

KARMIC RELATIONSHIPS IN
LIGHT OF THE CHRISTMAS
CONFERENCE

The 82 Lectures

- ▣ See Chronology!

Steiner's Lectures on Karmic Relationships in 1924

Chronology

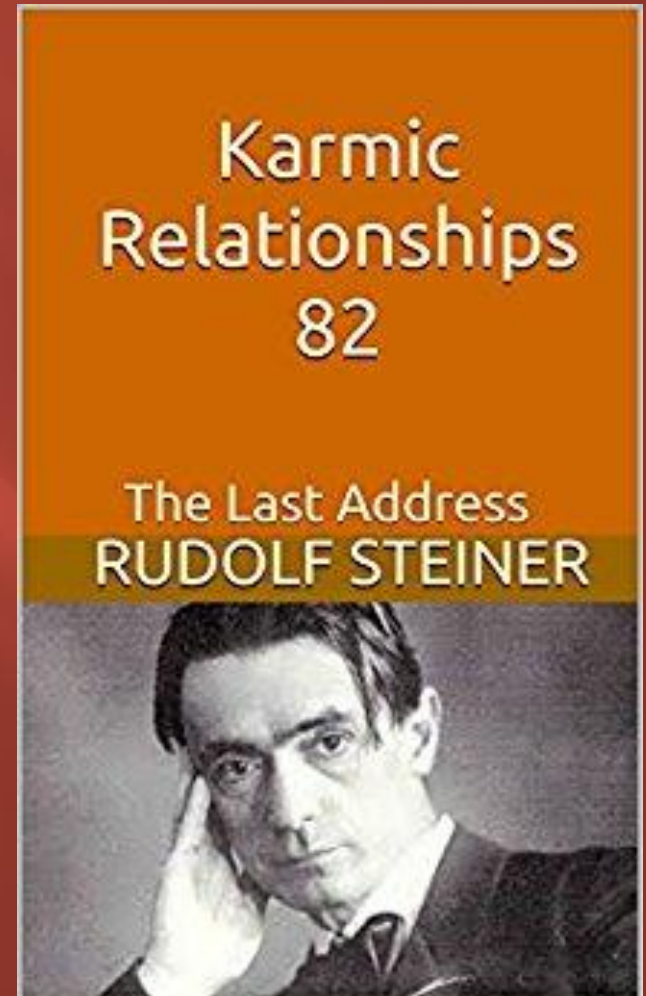
<u>No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Gesamtausgabe</u>	<u>RSP edition</u>
1	Jan 25	Bern	missing from GA ¹	vol. VI
2	Jan 28 ²	Zürich	240 [VI]	vol. VI
3	Feb 6	Stuttgart	240 [VI]	vol. VI
4	Feb 16	Dornach	235 [I]	vol. I

Existing Translations

- ▣ For reasons that we'll see, it's of the utmost importance to read the Karma lectures in the right sequence.
- ▣ An extraordinary pattern emerges.
- ▣ The Rudolf Steiner Press translations are (paradoxically) *good*, but they aren't very accurate. They're more like elegant summaries.
- ▣ I have tried to be faithful – difficult as that can be!

New Translations

- ▣ KR 82, “The Last Address.”
- ▣ Available on Amazon.
- ▣ Search under “Amrine karmic.”
- ▣ You can read for free if you have Prime.

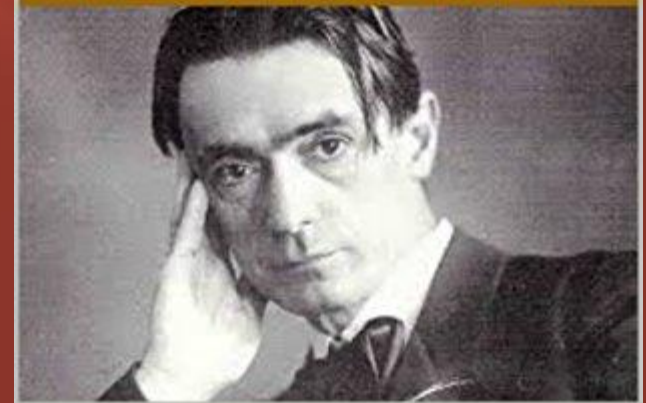


New Translations

- ▣ KR 39, “The Missing Lecture”
- ▣ Available on Amazon.
- ▣ Search under “Amrine karmic.”

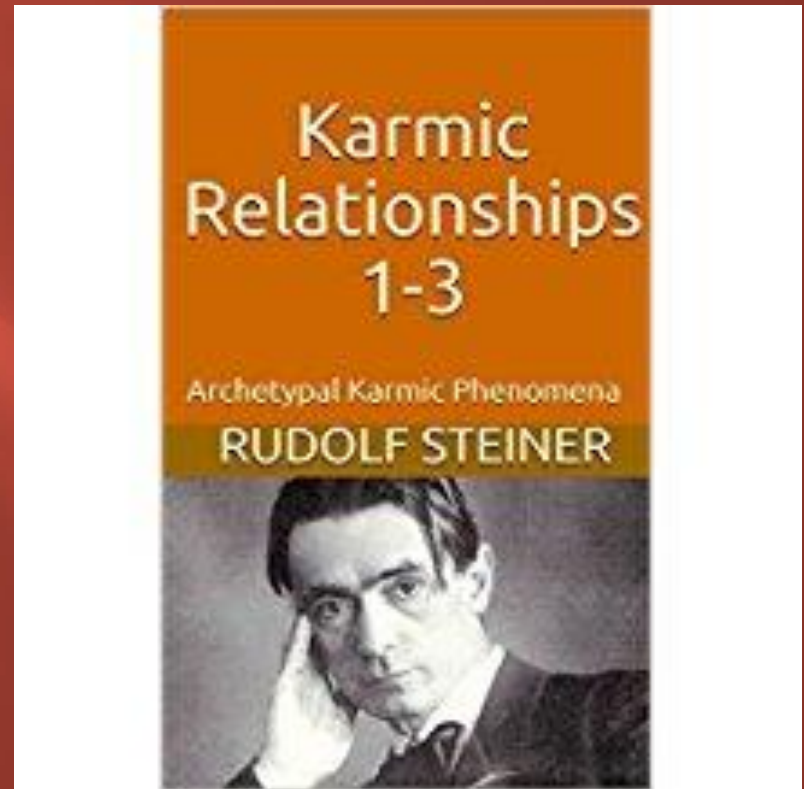
Karmic Relationships 39

(The Missing Lecture)
RUDOLF STEINER



New Translations

- ▣ KR 1-3, “Archetypal Karmic Phenomena”
- ▣ Available from Amazon as an e-book now; as a book very soon.
- ▣ Scan under “Amrine karmic.”
- ▣ Again, you can read for free with Prime.



Evolutionary Recapitulation

- ▣ Cf. *The Secret Doctrine (aka An Outline of Esoteric Science)*
- ▣ not literal!
- ▣ ontogenetic law (Waldorf ed.); neotony
- ▣ GA 234: *Anthroposophy: An Introduction (!)*
Trans. Owen Barfield. “*Theosophy turned inside-out*”
- ▣ After the Christmas Conference, Steiner *recapitulates symbolically the earliest phases of his own work within the context of reincarnation & karma!*

Christmas Conference

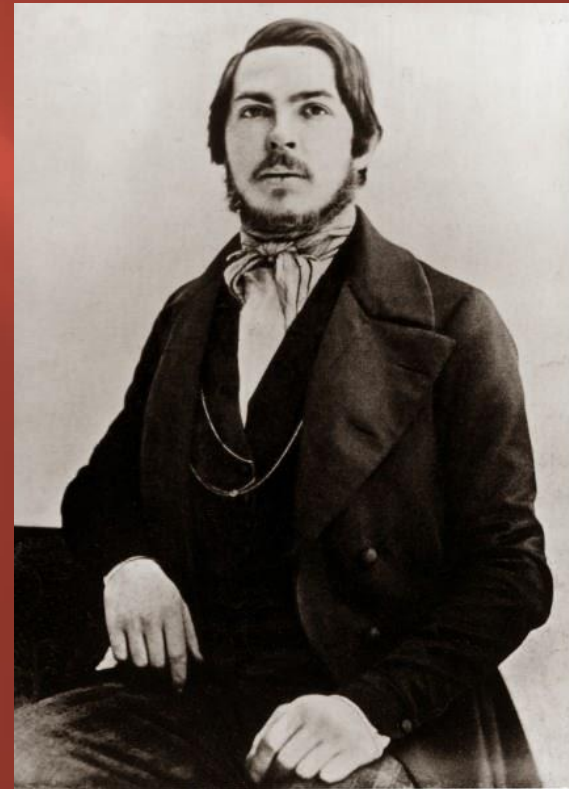
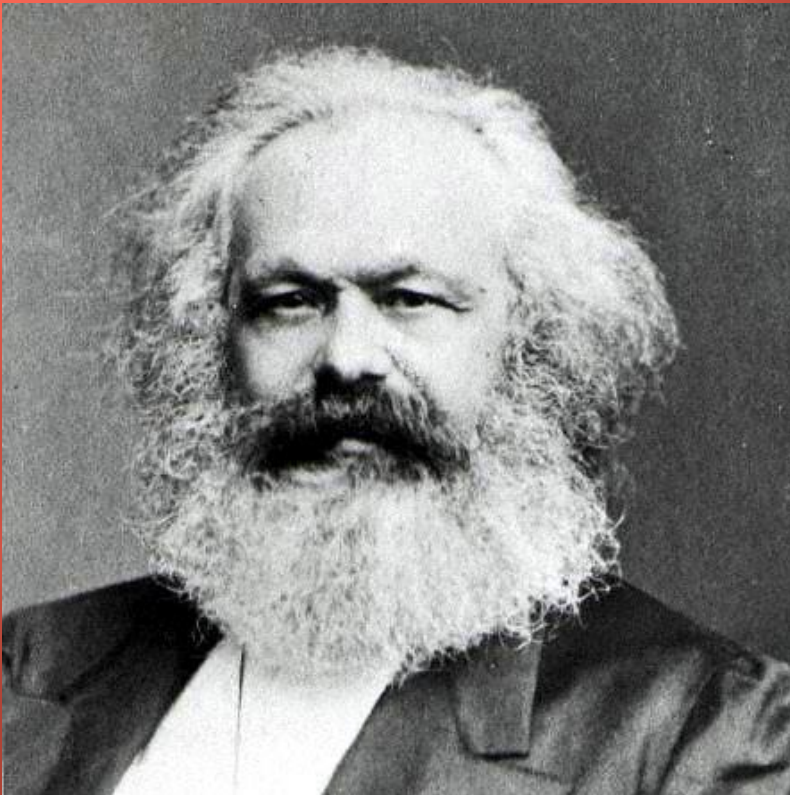
A Theory of Knowledge
Implicit in Goethe's
World Conception
(GA 2)



KR 4 ff.
"organic" causality
vs.
"inorganic"

Workers School

Workers School → Karma of Marx and Engels!



Christmas Conference

Truth and
Science (GA 3),
The Philosophy of
Freedom (GA 4)

Friedrich
Nietzsche (GA 5)

Goethe's World View (GA 6)
(G. and evol.
theory)

reincarnations and
karma of :

E. v. Hartmann

Nietzsche

Darwin

Haeckel

Vischer

Christmas Conference

Christianity as a
Mystical Fact
(1902)
GA 8



(e.g. KR 46)
cosmic Christianity
renewal of Mysteries
Gnosis

Christmas Conference

early (abortive)
theosophical
attempts
(1902)

82 lectures on
reincarnation and
karma

Christmas Conference

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Knowledge of the
Higher Worlds
(GA 10,
1904/1905)



Karmic research as a
path of
Thankfulness
(KR 46)

A New Esoteric Impulse

- ▣ KR 1 ends with a call for deepening anthroposophical work in light of the Chr Conf
- ▣ KR 2 ends by describing a “living seed” (Goethe!) that will “do justice to the past and future” of anthroposophy (i.e., its karma).
- ▣ KR 3 transitions from a Goethean “sensory-moral” phenomenology to a description of esoteric duty in light of the Christmas Conf: we must penetrate into spiritual realities, and to make the impulse real.

Recuperation of a “tragic” episode

- ▣ KR 21: in 1902, Steiner tried immediately to institute “practical karma exercises,” but the “older Theosophists” resisted.
- ▣ “...the members of this society were not sufficiently mature.”
- ▣ “It therefore remained a task which had to be pursued under the surface as it were of the Anthroposophical stream, performed as an obligation to the spiritual world.” [KR 18]
- ▣ But now, after the Christmas Conference, this “real and living esotericism” can and must be taken up; waiting would be a “grave defect” [KR 21].

Lifting the veil of Isis

- ▣ “What we call human destiny is therefore an affair of the gods...” [KR 37]
- ▣ “You are caressed by someone who loves you...The caress is not matter at all, it is a process, you experience it inwardly, in your *soul*. So it is when we look outwards into the spheres of the ether. The Gods in their love caress the world.” [KR 41]
- ▣ “The mood in which all teachings about karma should be received is one of piety, of reverence. Whenever one approaches a truth relating to karma, his soul should feel as though part of the veil of Isis were being lifted.” [KR 43]

Deepening our commitment

- ▣ Self-knowledge through karma studies will deepen our commitment to Anthroposophy. [KR 55]
- ▣ The merger of the Anthroposophical Movement and the Anthroposophical Society represents a promise to the spiritual world that must be fulfilled! [KR 58]
- ▣ Demons had “sealed his lips” about karma, but the Christmas Conference unsealed them! [KR 66]
- ▣ We must “return to our own germinal impulse” [KR 72]. Karma studies are central.