

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 1 The Soul Seeks Christ

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.

Calendar of the Soul Verse 1 – we have a soul sense of the Sun --a truly joyful verse, wherein the sun so speaks to the heart and senses that the soul in joy wants to respond to this Spirit Sun from its deepest feelings, even as it strives for understanding.

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 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.

Tr. By Daily Aldan

Here are some thoughts about the lines.



When out of farthest worlds

The Sun communes with sense of Man

The Sun rays commune with our human senses but also with *human understanding*— 'Menschensinn'. As the Sun Being's light and warmth surge through us, 'communicating' to the human I, the feeling of bliss can be experienced. It is because human beings are "light beings" that the Sun can thus commune with us for Christ is The Light Being who gave us our etheric body. In this etheric body we carry our memories that we need in order to think and understand.

And gladness from the depth of soul 'Seelentiefen' -first the heart and then thought, together felt in deep gladness.

In vision joins with light - This is inner vision (wisdom) that joins with the light. This light is filled with etheric process-thinking.

Light creates our soul members 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.

We can say there is a fructification of the soul, for knowledge, from the verb "to know" can connote fructifying. Light creates both the physical experience for our soul and also brings understandings and thoughts that carry these experiences further.

Then from the sheath of selfhood, thoughts -Here we feel our own 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. When with warmth, then it is our "heart thinking" that has the essence of the Sun within.

And dimly join - "Dimly" or gropingly because we have not yet developed our higher spirit members -our Spirit Self, or higher I, only somewhat, but especially not Life Spirit and Spirit Man.

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

Human essence to the Spirit's being. -Here the emphasis is on essence -that is, the human "I". Menschen Wesen is essential being, the entirety of the human essence. Sein is the Spirit's Be-ing.

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."

Arms upraised to the Sun,
in "Spring Joy!"



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.

tr. by John Thomson

The Verse may lead us into thinking about 'What brings nature forth?'

In Line 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. (First step of the Buddhist Path, Right Perception, Right View.) Connecting to Condition 1, we may ask ourselves, "Do we perceive the world in such a way that it helps our mental health?"

*From Rudolf Steiner we have learned that the Sun streams in the etheric forces that bring forth plant shapes. 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.

More about the Sun and German "Sinn" from Roberta van Schilfgaarde.

In the first verse of the year, the "Aries Sun" speaks to us. It speaks to our "Sinn." I think it is impossible for any translator to express in one English word the fullness of this German word "Sinn". It is the same word that is found in Verses 47 and 51 ("Sinne"-senses). "Sinn" has numerous meanings, clearly all expressing some aspect of the manifoldness of the human power of grasping both outer and inner worlds with understanding. Among dictionary definitions are: sense, mind, perception, conception, meaning, understanding, significance. We could say, "The Sun speaks to my capacity to grasp the meaning, the significance, of all that Nature brings to my experience."

The Sun speaks to the fullness of our twelve senses. Our senses date back to our earliest beginnings, the ancient Saturn evolution; thus we can see how basic they are to our entire human experience. The Sun speaks to our understanding of the significance of our own being in cosmic becoming, asks us to be awake to all that is being re-enacted before us of Nature's (and our own) evolution.

In verse 1, it is our joy to experience a new opportunity to become more than we have been, to be more awake in the spirit happenings that now and in future will surround us. A magnificent garden is coming into view, and the gardeners—the elemental beings—and the Hierarchies who guide them, hope that we will be joyful in what it has been their joy to create. If we feel this and also the urge to know the gardeners themselves, we receive particular nourishment from the spring and summer, the time of “sleep.”

Steiner has often made clear that sleep is the younger brother of death. In both cases we enter the spiritual world and are rejuvenated, given fresh forces. We are given over to this time of fructification each year. In winter our thinking grows firm and strong in the physical world to fill our deeds with greater strength. In summer we live in the sleep of Nature, when cosmic life sends us its thoughts in earthly formations. We are thus lifted out into the creative spirit of the world. We cannot truly grasp with ordinary sight and thinking how growth and development take place. Though we mainly sleep through these spiritual happenings, our feeling and will experience them.

Perhaps our joy in the weeks of spring is something like that of many little children who become quite lively, even giddy, when it's bedtime. They seem to be expressing their joy that they will soon be in the soul-spiritual world from which they have recently come, which they still vaguely remember. I think that we, too, experience something of this in the spring. We feel happiness in the warmth and beauty surrounding us, but I suspect that, like very small children, we are also welcoming our time to live in spirit existence.

The essence of the thoughts we developed last year (and, of course, in previous years), which we have given over to Christ, now join Christ in His rising with the soul of the Earth into the distances of space. In this union with Christ, expressed in Verse 1, we bind our “I” with spirit existence.

Verse 1 begins on Easter Sunday. For me this sensitive painting, artist unknown, captures the glory of the Spirit Sun manifested through the sacrifice on Golgotha and indicating through open grave's doorway, the Risen One's presence now on Earth itself.

