

## Full passages (referenced):

Karl Konig -- *Becoming Human: A Social Task*, 2011 (Edinburgh; Floris Books)

... the human being does not merely consist of a physical body, an etheric body, an astral body, and I, of body, soul and spirit; above all we consist of everything constituted by fellow human beings spread across the earth as the totality of humankind: the people among whom we live, the family we were born into, the karmic group into which we are received between birth and death. It is only the totality of these relationships that makes a human being. Without it we are not human beings. Developing an inner perception of this reality is the first step on the way to an understanding of what it means to be a human being on earth among other human beings.

Rudolf Steiner -- "How Can the Destitution of the Soul Be Overcome" (Zurich, Oct. 10, 1916)

Social understanding, freedom of thought, knowledge of the spirit, these are the three great aims... . We must develop in their light; they are the right lamps for our time. Many people feel intensively that something of this kind is necessary, and particularly that another kind of community life must be developed, and that there must be new conceptions... . We can think of honorable good will, which has the aim of creating impulses in humanity... . Think of the many reformers who appear in the varied fields, of the many socially minded clergymen, and of the teacher in the social field, who may stand quite outside theological and religious circles. All this is often inspired by the very best will. It often has the intention of leading human beings toward something, which life in our time is seeking. How much good will is present, and at this moment we will look at all that comes from good will, not from malice. But as long as this good will remains in general phrases, however warm the feeling by which they are sustained, it cannot help, unless that knowledge comes to life ... but human understanding in the present has not even reached the beginning of this insight, except in small groups which have gathered to study the science of the spirit.

... there can light up in earthly existence the thoughts of human souls, which shine up like bright stars ... The science of the spirit should not be described as something fantastic; the science of the spirit is something which has the purpose of influencing reality in such a way that the distress of the soul which is inevitable ... can be overcome.

Adam Bittleston -- *Spirit of the Circling Stars*

It is a starting point in the understanding of Destiny to know: I have taken in, like an indrawn breath, my being, my soul and spirit, at earthly birth out of the widths of heaven. I bear in myself the whole image of the starry world, parts of it indeed emphasized as my particular responsibility. In the struggle of earth, this heavenly commission would now be forgotten were it not for Spirit. The nearer I draw to Spirit the better I shall remember it: and in its presence not be overwhelmed by it, but in every situation be helped in finding the first small steps to carry out my commission afresh.

The Blue Iris  
by Mary Oliver

It doesn't have to be the blue iris,  
it could be weeds  
in a vacant lot,  
or a few small stones;  
just pay attention, then patch  
a few words together  
and don't try to make them elaborate.  
This isn't a contest but the doorway  
into thanks, and a silence  
in which another voice may speak.

*The stars once spoke to the human being.  
Their silence now is cosmic destiny.  
To perceive this silence  
Can be painful for earthly human beings.*

*But now, in the silence, ripens  
What human beings may speak to the stars.  
To pay attention to the speaking  
Gives strength to Spirit Human Being.*

—Rudolf Steiner