

Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar of the Soul* Verse 12 Summer Solstice St. John's Tide

By Eloise Krivosheia

"Life Spirit" Verse 12 relates to Condition 6, "Feel gratitude for everything that falls to your lot." Calendar Verses 5-20 have a correlation with the events in Luke 1:28-79. In Luke 1:38, we find "And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word."

Here we see Mary is immediately willing to do God's work. She can release her "godly gifts", (Götterkräfte) the will forces of her astral and ego, to cosmic union—even as in Verse 12, the I in the consciousness soul feels its desire to do the same. The Self trusts that "I can seek myself in cosmic light and warmth," in the Son and the Father, and know that I will find my physical self waiting my safe return below—for Christ has since Golgotha been united with Earth. The I continues:

Gazing into the Earth's beauty releases will forces in me that enable me to feel a part of the cosmos, part of its beauty. I long to breathe in, absorb this beauty. And I feel I'm not alone—I'm part of this beauty.

My gratitude for the Earth's blossoming beauty and its high, golden blue sunlit skies fills my soul and I want to lose all that is small in me and soar into the beauty of the cosmos. I feel it as a holy experience. I feel the world's light and warmth in my own soul and filled with love I tell myself that God who created all this beauty and life, created me, too, and is within me as my true I.

Der Welten Schönheitsglanz,
Er zwinget mich aus Seelentiefen
Des Eigenlebens Götterkräfte
Zum Weltenfluge zu entbinden,
Mich selber zu verlassen,
Vertrauend nur mich suchend
In Weltenlicht und Weltenwärme

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



The beauteous lustre of the world
Compels me from the depth of
soul
That I release to cosmic flight
The godly forces of my own life:
To leave myself below,
And trusting, seek myself
In cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

tr. by Daisy Aldan..



The splendor of Nature's beauty
Lures me out of my soul depths
To liberate for cosmic flight
The divine forces of my own
existence.---
To abandon myself, yet trusting
And seeking myself alone
In cosmic light, and cosmic warmth..

tr. by Tom Mellett.



Ninetta Sombart

In Line 4, that which is 'godly' in me, the spirit, is what sees the beauty of the world for what it is in truth; the spirit in me consciously connects me to the gods. I shall trustingly seek myself in cosmic light, in the Christ forces of light, life and wisdom, and in cosmic warmth, the Father will forces.

The verse highlights our wish to do consciously what at night and in the season of summer our astral body and ego mostly do unconsciously. Gradually we can become more conscious of this flight as we realize we are a being of the universe.

With our thoughts and feelings we experience the earth's beautiful out breathing, now at its fullest. We notice how like breathing the lines of the verse are as they weave the soul's feelings in and out. Balance is established for us as our spirit breathes in the beauty of the world, then out, connecting us with the gods. Balance makes offering and trust possible. Feeling thankful for all that we are and all that comes to us enables us to love all these gifts.

We notice, too, a similarity we have with the plant world, for just as plants reach toward the Sun's light, we strive to reach up toward the Love-bearing Beings of light and warmth—the First Hierarchy—who shine toward us out of golden light. They draw us up into their sphere. In our morality, in our human virtues, we join them in the heights. As Rudolf Steiner describes in his St. John's lecture, 10/12/23 we may feel, as the painting's colors express, our inner will forces streaming upward to weave rose-red in the gold of cosmic intelligence.

Going out beyond our ordinary self into cosmic expanses can feel like a New Birth that we are striving toward. This awareness is brought about even more now since sensing in Verse 10 our being 'touched by a Godly Being'. This is a time to "change our thinking" as John the Baptist strongly preached. As we know of St. John's baptizing with water, the Christ's baptizing with fire and the Spirit, we may experience this season's awakening like a "baptism".

The radiant beauty of the world
Compels my inmost soul to free
God-given powers of my nature
That they may soar into the cosmos,
To take wing from my Self,
And trustingly to seek myself
In cosmic light and cosmic warmth

tr. by Ruth & Hans Pusch



The world's fair shining glory
Compels me to release
From depths of soul to cosmic flight
My own life's God-inspired forces;
To leave myself behind
And trustingly to seek myself
In cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack.

As long ago, at midsummer, folk felt their spiritual life was intimately bound up with relating to the spiritual beings of the heavens and to the nature beings of the Earth Soul, it is possible for us, too, to reach out beyond ourselves especially during St. John's Tide.

Of all the solstice and equinox festivals, each like a gateway to the spiritual world, the summer solstice, with Earth's great out breathing, was always seen as a uniting of the Earth Soul with its Spirit in the periphery of the great Sun. It was a time of "enlightenment" for the ancients; that is, in union with cosmic heights they felt they could "receive the Light," could encounter their higher I.

Increasingly this union today of the human I, filled by the impulse of Christ, has potential to awaken us to a new sense of self and purpose not determined by external factors, but out of ourselves inwardly. In free union with these spirit heights in summer, it is for us to absorb a sense of brotherhood, a moral impulse ever more into ourselves.

In the true I, as we may experience with the Christ, the I is universal. In this sense, we can find it in each other. In recognition of this truth and following St John's admonition to us to "re-think", we can truly change our thinking, we can set ourselves free to develop new social forms that may with the guardianship of the First Hierarchy, mature in cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

To recognize a holiness within everything we experience, may be our desire this St. John's Tide.