

PREFACE TO THE FIRST ENGLISH EDITION

This second volume accompanies *The First Class Lessons and Mantras*, published in early 2017. The lessons herein were given in various cities in Europe and were intended for students who could not be present for the main lessons in Dornach. No new mantras are presented here, though the accompanying explanations vary somewhat from those given in the main lessons. This material can enrich the studies and meditations of those who have the will to deeply penetrate into this unique body of work by Rudolf Steiner.

As pointed out already in the preface for volume 1, it is expected and recommended that those who enter the sphere of these lessons should be familiar with the basic exercises Steiner presents in *How to Know Higher Worlds* and *An Outline of Esoteric Science*. Travelers on this spiritual path should be well acquainted with the demands of the Lesser Guardian before being confronted with those of the Greater Guardian of the Threshold.



An important discovery was made after the publication of the first German edition of *The Recapitulation Lessons of The Meditative Path of the Michael School* (Nov. 2011). In the Kolisko Archives in England, stenographs with notes of two recapitulation lessons were found, neither of which had been previously transcribed. They concern the lessons in Breslau on June 12 and 13, 1924. They are stenographs by Lili Kolisko. She used the Gabelsberger system with some individual variance, which can also be seen in other stenographs in her handwriting. The text in these stenographs, a system no longer used today, required great effort by E. L. Gradenwitz (Mexico) to decipher

and transcribe. Jutta Schwarz (Zurich) did the editorial work regarding spelling and punctuation.

The stenographs have a few gaps, which have no real effect for understanding the text overall. The gaps have been marked as such in the text. Some words that were not written clearly in the stenographs and were not decipherable are also marked and commented on.

The style of the Breslau lessons is special. Rudolf Steiner seems to emphasize three elements more than in other lessons: first, the trial of loneliness on the meditative path; second, the need for radical self-knowledge; and third, in these lessons the student of Michael is “taken by the hand of the Guardian,” an expression not found in any other primary or recapitulation lessons. Therefore, they not only complete, but also enrich the known texts of the meditative path.

The new recapitulation lessons are inserted into this second edition in chronological order.

We thank Andrew Clunies-Ross (England), a grandson of Eugen and Lili Kolisko, for his generous permission to publish these Breslau lessons for the first time. We must also thank an anonymous donor for assuming the cost of transcribing the stenographs.

T. H. Meyer

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