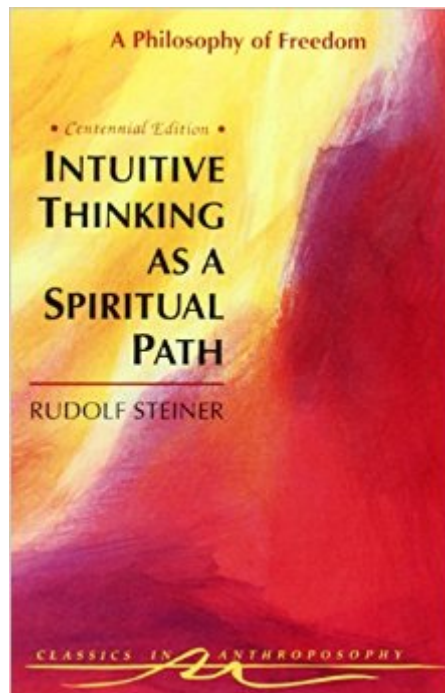


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# Intuitive Thinking As A Spiritual Path: A Philosophy Of Freedom (Classics In Anthroposophy)



## Synopsis

Of all of his works, *Intuitive Thinking as a Spiritual Path* is the one that Steiner himself believed would have the longest life and the greatest spiritual and cultural consequences. It was written as a phenomenological account of the "results of observing the human soul according to the methods of natural science. This seminal work asserts that free spiritual activity "understood as the human ability to think and act independently of physical nature" is the suitable path for human beings today to gain true knowledge of themselves and of the universe. This is not merely a philosophical volume, but rather a warm, heart-oriented guide to the practice and experience of living thinking. Readers will not find abstract philosophy here, but a step-by-step account of how a person may come to experience living, intuitive thinking "the conscious experience of a purely spiritual content." • During the past hundred years since it was written, many have tried to discover this "new thinking" that could help us understand the various spiritual, ecological, social, political, and philosophical issues facing us. But only Rudolf Steiner laid out a path that leads from ordinary thinking to the level of pure spiritual activity "intuitive thinking" in which we become co-creators and co-redeemers of the world. "When, with the help of Steiner's book, we recognize that thinking is an essentially spiritual activity, we discover that it can school us. In that sense "Steiner's sense "thinking is a spiritual path" (Gertrude Reif Hughes). Contents: Translator's Introduction Introduction by Gertrude Reif Hughes Preface to the Revised Edition, 1918 Part 1: Theory: The Knowledge of Freedom Conscious Human Action The Fundamental Urge for Knowledge Thinking in the Service of Understanding the World The World as Percept Knowing the World Human Individuality Are There Limits to Cognition? Part 2: Practice: The Reality of Freedom The Factors of Life The Idea of Freedom Freedom •Philosophy and Monism World Purpose and Life Purpose (Human Destiny) Moral Imagination (Darwinism and Ethics) The Value of Life (Pessimism and Optimism) Individuality and Genus Final Questions: The Consequences of Monism Appendixes Bibliography Index This volume is arguably the most essential of Steiner's works. The thoughts in this book establish the foundation for all of Anthroposophy. Other translations: *The Philosophy of Freedom* and *The Philosophy of Spiritual Activity*. German edition: *Die Philosophie der Freiheit*

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This is a new translation of Rudolf Steiner's most important work. It has an especially good introduction by Gertrude Hughes Reif. However, I preferred the two older titles: "Philosophy of Freedom" and "Philosophy of Spiritual Activity" because the significance of the experience of the book comes across better for me with those titles. This is not a book that can be "read" in the usual sense. It must be worked on because it forces you to think about your own thinking. Through this difficult process you yourself discover your spiritual self, your "I" being. This book should be the most important book of the last 100 years, but it hasn't been because there are not many people who want to discover themselves. That is too fearful and difficult. It is much easier to be asleep or to belong to a religion or to have a guru. For anyone who is brave and courageous about "Know Thyself!" this is THE book.

Perhaps one of the most significant questions you can ask in your life: How can I know anything? How can I feel sure that what I hold as the basis for reality has any reality at all? These and other significant life questions are worked through in this remarkable philosophical work. Be prepared to do your own work as you follow the intuitive path that has been carefully outlined by Rudolf Steiner. The careful reader will find few books more deeply satisfying. I have returned to re-read it many times.

Rudolf Steiner was a genius. This is a very in depth and challenging read that will help you to really know reality. Whether or not you agree with everything he says, read it with an open mind and really think through the material being presented. Just doing so will grow your intelligence. I find that Rudolf Steiner's written works are a very satisfying read. Truly reading them with an open mind and

following his thought process is very enlightening and is itself a form of meditation. Again this is a very challenging read. If you are new to Steiner then I would recommend reading either this book or "How to Know Higher Worlds" (also translated as "Knowledge of Higher Worlds and Its Attainment") first.

Steiner takes the reader through multiple streams of thinking concerning the philosophy of life, from the existential father, Kant, to many variations including the German Romantic philosophers. As one of the most brilliant humans to live on the earth from the 15th century onward, Steiner cuts through the illusions dumped upon humanity by the magnitude of pop culture philosophers. This is not a book for the weak minded nor the close minded. However, if an individual is truly interested in advancing his understanding on existence this is an unparalleled volume. When finished, one is deeply impacted and will see the world in a way never before known.

I am a fan of Steiner. This book is difficult to read, but full of insights every time you re-read something. This book cannot be read on an intellectual level, but **MUST** be read on a soul-spiritual level with a desire to want to transform yourself to be able to access spiritual phenomena that lies outside what today's natural science can ascertain. The material when properly digested and experienced will lead the reader to a new realization and know that he is not just a physical body, but, a spiritual being using the physical body to relate and learn and grow on this earthly plane and will lead the person to aid in the development of humanity. It will also give one the purpose for their existence and the path one needs to follow to obtain that purpose.

Are there words to be found for this book? I wish courage to all those who want to give it a try and read it. Life gets different after the experience...

Rudolf Steiner can be a difficult author to follow unless you have **PLENTY** of time to re-read pages and keep an **OPEN MIND**. He is an excellent writer, and understood the spiritual realm of our universe with zeal in a time when being open-minded was almost unheard of. We have learned lots from his books. Steiner was a **CHRISTIAN** who wanted to bring us more in touch with the Spirit World.

This is a smooth translation of a text which, given the rapid evolution of the English language, is not an easy accomplishment. The introductions by Gertrude Reif Hughes and the translator Michael

Lipson are excellent. I would however, have given the chosen title "Intuitive thinking as a Spiritual path" to the Reif Hughes introduction and stuck with "The Philosophy of Freedom" as the best title. There are a few small issues in the translation. Much of the difficulty that I had--this is the fifth translation which I have read--is to do with the current fashion, which avoids the word "man" and all forms of the pronoun "he". This is a book which describes, ethical individualism, and the point is somewhat muted by the constant recourse to the plural "they", especially in the closing sentence. I am grateful for the work that has been done, but for my own ongoing work will stick with the Michael Milson translation.

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