

Calendar of the Soul Verse 8: the Whitsun verse. Hearing God within.

Rudolf Steiner

"Ethereic" Verse 8 relates to Condition 2, "Feel ourselves to be a part of life". For the consciousness soul, strongly experiencing the beautiful sense world, "The might of senses grows in covenant with God's creating". With all my senses, my joy in seeing birth and growth in plants and creatures leads me to a new cognition; and I recognize that evolving, I, too, can grow more truly as member of the cosmos.

Es wächst der Sinne Macht
Im Bunde mit der Götter
Schaffen,
Sie drückt des Denkens Kraft
Zur Traumes Dumpfheit mir herab.

Wenn göttlich Wesen
Sich meiner Seele einen will,
Muss menschlich Denken
Im Traumessein sich still
bescheiden.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



The might of senses grows
In covenant with God's
creating;
Suppresses thinking's force
Unto the dimness of a dream.

When godly Being
Will with my soul unite,
Must human thinking
To dream existence humbly
yield.

tr. by Daisy Aldan.



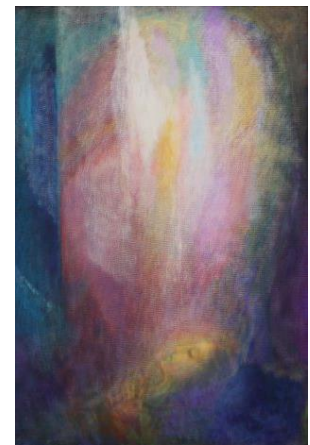
Hilde Boos-Hamburger

The senses' might grows strong
In union with the god's creative work;
It presses down my power of thought
Into a dreamlike dullness.

Whenever godly being
Would with my soul commune,

Then must my human thinking
Abide in humble dream.

tr. by John F. Gardner.



Ninetta Sombart

A "Godly being wishes to unite with my soul". . . Our ordinary human thinking must dim down to allow communication on a higher level—for the God's word to be heard, to be understood.

I feel first a communion with God's glorious creation, and my personal, Ahrimanic thinking must dim down so that I can experience intuitive perception, Ahnen. My 'heart thinking' is then open to a godly being's wish to communicate with me. In dream-like acceptance I feel a humble contentment, a comfort in opening myself to this higher receptive state. Living heart thinking, understanding, can flow into me.

The power of the senses grows
In union with the gods' creation,
And vigour of thought subsides
To a dreamlike drowsiness.

When godly being wills
Union with my soul,
Then thinking must accept
In quietness the state of dream.

tr. by John F. Gardner.



Ninetta Sombart

The power of the senses,
Entwined with gods' creating,
now begins to grow—
and thus reduces the force of thinking
to the dullness of a dream.

If a divine being would unite
with my soul—
then human thinking must resign itself
To this dull dream existence.

tr. by Tom Mellett.

An extensive study and meditation of the Calendar for many years was carried out by Roberta van Schilfgaard. Here is a small section of what she wrote mainly about Verse 8 but including 9 through 13, which verses complete the second 7 verse set of rhythms in the Calendar. She offers practical steps to take and her concluding thought is especially significant for our time.

On Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar Of The Soul*

Concerning Verses 8-13

If we wish to become esoteric students, we must train ourselves vigorously in the mood of devotion. Rudolf Steiner

Verse 8 is the verse of Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter when the Disciples of Christ Jesus suddenly understood the mighty events they had experienced during the previous three years. Their earthly thoughts were suppressed by the Holy Spirit, so that they could be filled with the creative understanding that led to their work as Apostles. This verse marks the yearly time when our ordinary thinking also needs to be suppressed for a higher perception and understanding. Spirit beings in light and warmth are expecting, hoping that the human "I", through enhanced sense experience will commune with the cosmic harmonies so vividly streaming through nature.

This enhancement of communing, this higher capacity of knowing, expressed by the word "Ahnung" is connected with human feelings, particularly strong feelings of devotion. In the first chapter of *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, Steiner writes, "If we wish to become esoteric students, we must train ourselves vigorously in the mood of devotion." He describes how a force of higher cognitive power is gathered in when we try to enter deeply and lovingly into another person's good qualities. How much more true this would be if we should enter with consciousness into the light and warmth of the divine world! This would mean our being gifted with the forces of the invisible, creative Beings who live within the light and warmth. These very forces are the spiritual nourishment needed by the cosmos from us, as vital members of the cosmic community, to offer back to spiritual realms if evolutionary hopes of the divine world are to be realized. Only through the cooperative activity of human and angelic spirits, can our mutual evolution be accomplished.

We need to forget our own will, preferably for a time each day, to try to feel our being as one with light and warmth, to experience our true self as cosmic self. It is "Ahnung" that announces to us that we need to lose our ordinary consciousness, try to expand our consciousness in order to grasp our cosmic self. In verses 8-10 we enter into consciousness that the Spirit Child is conceived in us. In verse 10, our wakening sentience is told that a godly being also feels our evolving presence. Verses 11, 12, and 13 are connected with the three higher bodies of our seven-fold being. The verses show us how we can activate increasingly higher states of consciousness. The Sun is at its strongest during this time of the summer solstice. Verse 13 speaks of the "fire" around us and within us. The Word of Truth of Gods urges use of this new capacity of Ahnung to seek our spirit relations.

This new capacity seems to be a re-emergence on a higher level of a state of consciousness that we had in very ancient times. We had no self-consciousness at that time as we do now, but we did not lose consciousness in sleep as we do now. We may say, at that time we had in sleep a clairvoyant consciousness and in the daytime a dull earthly consciousness. We also experienced an intermediate state, a kind of waking-dreaming, in which we knew (without self-consciousness) that we were with spiritual beings because, as Rudolf Steiner said, "we could behold them." This waking-dreaming wants to be born in us again, this time with self-consciousness.

With joy and good wishes for this Whitsuntide,
Eloise