In this deeply meditative **"Spirit Self" Verse 24**, we experience the soul recognizing a new phase for itself, whereby we learn our "sense of self" shapes the kind of deeds our will brings forth —and when enlivened, can fructify the actions of our will with new light and love.

May inner joy, and golden light, be with you!

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 24 –the Striving Soul

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 24 relates to the fifth member of the human being, the Spirit Self, to Condition 5, "Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution once it is taken." Remember, this resolution was foreshadowed in the fifth line of Ego verse 23 in "I can behold in space expanses…" –intimating a future event or responsibility.

And so it is that self-awareness now must come to the fore; a wisdom filled, true self-awareness. We remember that for wisdom to arise, thoughts and experiences need to go through the heart. Weaving new sense of self comes from experiences looked at consciously —*with our heart and our will forces*.

Our souls do grow continuously, constantly, although it may be just as the seasons change that we particularly notice and are alert to changes in the way we think and want to act. With this week we reach the gateway to a certain balance in the year—the approach of Michaelmas tide.

Very subtly in this verse, lines 3 and 4, we can also sense that by enlivening our self-awareness, our spiritual thinking, and by the good that we do in wisdom and love, we actually help enliven *not only ourselves, but also the cosmic Spirit, the Christ*. It is a remarkable and wonder filled realization.

Sich selbst erschaffend stets,		In constant self creating
Wird Seelensein sich selbst gewahr;		Soul being becomes self aware;
Der Weltengeist, er strebet fort		The cosmic Spirit forward strides
In Selbsterkenntnis neu belebt		Through self-cognition new enlivened
Und schafft aus Seelenfinsternis		And shapes from darkness of the soul
Des Selbstsinns Willensfrucht.		Will-fruit of sense of self.
original German by Rudolf Steiner		*tr. by Daisy Aldan*

When we thoughtfully and in full consciousness step forward with deeds of caring, our new recognition of ego self ***as part of Cosmic Spirit,*** is enlivened, and our actions (will-fruit) are offered out of a brotherly sense of love —not through an aggressive forcing or imposing of our will. This way of achieving deeds out of love is not tiring, but is enlivening—like a freshness coming to the self. Raising self-awareness, self-cognition, to cognition of the spiritual world and to the place of human beings in this world, leads to brotherhood—to community.

Rudolf Steiner tells us that the *Calendar of the Soul* is an initiatory path. This can only happen when we "integrate ourselves as self-conscious citizens of the universe".

And when I recognize myself, my place in the universe, I can be more than I was before. It is when I really know who I am, that I can move forward and accomplish deeds of love with conscious purpose.

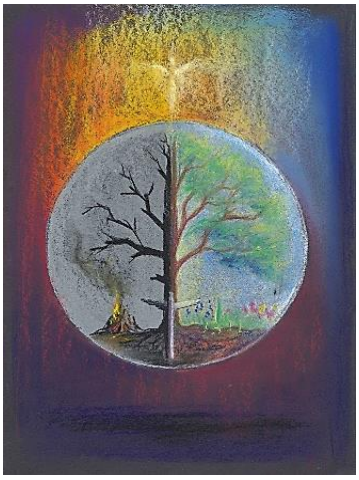
Eleanor Merry writes, "The Cosmic Spirit continually finds Itself renewed through what It learns of Its own earthly image; while Man, finding that he himself is image of the Cosmos, becomes ripe to recognize his responsibilities as an Ego-being." She quotes Rudolf Steiner's guidance, "In me is the meaning of life."

Having grown through the experiences of the summer—which do want our thoughtful review, our ego must now provide the fruit of our conscious deeds of will, which, as Patsy Scala calls it is "*to nourish the soul-hunger of the world.*" The accomplished deed stressed in this verse is *gaining new sense of self*. The subtly of Lines 3 and 4 continues on.

Arild Rosenkrantz

Ever anew itself creating
Soul-being of itself becomes aware;
The Spirit of the World strives on
New-quickened in Man's knowledge of himself,
Creating out of darkness of the soul
What sense of Selfhood yields as fruit of Will.

tr. by Ernst Lehrs



*In the mood of metanoia**– David Newbatt

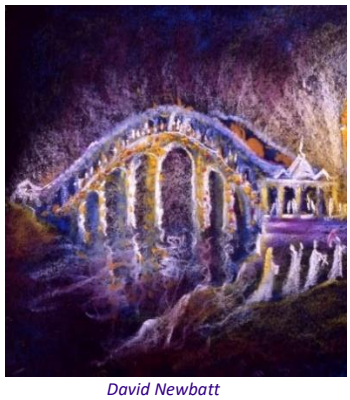
Ordinarily we have a dim or totally unconscious awareness of how our will works. Yet from this 'darkness' of soul we are to shape our will-fruit, our deeds! We may picture the soul working from the thinking heart into the will —to bring forth a real manifestation of the spirit into our deeds. Then our will-fruit will be deeds born out of a higher understanding, the Christ light in us.

It is important we recognize that the *origin* of our new self-awareness is in higher worlds —whereas the *fruit* of our new thinking, our new awareness, must take place on earth and come from out of ourselves.

By intimately engaging our feelings with the meaning of this Verse 24, Karl König suggests we can find concealed images that derive from the same source as Goethe's *Fairy Tale of the Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*. He relates the self-renewing of the human soul to the sacrifice of the Green Snake, which results in a splendid bridge connecting this world with the spiritual world, enabling future people to cross.

Creating itself constantly
Soul being grows aware of itself.
The Cosmic Spirit is ever striving onward
As fresh awakenings stir self cognition to life,
Creating from the darkness in the soul
The sense that selfhood is fructified in the will.

tr. by Dennis Klocek



David Newbatt

By constantly creating itself,
My soul becomes aware of itself.
The cosmic spirit strives on—
In newly animated self-realization—
And creates out of soul darkness
the fruit of my will—
The sense of myself.

tr. by Tom Mellett .

Gaining new self-awareness is not for sissies! In the first Scene in Rudolf Steiner's second drama, *The Soul's Probation,* Capesius seems unable to think with his consciousness soul. He struggles with not being able to go beyond his intellectual thinking, which blocks him from experiencing cosmic thinking —and from having the necessary strength of will to rethink himself.

Here are a few lines he reads from Benedictus meant to guide him to overcome his sense of doubt and fear—feelings that unconsciously probably block many of us.

"Within your thinking cosmic thoughts hold sway,
Within your feeling cosmic forces weave,
Within your willing cosmic beings work.

Lose yourself in cosmic thoughts.
Experience yourself through cosmic forces.
Create yourself from beings of will.

. . . worlds' far reaches do not end through thinking's play of dreams.
(that is, your thoughts need to go from dream feelings <u>through</u> to will and action)
Begin within expanded spirit spheres and end in depths of your own soul:
You'll find the aims of gods when you can know in you your Self." (when you can recognize your true Self this is the aims of gods)

Luna, one of his soul forces, next speaks to him. "You do not lack the strength for lofty spirit flight.
It's founded well upon the human will; It's hardened well by certainty of hope.
It is well steeled by sight into the future.
You only lack the courage to pour into your willing new confidence in life . . .
Into the vast unknown with courage dare to venture forth."

On page 2 above, David Newbatt's painting "In the mood of Metanoia" carries a powerful relevance to the inner thrust of Verse 24; and also images well the following word depiction.

*Metanoia is a Greek word basically meaning "change of mind". Yet the full meaning is somewhat more. In the *New Testament*, the word metanoia is often translated as "repentance". But this kind of repentance is not about regret or guilt or shame; it implies making a decision to rethink, to turn around, to face a new direction. To turn toward the light. Here is a most illuminating exercise found on the Metanoia site.

"Imagine you are standing in a circle of people.
In the center of the circle, there is a source of light.
But rather than facing the center and the light, you are standing with your back to the light, facing outward.
When you stand this way, facing away from the light, all you can see is your own shadow.
You cannot see the light.
You can only look into your shadow.
You cannot see the others in the circle with you.
From what you can see, you are disconnected and alone in the dark.
Now imagine that you turn around to face the light that is in the center of the circle.
When you turn toward the light, you no longer see only darkness.
When you turn toward the light, your shadow is behind you.
When you turn toward the light, you can now see the other people who are standing with you.
You can see that the light is shining on everyone and that you are all connected in its radiance.
Making the decision to turn around, to turn away from shadow, to face the light: this is *metanoia.*"

Now you may notice in the Newbatt painting how in the death rattle expressed on the left, all spiritual light and fire-will have been kept outside the soul; whereas on the right, spiritual light and life have entered. **Above are caring, golden rays of light.**

From The Foundation Stone of Love-

O Light Divine,
O Sun of Christ!
Warm Thou our Hearts,
Enlighten Thou our Heads,
That good may become
What from our Hearts we would found,
And from our Heads direct
With single purpose.

David Newbatt

Calendar of the Soul Verse 29

The **polar opposite** verse from Verse 24 is Verse 29. In this translation, by Brigitte Knaack, the "sense of self maturing, as fruit of will," lights up fully and powerfully for one's inner being as ***renewed thinking***. Thus, as imaged by Karl König we become the temple in which the spirit can incarnate and manifest itself.

Sich selbst des Denkens Leuchten
Im Innern kraftvoll zu entfachen,
Erlebtes sinnvoll deutend
Aus Weltengeistes Kräftequell,
Ist mir nun Sommererbe,
Ist Herbstesruhe und auch Winterhoffnung.

To kindle forcefully within
The shining light of thinking for myself,
To read my life's intrinsic meaning
Out of the Cosmic Spirit's fount of strength,
Is now my summer heritage,
Is autumn peace and also winter hope.

Through meditating the Calendar, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.