“Painted from a palette entirely different” A new hermeneutic approach to Steiner’s esoteric courses for teachers

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Abstract


Abstract. The recorded texts of Steiner’s esoteric courses for teachers, given in the years 1919-23 are generally thought to be of basic importance for Waldorf education. Both in Waldorf circles and within the context of contemporary educational research, however, they have not yet been taken up in a way that does justice to their original intentions. This article seeks to uncover the reasons for this and offers an initial outline of the special hermeneutic approach that is required for a comprehensive understanding of those courses. The resulting scenario includes mention of a number of areas that have been found to be particularly relevant in methodological terms: the history of Western esotericism (W. J. Hanegraaff), the use of language in Goethe’s scientific writings, and Ernst Cassirer’s philosophy of symbolic forms.

Keywords: Hermeneutik, Waldorfpädagogik, Esoterikforschung.

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Biblical Hermeneutics Stack Exchange is a question and answer site for professors, theologians, and those interested in exegetical analysis of biblical texts. Join them; it only takes a minute: Sign up. It was spiritual because it represents our baptism and new life. It was moral because we cross-over life's difficulties (Egypt) into our personal earthly blessings (Promise Lands). It was eschatological because we look forward to the final crossing-over from death to eternal life in heaven. Hope it helps. And the voice of Priest speaks of the esoteric Son of God as second person of the Trinity. When Moses jumped back from the rod which had been turned to snake: The King speaks literally of Moses and the rod.