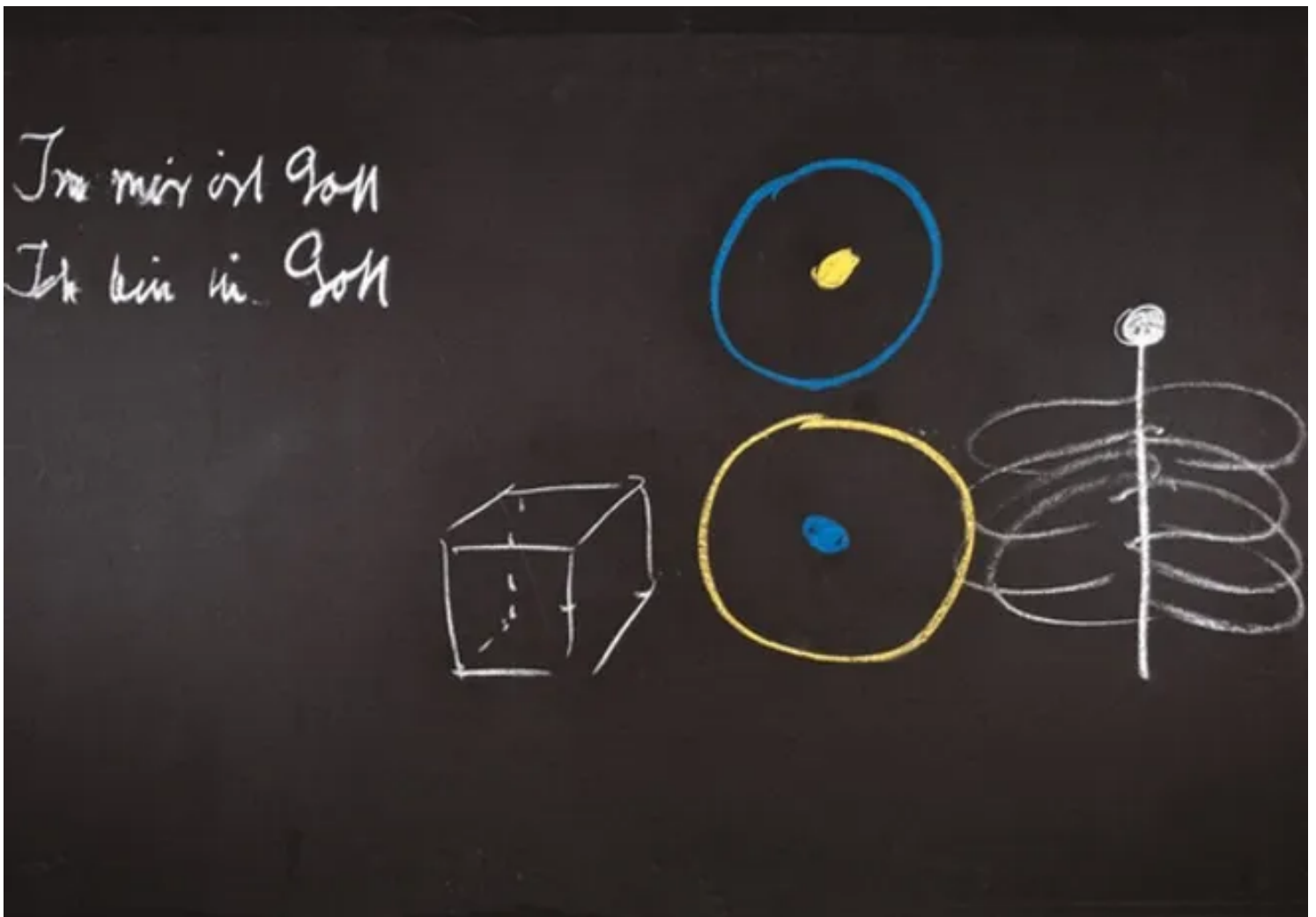
Because?

“ But do you know the shit he wrote? I have a book on evolution and there are only shitting writings. ”

But in which book?

“ In what I have at home! ”

Obviously it's none of those I have at home. Eh, yes, unfortunately that's how things go in our universities. At the entrance they should write it in clearly visible characters “ It is forbidden to think ”. It would be more sincere.



Rudolf Steiner: “ God is in me – I am in God ” (1924)

Ironically, what I found there was one of the paradoxes between the inner and outer world that I learned from Steiner: when dilemmas are resolved deep in the soul, those same dilemmas return to that soul from outside, in other people, attracted by the mirage of resolution to those same dilemmas from which they are afflicted. These souls in pain try to get from the resolution from outside, but being unable to find within them, they attack.

In short, a real censorship. Maybe for lack of imagination. The first academic complaint that is imposed on me by an evolutionist. Too bad I had been studying Steiner for several years before meeting the professor in question. And too bad, because Steiner was an evolutionist. But one in the round, without compromise: not only the physical world was evolving, but together with this also the soul and spiritual world.

It is incalculable how much you lose if you exclude even a part of the knowledge! Whether it affects a person or the world.

The purpose of knowledge is in fact to add meaning, linking all that the human being has been, is or can be or what over time, transforms its meaning from the past to the future, passing through the present. A “ knowledge ” that subtracts meanings from existence is actually ignorance. For this reason, if we exclude one of the parts of the human being from knowledge, be it the body, soul or spirit, we lose a fundamental part to understand the whole.

This, in essence, the message of the newspaper alchemist: Rudolf Steiner.

“ The alchemy of the newspaper ” is precisely the title of the international exhibition organized by the Vitra Design Museum in Weil am Rhein, near Basel and which will be hosted from 9 February to 2 June 2013 at the MART in Rovereto (Trento) in its second stage. Following the link you will find the program.

Below, an interview by Repubblica with Stefano Gasperi, president of the Anthroposophical Society in Italy.

<http://video.repubblica.it/spettacoli-e-cultura/in-mostra-a-rovereto-rudolf-steiner-l-alchimia-del-quotidiano/119220/117703>

Philosopher, scientist, Goethe scholar, friend of Haeckel wanted to go beyond the limit that materialism already imposed at the turn of the ninth century. Natural science, increasingly obsessively centered on the rigorous exclusion of all that was sentiment from scientific discourse, has distorted itself by gradually losing its soul.

But this happened because materialism possessed the methodological and epistemological tools to understand the physical world and not the soul or spiritual world. Not excluding the soul and spirit of the human being, only because they are impossible to understand and study with the rules of the body, Steiner managed not only to be ahead of his time but even before our time and later ones.

Instead of the analysis alone, Steiner then proceeded to the summary. *Solve et coagula*. To do one whole, he understood that it was not only necessary to know more and more, but also to unlearn what conditions us from the past, leave behind parts of our identity that do nothing but lead to dead ends.

A decrease included in its essence of harmony between the external world and the inner world of the human being, therefore. Thus he managed to bring new impulses within any area of human knowledge: be it living organic architecture, biodynamic agriculture, the visible language of eurythmy, anthroposophical medicine, as well as anthroposophy itself, which in Steiner's words is:

“ A way of knowledge that would like to lead the spiritual who is in man to the spiritual who is in the universe. ”

Pseudoscience, you say? Maybe perjury on the occam razor, or on Popper's principle of falsifiability, but without really having observed and put into practice what anthroposophy has to teach. Science naturally lies to itself when it says that the test bench is in the laboratory, since the test bench is the observation out there, in the world of phenomena (moreover exactly where, returning to evolutionary theory, Darwin had collected his observations on offspring with modifications).

And speaking of the effect of anthroposophy in the world, “ The Challenge of Rudolf Steiner ” is the title of a long and complete documentary on the application of Steiner's work in everyday life. From English gardens to large Californian wine crops, from German schools to the roads of new India, every idea of Steiner finds its context and evolution. Many of us may not know it, but they use products, be they yogurt from the Scaldasole Farm, biodynamic wines or Weleda creams and Demeter food products, all ecological products of the highest quality, ethical and industrial profile, which are part of the philosophy of this great misunderstood genius and show that another way of making current society is not only possible, but also desirable (here the website of the Anthroposophical Society in Italy).

Now I would like someone else to be scandalized by Rudolf Steiner. That rejuvenated a little ', smoothing those ideas so sharp that they cannot be handled, dabbing those so caustic that they cannot be contained. Maybe some very certain professor of his convictions.

Because I am happy to have been scandalized years ago by Rudolf Steiner's knowledge. I am happy to have added meaning to my knowledge. Happy now that I escaped that prison. I am happy that I am no longer a materialist. Now I'm free to create something that I didn't even think existed before. Free from that cage.

Thanks Rudolf Steiner.