

thesis entitled *Truth and Science*, and wrote a number of articles on zoology, geology, and the theory of colors which included Theosophical ideas. He was editor of a weekly journal called the *Deutsche Wochenschrift* (German Weekly). In 1890 Steiner asked to superintend the re-editing of Goethe's scientific works (at Weimar) and shortly afterwards he published two works, *Truth and Science* and *The Philosophy of Liberty*.

Steiner joined the Theosophical Society in 1902 in Berlin, entering not as a student of the Eastern tradition, but as an initiate of Rosicrucian esotericism who recognized the significance of Hindu philosophy. He was convinced that his work lay in the endeavor to unite Eastern and Western traditions and was assisted in that work by Marie von Sivers, a Russian by birth with a command of English, Russian, French and German languages. When he was appointed General Secretary of the German Theosophical Section, von Sivers became his assistant. In 1908 he published a work with a foreword by Annie Besant, dealing with the attainment of knowledge of higher worlds.

In about 1912 a problem arose in the German Section. Under the auspices of Annie Besant and Charles Leadbeater an organization was formed called the Order of the Star to promote the work of J. Krishnamurti. The German Section ruled that members of that Order were not eligible to join the Theosophical Society in Germany. Since that contravened the rules of the Theosophical Society, it caused considerable dissension, and Besant was directed by the Council at Adyar to write Steiner. When Steiner did not reply to that letter, the Council canceled the charter of the German Section.

Steiner consequently decided to form his own organization, which he called the Anthroposophical Society. Steiner's reputation and charisma ensured the success of the new society, which eventually spread around the world. It advocated an esoteric approach to many activities, particularly in health and education. Steiner Schools, called Waldorf Schools, still operate in many countries. Steiner believed that humanity originally participated in the spiritual processes of the world through a dreamlike consciousness out of which the more limited but awake consciousness of today evolved. He believed that it was possible for humans to regain awareness of their essential spirituality through right training.