With "Life Spirit" Verse 25, and now in Michaelmas Tide, we recognize a new light and new will maturing within our inner being. We reach a different awareness, too, of the World's critical need for human warmth and human light.

As in the verse, may gratitude be ours both in giving and in receiving for what comes to us in life!

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 25: Ray Inner Light to the World

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 25 relates to the sixth member of the human being, Life Spirit; and as such to the initiation step of Inspiration—or spirit hearing, spirit harmony. The verse also conveys Condition 6, "Develop the feeling of gratitude for all that you receive —for all that falls to your lot." In feeling gratitude, you experience also a warm connecting, enlivening feeling.

We remember from Verse 24 that the "fruit of the will" is a higher sense of Self and a desire for brotherhood. We raised summer's soul experiences to a deepened understanding of one's Self as a being living within the world and related to all else in it. Out of this heightened cognition of Self, the soul now experiences an inner light. With joy we feel this inner light, and thankful for this gift from the Cosmos, we will to shine it forth.

As the soul awakens to the spirit, to its *will forces*, it is able to bring inner light *not only* into its own inner soul depths for its own spirit development, *but into the world* for the world's need of spiritual light *and understanding*. At this Michaelic tide, inwardly hearing/listening to its mission, the soul grows conscious that the world, which has no light of its own, *needs the warm sun forces of the human heart.*

Ich darf nun mir gehören
Und leuchtend breiten Innenlicht
In Raumes- und in Zeitenfinsternis.
Zum Schlafe drängt natürlich Wesen,
Der Seele Tiefen sollen wachen
Und wachend tragen Sonnengluten
In kalte Winterfluten.

original German by Rudolf Steiner

Now may I be unto myself
And luminous, spread inner light
Into the darknesses of time and space.
All Nature-being tends toward sleep;
The depths of soul shall now awake
And waking bear the warm sun-glowing
To freezing winter flowing.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

But how do we understand these will forces? *From the Contents of the Esoteric School*, as quoted by van Goudoever in his study of the "Soul Calendar", Steiner illuminates the kind of awakened will forces that we are to carry into the world—not the will known to ordinary consciousness, but the ***reverse***:

"Turn your will about, let it get as powerful as possible, yet do not let it stream as *yours* into outer things; but inquire for the essence of the things and then *give them your will;* let yourself and your will as gift stream out of the things. . . .as long as you *impose* your wish upon a single thing, this your wish not having been born out of the thing itself, so long do you wound the thing."

Now may I be my own
And shining spread an inner light
Into the dark of space and time.
The life of nature turns toward sleep;
The soul within her depths shall waken
And waking, carry the sunlight's glow
Into cold winter's snow.
tr. by Isabel Grieve

In Steiner's *The Soul's Probation* Scene 2, I find an example of this. Maria, good friend of Johannes, has been coaching him on his painting to the point where he depends on what she says. She was brought to grief when through Benedictus she was able to recognize the truth that she was in fact wounding his development. She had thought, or persuaded herself that such was illusion. But out of her higher nature, she wakes and accepts with humility that she must give up her ideal of how Johannes should develop.

In its heightened consciousness the soul is aware of the "darkness" of approaching autumn —that the world of nature is sinking into a condition of sleep. Seeing the dying of the world around, the soul needs to feel that although we each as a human being are a being of nature, we are more than this, and with new inner awakening, new inner light, we wish to meet the outward sleep of nature.

I can belong now to myself
And shining spread my inner light
Into the dark of space and time.
Toward sleep is urging all creation;
But inmost soul must stay awake
And carry wakefully sun's glowing
Into the winter's icy flowing.
tr. By Ruth and Hans Pusch

Anne Stockton

My self, now made my very own,
May shine abroad its inner light
In dark abysms of space and time.
A slumber seizes nature's being,
But the deep hidden soul shall waken,
And waking carry sunny gleams
Into cold winter's tides and streams.
tr. by A.C. Harwood

We are not to be drawn into the death of Nature, but rather prepare ourselves for **birth**, for **resurrection**.

Having understood the Easter message of Christ's resurrection, the soul understands that when it grows with *spiritual* knowledge founded on thinking, it can become inwardly alive— can "resurrect" in this earthly life. Steiner spoke of this on Easter, April 1, 1923.

Eleanor Merry writes of it also, "In the Spring, Man partakes in the Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ. In Autumn he must discover in himself the force and might of Resurrection, so that he can someday pass with full consciousness through the gate of earthly Death. The waking of the Soul so that it does not enter into the Death of Nature; this is the overcoming of Death made possible by what Michael bestows as **Fire of Will, which no Winter's cold can overcome**."

Karl König comments, "It is essential to counter outward death with an inner resurrection, which quality must be acquired at the time of Michaelmas, so that the death that is approaching can no longer have power over the human soul. . . the radiant power of this verse therefore stands like a signpost on the road that leads to Michaelmas."

Our moral impulses come from the Sun Being, the Christ. In Lecture 2 in the *Course for Young Doctors*, Dec 18, 1920, Steiner is deeply serious in saying, "If none of us had enthusiasm for true morality there would be no progress for the world and it would be led toward death." Michael, countenance of Christ, carries Christ light and love to all souls and those who are on the path to seek Christ will be aware, will be conscious, of this light *within*. How good it is to find in significant Line 5 of the verse that the soul is wakening to her mission to help nature and **also** to give warm soul strength to others who may feel a winter-like coldness of soul.

Sometimes it is asked why it is that since 1413 we've been in the Consciousness Soul age and people still often show so little warmth toward others. In *Anthroposophical Leading Thoughts*, Dec 28, 1924, Steiner clarifies that "In its essential nature the consciousness soul may seem cold in the early stage of its unfolding, because at that stage it can only reveal the light-element of its nature, and not as yet the cosmic warmth (of Christ) in which it has its origin." (CS age continues until 3573 AD.)

But this Michaelic time brings special awareness of humanity's mission to "spread love and light;" and we are glad, actively now in our living — with the consciousness of "reverse" will forces —to call on this "*fiery countenance of Christ*" to guide and accompany us in extending warmth and care to others!

The Gospel reading for this week as given to the priests for the new community church includes a connection to our Verse 25. From Matthew 6: 22 we read: "The lamp of the body is the eye. So if your eye is wholesome, your whole body is lighted; whereas if your eye is dull, your whole body is in darkness. So if the light inside you is dark, what great darkness!"

With gratitude we know that the inner light, the inner understanding of the soul spoken of in Verse 25 comes from the Sun Being; and the Sun's light that we love, so clear, beautiful and pure, is brighter in strength than the dark of any darkness.

David Newbatt- Gratitude

Calendar of the Soul Verses 25 and 28

The **polar opposite** verse from Verse 25 is Verse 28. In this translation of 28 by Ruth and Hans Pusch, the shining light of understanding in Verse 25 has become an illumining light of thought capable of deciphering the riddles of the world of things.

Ich kann im Innern neu belebt
Erfühlen eignen Wesens Weiten
Und krafterfüllt Gedankenstrahlen
Aus Seelensonnenmacht
Den Lebensrätseln lösend spenden,
Erfüllung manchem Wunsche leihen,
Dem Hoffnung schon die Schwingen lähmte.

I can, in newly quickened inner life,
Sense wide horizons in myself.
The force and radiance of my thought —
Coming from soul's sun power —
Can solve the mysteries of life,
And grant fulfillment now to wishes
Whose wings have long been lamed by hope.

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