

Dear Friends,

## Calendar of the Soul Verse 2 by Rudolf Steiner

We now can feel the etheric forces of Verse 2 of *The Calendar of the Soul*, as in our travel and development of the Consciousness Soul through the year, we feel the Christ always at our side. We remember that every verse beautifully relates to nature as well as to our Consciousness Soul. All 52 verses ask for a raised consciousness. In each we see both the sense world and the supersensible world.

Brigitte Knaack's translation of Rudolf Steiner's Verse 2, here; then again below in blue font together with some thoughts about the lines. Anne Stockton's painting illustrates the verse's complexity.

(At the end of the page is Rudolf Steiner's original German with translation by John Thompson and painting by Anne Stockton.) **Then are some excerpts from a beautiful, mystical with pictures of a 6<sup>th</sup> century abbey of St Colomba in Scotland.**

Calendar of the Soul Verse 2 – we remember that in Verse 1 the soul joyfully joined its I through thinking with the Spirit's being. Verse 2 continues the gladness we feel when we see the beauties of nature in the light of the Sun—but then we can go further.

Turned toward the outer universe  
The power of thought  
Surrenders its self-centeredness;  
The worlds of spirit find again  
Their human offspring,  
While man himself must find once more  
In them his first life seed,  
But in himself the soul's ripe fruit.



Turned toward the outer universe

The power of thought

Surrenders its self-centeredness;

In this “etheric” verse, picture us as “sleeping man” (as in nighttime or summer) when the power of our thinking ceases to be just our own. But, if awakened to a higher awareness, we may also reach beyond sense world into spirit consciousness—more a sense of universal being.

The worlds of spirit find again

Their human offspring, As all seeds “warm” before sprouting, we may feel a warmth in these two lines. The offspring (sprout in German), that is us, in our developing I, again this year approach the Spirit World in “summer sleep”. But the verse tells us that the Spirit World is able to find us, even though we are probably unconscious of it.

While man himself must find once more

In them his first life seed, Our life forces come from Christ. The growing “I” of man becomes conscious of its origin. But in “waking sleep” to fully and consciously find our seed origin, this would seem to be on a higher level of the etheric —Life Spirit.

But in himself the soul's ripe fruit. The seed begins to grow downward –for as RS described, we are an upside down plant—our seed in the spirit world, but the fruit, our soul yield, must be on this earthly plane where our evolving work is.

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. The Sun brings in the etheric forces that bring forth plant shapes; "heart thinking" has the “essence” of the Sun within. (*Karmic Relations* Vol. IV.)

We may also be reminded of the ancient words of wisdom: O Man, know thou thyself! and Rudolf Steiner’s explanation. 'When one considers the words, “Know thyself,” in the Greek, they do not mean that you stare into your own inner being, but that you fructify yourself with what streams into you from the spiritual world. “Know thyself” means: Fructify thyself with the content of the spiritual world!'

**This Month: “Devotion becomes the power of sacrifice.”**

## Calendar of the Soul

By Rudolf Steiner

### First Week

(April 7-13)

*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 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.

\* translation by John Thomson





**Kathi Lambrides Westlund** wrote in her site that last summer she “was privileged to visit the remote, mysterious island of Iona, Scotland, which is known for its Abbey. What a place! It is a memorable and moving site and is still a functioning religious community. Iona Abbey was established in the 6th century by Columba (of Ireland) and was the launching place for Christianity’s spread through Scotland and northern England. This prayer, attributed to St. Columba, is a call to us to trust that the God who led and preserved him in that rugged wilderness, is our guide today.”

Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path before me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today...tonight...and forever.  
Alone with none but You my God,  
I journey on my way.  
What need I fear  
When You are near,  
O Lord of night and day.  
More secure am I within Your hand  
than if a multitude did 'round me stand.  
~ Amen

St. Columba – Founder of Iona Abbey (Scotland) – 6th century

