

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 14: First verse of Second Quarter

By Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 14, the Physical, relates to **Condition 1**, "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." Verse 14 begins the second quarter of the Calendar containing verses 14 to 26, which whole quarter relates to the Second Principle of the human being, the etheric, with its forces of form and growth and memory. Relation in these 13 summer weeks is thus also to the Intellectual, or Mind Soul, which the ego with the help of higher beings developed from the human etheric principle.

In this early week of July a change in our soul consciousness is already apparent. Able to look back and realize consciously how the Soul was drawn upward into the enchantment of the Summer "glory", we thus are no longer wholly lost in "dreaming". A new creation is rising in us (just as many plants are rising from blossom to seed formation). -We respond to the fertilizing, seed-creating Warmth of Cosmic Love. We can say yes to the question, "Can I feel the reality of 'Cosmic Thinking' working formatively in me?"

An Sinnesoffenbarung hingegeben
Verlor ich Eigenwesens Trieb,
Gedankentraum, er schien
Betäubend mir das Selbst zu
rauben,
Doch weckend nahet schon
Im Sinnenschein mir Weltendenken.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



Surrendering to senses' revelation
I lost the drive of my own being,
And dreamlike thinking seemed
To daze and rob me of my Self.
Yet quickening there draws near
In sense appearance cosmic
thinking.

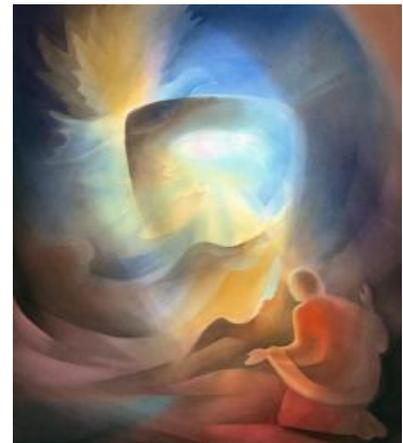
tr. By Ruth & Hans Pusch



Larrisa Davis

Surrendered to the senses'
revelation
I lost the drive of self
existence,
And dream of thought,
bewildering,
It seemed to rob me of my self,
But waking, now comes near
In senses' shining, cosmic
thinking.

tr. by Daisy Aldan.



"Greek philosophy beautifully compared the human soul with a bee. The world of color and light offers 'honey' to the soul which it then brings with it into the higher worlds. The soul must spiritualize sense experience and carry it up into higher worlds." ~Rudolf Steiner November 22, 1906

Thus in Spring and Summer we enjoy the spiritual attributes of the season as well as the physical beauty that beckons us and may indeed make us somewhat dreamy, —but now we can wake to a *new kind of thinking*. But what is "Cosmic Thinking"?

Cosmic thinking is creative thinking —it has an "imaginative," truth-filled and loving consciousness. We can think creatively about our experiences. From this recognition something new can grow.

In this Verse 14, the Soul seems to sense that its typical, even dreamy thinking, isn't quite up to what it needs. In line three, it realizes that dim, unclear thinking can cause itself not to grasp its familiar identity—it fears to "lose its self". Now it's true that because we relish the joy that our senses can bring to us, we like dreamy thinking. But now is the time for us to wake to our experiences. Our awakening can be to new pictures of truth, to an imaginative, creative and loving "Cosmic Thinking."

We awaken, or as suggested by the German "weckend", we experience a "quickenig," a feeling that something within all this summer beauty is beginning to speak to us. *Is a new meaning entering the Earth?* We are told that the Cosmos is alive with thought, filled with love, goodness, generosity — abundant fulfillment and peace. All this cosmic thinking communicates the totality of Spirit. Even at this moment of life's seeming fullness, a change is dimly beginning. Yes, indeed, "there draws near in sense appearance cosmic thinking "

Surrendered to the senses'
 revelation
 I lost the drive of my own
 being;
 Thought-dream, benumbing
 me,
 It seemed to rob me of myself,
 But now, awakening, draws near
 In senses' glory Cosmic
 Thinking.

tr. By Brigitte Knaack



I gave myself to the senses'
 revelation
 And lost the thrust of my true
 self.
 Thoughts like to dreams, in
 numbness
 Stole my self away.
 Yet, in the senses' show
 Cosmic thinking wakes and
 nearer draws.

tr. By John B. Thomson

The Eight-Fold Path. You may remember that we can also divide each of the four quarters of the year again to get eight parts—and these correspond to the steps in the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path. Verses 14 through 20 relate to the third step, "Right Speech, Right Word." We can think about the connection of 'thinking' with "Word" and see that "Cosmic Thinking" is like the forecourt to Cosmic Word. For the "Cosmic Word" is the divine expression of "Cosmic Thinking" and has potential for action. Now we see how cosmic thinking is creative thinking—leading to action. We realize also that when one person speaks out of cosmic thinking, other people can grasp the meaning clearly, and act as may be wise. -Thus we find it to be vital to the modern ideal of real community building!

Correspondences with the Gospel of Luke. You may also have noticed a correspondence between the Calendar of the Soul verses and Luke, Chapter 1. Verse 14 corresponds with Luke 41-44. Note the role of speech—of words. We read after Mary's words of greeting to Elizabeth, Elizabeth's receptive response in "solemn and mighty words", from hearing Mary's words of greeting.

⁴¹And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb. And the Holy Spirit filled Elizabeth ⁴²and she spoke with solemn and mighty words: Blessed are you among all women, blessed is the fruit of your body. ⁴³How is it that I am so highly honored that the mother of my Lord should come to me: ⁴⁴For see, when my ear heard the sound of your greeting, the babe leaped for joy in my womb. (*The New Testament*, a rendering by Jon Madsen)

We can also say in relation to Calendar Verse 14, that Elisabeth at that point recognized that something new had to replace the old astrality. Like Elisabeth and the unborn John the Baptist, until we also recognize this, we have an "unborn" responsiveness.

But we are given time. The "great announcements" of the spiritual world don't just come and go--they press into us. So every year we can meet Verse 14 and its soul awakening message anew.

Siderally, we are in Gemini—immortal and mortal twins, in the past symbolizing the higher and the lower. But with Christ as seen in the 'washing of the feet', the spiritual and the physical come together in brotherhood. **Astrologically**, we are in Cancer—the new that will be coming will have the *experience* of the old, but the *way* and the *substance* will be new. —*We are to find what will be needed for our time.*

Thus both Gemini and Cancer fit the ideals of this 'new day' —brotherhood.

I think Rudolf Steiner's verse of May 15, 1910 also addresses advice for the soul in Verse 14.

Being is ranged by Being in the widths of Space,
Being follows on Being in the courses of Time,
If you remain only in widths of Space, in courses of Time,
Then, O human being, you are in the passing world alone.

But above us with power our soul itself upraises
With divining or knowing and we behold what passes not;
Beyond the widths of Space, beyond the course of Time
In the light of Wisdom eternal!

Wesen reiht sich an Wesen in den Raumesweiten,
Wesen folgt auf Wesen in den Zeitenläufen.
Verbleibst du in Raumesweiten und Zeitenläufen,
Bist du, O Mensch, allein in Gebiete der Vergänglichkeit.

Über sie aber erhebt deine Seele sich gewaltiglich,
Wenn sie erahnend oder wissend schaut das Unvergängliche
Jenseits der Raumesweiten und jenseits der Zeitenläufe!

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