

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

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"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, to 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 beautiful 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

The 'godly' forces in me, the spirit, is what sees the beauty of the world for what it is in truth; and this 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 and may wish to practice how like our 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, then in again 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 and Second Hierarchies—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 virtues streaming upward to weave rose-red in the gold of cosmic intelligence.

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.

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".

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 into 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 sphere 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.

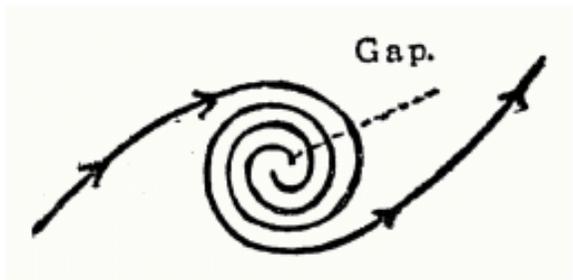
In the true I, as we may experience with the Christ, the I is universal. In this sense, we can find It in each other. In recognition of this truth and following St John's admonition to us to "re-think", we can truly change our thinking, we can set ourselves free to develop new social forms that may with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

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



Matthew 3: 1-2 KJV. John the Baptist came preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying, "Repent ye, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

("repent" meaning to change your thinking, or in Greek, *metanoia*—sometimes thought of as turning toward the light).



Within the spirals of the zodiacal sign for Cancer at this St John's tide, there is a gap—or a leap as Carl Kovacs in his *The Leap*, reports that Rudolf Steiner called it in Ch. 11 of his *The Gospel of St. Matthew*. "He (Rudolf Steiner) pointed out a law which rules all evolutionary processes; a law which makes it necessary that there is a gap, a nothing

between the impulse that is coming to end and the new impulse that is beginning. Over this gap the soul must 'leap' to live with the new impulse."

Rudolf Steiner says we see this law exemplified when the physical sun passes through the constellation of Cancer, reaches its zenith, hesitates, as in *solstice* meaning sun stands, before it then descends again. Similarly, "when the aspirant for Initiation first makes the ascent into the spiritual world, and then having acquired knowledge of its forces, he brings these down again in order to turn them to the service of humanity."

Midsummer is a time when, under the gaze of the Archangel Uriel, the spiritual world looks with special closeness at our human actions and motivations. For us too, it is a good time to look closely at what we humans are doing in the world —mindful of the wisdom of "rethinking" and of meditating the reason for the "gap".

Brotherhood in all aspects of our lives, at this season may it awaken, may it increase.

