

# Biographæa

## Resources

## Working with Biographical Development

Christophori  
Veráce

Edition Biographæa

Edition Biographæa®

Resources

Working with Biographical Development

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## Epilogue

The books are finished and so is a project. A project about which I often wondered: “How did I get myself from talking about a nice idea over a meal, into an endeavour spanning some twelve years?” The answer is rather simple: *This is what happens, when you really live with a question.*

In the Summer of 2010 as I was approaching my 52nd birthday I had just accepted the position of director at the *Instituut voor Biografiek* based at that time in Zeist. I was already feeling stronger than ever that it was my responsibility to bring biography work to a wider public. Christopher and I met in a little café in Amsterdam, whilst he was holding seminars in the Netherlands. Whilst we were enjoying our refreshments, I voiced my burning question: “How can biography work reach a wider audience?” Knowing that he already had long standing practical experience in this field, I was hoping for an elaborated answer, but he simply bounced the question back to me.

So then I shared my own perspective, that there were just not enough publications available. For at the time there really were no more than a handful of standard works, that were not even widely known or easily available. His agreement with my point of view, lead to my responding: “Why are you not writing a book?” To which he spontaneously replied: “I will when you create the pictures!”

Christopher alluded to a picture I had recently shown him, which I had created to provide my clients with a visual outline of biographical development: graphically illustrated as an archetypal spiral path of a biography with the typical challenges and opportunities in each phase of life; this is now included in Chapter 6 of the first volume *Lifelines*. For many years I had been creating illustrations like this with words and images in ink and coloured pencil. As a visual thinker, these supported my anthroposophical research and studies, helping me to understand by creatively expressing my comprehension in an artistic way.

Books about the Art and Science of Biography ... *what an adventure!*  
We experienced the excitement of creating something new, as we embarked on our journey: identifying themes and images, planning an overview of content and layout, constantly collecting insights.

Sometimes the content came first, followed by metaphors and images; at other times it was the other way round. For example, in the second volume *Life Moments*, first identifying the key metaphors led to an ever deeper understanding of the archetypal process of metamorphosis. Part of our creative journey was the fun of playfully ‘discovering’ our respective nom-de-plumes, to which we have remained true to the end.

Emails were swishing to and fro between Germany and the Netherlands. Regularly we found time to work together in person for days at a time. Once we had the outline for a volume ready, the serious work of creating the pictures and texts could proceed. Finding the space, time and energy was often a challenge; and, of course, ‘Inspiration’ is wont to come and go as she pleases.

During that special Summer fortune was really smiling in my life. My partner bought a cottage in France; which became a renovation project during the holidays. For myself it became a sanctuary where I could work on Biographæa.

Remarkable was that often, whilst cruising through France, having left the daily worries behind, images would pop-up before my mind’s eye. Generally, just after passing Paris the roads became empty and inspiration would come. I only needed then to sketch the pictures on my arrival, sitting at my little desk, surrounded by the turmoil of building works. The pile of illustrations grew as our house became more and more beautiful.

It took us seven years to get the first version of the books ‘more or less’ ready. Then began the arduous tasks of editing and translation, which proved to be a very challenging struggle. Because both our personal and vocational lives were so often demanding, again and again our publishing project had to wait. Life gave us both the opportunity to practice patience, tolerance and endurance; a rigorous schooling in the exercise of the inversion of the will.

Now, as our books are out in the world, and I look back on the process, I see that my original question actually manifested as my mission in life. For which I am grateful, because I know that to recognise one’s life mission is a grace indeed.

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