

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

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Verse 14, the Physical, relates to **Condition 1**, "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." It begins the second quarter of the Calendar, verses 14 to 26. Dividing the year into 4 rhythms: Physical, Etheric, Astral and Ego, these 13 summer weeks are in the Etheric rhythm, Second Principle of the human being with its forces of form, growth and memory. We may also connect this quarter to the Intellectual or Mind Soul, in German, the *Gemüt* Soul, in that this soul member arose from the human Etheric Principle.

In this early week of July a change in our soul consciousness is already apparent. Able now to look back and feel *consciously* how my Soul was drawn upward into the enchantment of Summer's "glory", I thus am no longer wholly lost in "dreaming". A creativeness is waking in me. Just as many plants rise now from blossom to seed formation, I too respond to the nurturing, forming Warmth of Cosmic Love. With joy I can even affirm Lines 5 and 6, conscious now of 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 naht 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

In Spring and Summer we may tend somewhat unconsciously to enjoy the spiritual attributes of the season as well as the physical beauty that beckons us and may indeed make us somewhat dreamy, —but we can also wake to a *new kind of thinking*—*Cosmic Thinking*. --and we may ask, *what is this new thinking?*

Cosmic thinking has within an "imaginative," truth-filled and loving consciousness. It is creative. From the recognition that we can think creatively about our experiences, 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 no longer to know its true identity —it even fears to "lose its self". Now, it's true that because we relish the joys our senses bring us, we often like dreamy thinking. But it is time now for us also to wake livingly, newly to our experiences. Our awakening can be to new pictures of truths —to imaginative, creative and loving "Cosmic Thinking."

We awaken, or as suggested by the German "weckend", we experience a "quicken," a feeling that something within all this summer beauty is beginning to speak to us. *Is a new meaning entering the Earth? Are we understanding our summer world in a new way? We are told that the Cosmos is alive with thought, filled with love, goodness, generosity —with harmony and peace. We recognize the potential of cosmic thinking to communicate in a new way the essence of Spirit. Even at this summer moment of life's seeming fullness, a change is dimly beginning. For even as in "the senses show" we see fruit replacing flower, there to the soul draws near our own new and fruitful, 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



Cup of gold in Lindsay Smith's garden

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 in total—and these correspond to the steps in the Buddhist Eight-Fold Path. Verses 14 through 20 relate to the path's third step, "Right Speech, Right Word." When we connect thinking and word we see that Cosmic Thinking is like a forecourt to Cosmic Word. For the "Cosmic Word," carrying manifestation, as in the Prologue to *The Gospel of St. John*, is the divine expression of "Cosmic Thinking". Now we see how cosmic thinking in us can become wise, even peaceful action. We realize that when a person speaks out of cosmic thinking, other people can grasp meaning clearly, and can act as may be wise. Thus we find cosmic thinking 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, the eight-fold steps, and *Luke*, Chapter 1. Verse 14 corresponds with Luke 41-44. We note how the role of speech, of words, and creative thinking lead to an awakening. For after hearing Mary's words of greeting Elizabeth gives her *receptive response* in "solemn and mighty words".

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 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 such a need, 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. Every year we can meet Verse 14 and its soul awakening message anew.

Sidereally we are in *Gemini* with the immortal and mortal twins of the past symbolizing higher and lower. But with Christ, as seen in the 'washing of the feet', the spiritual and the physical come together in grateful brotherhood. **Tropically**, 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 toward all with love

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

In the Light of Wisdom Eternal!

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

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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Through the weeks of the Calendar we progress to understanding of Rudolf Steiner's lecture of December 19, 1904, *The Birth of the Light*—to the **luminous peace of the Spiritual Sun in the human being.**

from The Birth of the Light

"The external light, the light that is born out there in the universe, must today be born also in the human heart. Christianity stands as the external mystical fact for the birth of the light. Christ brought to the earth what had existed from the beginning, although it was hidden from mankind throughout the ages we have been speaking of.

When it was recognized that the Divine could descend into a personality, the festival celebrating the birth of the Sun Hero, the Christ, came to replace the festival celebrating the birth of the light. What formerly was impossible could now be attained. Man could now give birth to light in his own soul."