

Calendar of the Soul Verse 1

Rudolf Steiner

Notes from Eloise Krivosheia

Dear Friends,

On Easter Sunday we begin, with Verse 1 of *The Calendar of the Soul*, our travel and development of the soul through the year, with the Christ always at our side. Every verse beautifully relates to nature as well as to our soul. All 52 verses ask for a raised consciousness. In each we see both the sense world and the supersensible world.

Daisy Aldan's translation of Rudolf Steiner's Verse 1, here; then again below in blue font together with some thoughts about the lines.

(At the end of the page is Rudolf Steiner's original German with translation by John Thompson and painting by Anne Stockton.)

Calendar of the Soul Verse 1 – we have a soul sense of the Sun --a truly joyful verse, wherein the sun speaks to the heart and the soul tries to understand.

"When out of farthest worlds"

"The Sun communes with sense of Man

"And gladness from the depth of soul"

"In vision joins with light"

"Then from the sheath of selfhood, thoughts"

"File forth toward distances of space"

"And dimly join"

"Human essence to the Spirit's being."



"When out of farthest worlds"

"The Sun communes with sense of Man (Sun communes with our human senses but also with our understanding—the German 'menschensinn')" (Occult Science. P 83) As the Spirit Being surges through us, the Being communicates His inmost being to the human I and the feeling of bliss is may be experienced. The Sun can thus commune with us, because the human being is a "light being." (Christ is The Light Being who gave us our etheric body in which are our memories which we need in order to think and to understand.)

"And gladness from the depth of soul" 'seelentiefen' –first the heart and then thought felt deeply

"In vision joins with light" -this is inner vision (wisdom) that joins with the light

"Then from the sheath of selfhood, thoughts" –Here we feel our thoughts –joyful, in gratitude—beginning to flow back to the Sun.

"File forth toward distances of space" -We can feel intimate communication flowing outward into the World from our own Ego.

"And dimly join" "dimly" or gropingly because we have not yet developed our higher spirit members (especially Life Spirit and Spirit Man)

Our thoughts file forth because it is in thinking that we join our spirit to Spiritual Beings. Each year, I think more capably than the year before.

"Human essence to the Spirit's being." -Here the emphasis is on essence –that is, the human "I"

Our identity, created by the LIGHT, enables us to differentiate ourselves from others. We use our sense perceptions, too, whereby we can know ourselves –become ourselves.

Light creates our soul and so the soul rejoices in seeing the Sun, joyfully and in gratitude because we have this knowledge of our light and where it comes from.

"Knowledge," from the verb "to know" –can connote fructifying. --there is fructification of the soul.

Light creates both the physical experience for our soul and also brings understandings and thoughts that carry these experiences further.

"Spirit Light" forms our Consciousness Soul.

This happy, springtime verse also is the first of those that carry the Condition 1 from Rudolf Steiner's *Theosophy*, which is "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually."

We can think about 'What brings nature forth?' In Verse 1 the word "menschensinn" brings the meaning "deepest comprehension." We are trying to grasp the essence of things. When we watch a plant grow in its details, we take in its etheric formative forces. What this plant is. In becoming consciously aware of its growing process, our thinking is strengthened. Do we perceive the world in such a way that it helps our mental health? The word "light" (licht) in line 4, is filled with etheric process-thinking. Menschen Wesen in line 8 is essential being, the entirety of the human essence. Sein is the Spirit's Be-ing.*

**In the *Philosophy of Freedom*, Rudolf Steiner points to how the formative force in a plant is similar to the way we shape our thinking. The Sun brings in the etheric forces that bring forth plant shapes; "heart thinking" has the "essence" of the Sun within. (*Karmic Relations* Vol. IV.)*

Calendar of the Soul

By Rudolf Steiner

First Week

(April 7-13)

*Wenn aus den Weltenweiten
Die Sonne spricht zum Menschensinn
Und Freude aus den Seelentiefen
Dem Licht sich eint im Schauen,
Dann ziehen aus der Selbstheit Hülle
Gedanken in die Raumesfernen
Und binden dumpf
Des Menschen Wesen an des Geistes Sein.
original German by Rudolf Steiner*

When from the vastness of this world
The sun speaks to the human mind
And joy from the depths of soul
In beholding joins with light;
Then thoughts that burst from out the self
Stream into distant space
Unknowingly uniting
The human being with the Spirit's life.

** translation by John Thomson*

