

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 28 - Awakening Spirit

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 28 relates to the second member of the human being, the Etheric, and to Condition 2, which is "Feel ourselves to be a part of the whole of life." We are in the third quarter of the year, the Astral, which is the third member of human beings, and we experience now especially the Consciousness Soul, our third soul member. This verse relates also to the fifth step of the Eight Fold Path, "Right Vocation."

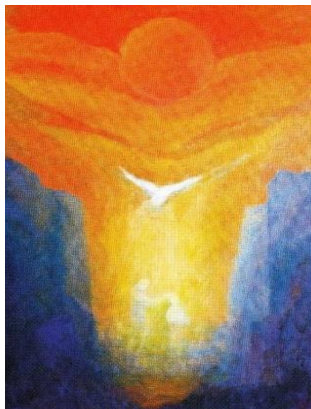
In the first lines of Verse 28, we hear the soul ring forth with joy and gratitude in its recognition that **Sun-powers** have entered with life-giving splendor the inner world of its own being.

Now, instead of the world's width, we feel our own breadth. We feel our "seed gift of summer" has been liberated from its sheath and has begun to shine forth with a new moral, creative power. We feel a lighting up of an inner birth of spirit!

Thoughts whose origin is divine now permeate the Soul, which receives them, and in an expansion of its understanding, is eager to pour its thinking power out over the dark riddles of life. Desires and wishes find their fulfilment when their true nature is revealed by new "sunlight", new "sun might of the soul". But I know, too, that unravelling life's riddles doesn't just happen. I have now to do something energetic myself.

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.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



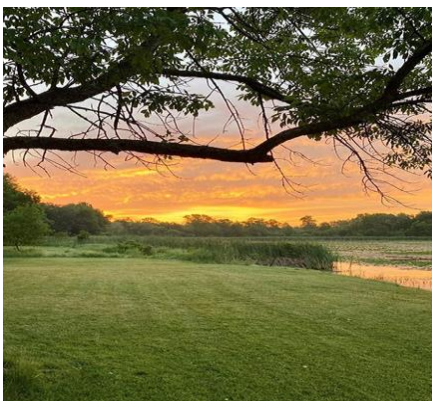
Ninetta Sombart

I can, enlivened now within,
Feel my own being's breadth,
And, filled with strength, shed rays of
thought
From sun-might of the soul
To solve the riddles life presents
And grant fulfilment now to wishes
Whose wings have long been lamed by
hope.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

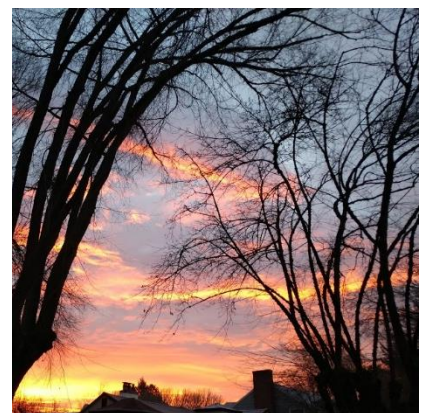
How "hope" can be a laming influence may at first seem a puzzling idea. But when it is a hope that someone, or some spiritual being, is going "to fix my problems", that all I need to do is suffer through until someone or something lifts my burdens, then this kind of hope is a weakening force.

It is when with spiritual knowledge working through one's own strength, that understanding and solutions are achieved and hope can take its rightful place—as we shall see in next week's verse.



I can, revived within myself,
Experience my being's breadth
And filled with strength, spend rays
of thought,
From sun-might of the soul,
Resolving enigmas of life,
Whose wings before, by hope, were
lamed.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



Another aspect of the soul may be considered —that is, the effect of suffering and pain on the astral body. Suffering may be a catalyst for change; but only when the Ego itself works on making the change. We want to achieve greater self-consciousness—and with this verse we experience with some happiness a fuller understanding of our thinking's power to achieve higher soul potential.

It is a great comfort and sense of freedom to know that with the knowledge of spiritual science we, with heightened Ego consciousness, can really see into many enigmas of life—instead of perhaps just hoping or expecting science to tell us.

The real strength of this creativity takes effect after Christmas. Now we are still weaving—creating, overcoming obstacles, tackling new projects. And with remembrance of the moral catharsis experienced in last week's verse, a most important task now is raising our own consciousness to become a "temple for the Spirit." Yes, this is our task now.

I feel my being, vivified anew,
Widen to far horizons of its own.
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.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



New life within me lets me feel
the vastness of my True Being
My thinking, filled with solar force,
illuminates my thoughtful soul
revealing mysteries of life and
granting flight to secret wishes,
whose wings were often lamed by
futile hopes.

tr. by Dennis Klocek

(An interesting verse to compare with Verse 28 is Verse 17. You know, perhaps, that the rhythm of the sun (and its sun spots) is 11. Verse 17 plus 11 is Verse 28. The magnetic poles of the sun shift, or reverse, every 11 years. The last time both poles completed their switch was 2012-2013.)

Calendar of the Soul Verses 28 and 25

The corresponding verse of Verse 28 is Verse 25. In this translation, by Giseler Weber, it seems a seriousness of responsibility was experienced in Verse 25 compared to the brightness now able to rise up out of the soul.

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

I may now to myself belong
And shinningly spread inner light.
Into the dark of space and time.
Toward sleep all nature forces tend;
The deeps of soul shall be awake
And waking carry solar glowing
Into cold Winter's flowing.

In this second half of the year we may gain especially from seeing how the corresponding verses permeate each other, opening up deeper meanings in each. H. D. van Goudoever suggests that as we "listen" to each pair of corresponding verses, our imaginative consciousness changes to a more inspired consciousness. He cautions, however, that as we know, looking at the corresponding verses is only one of the ways of contemplating the Calendar of the Soul.

Through meditating the verses the soul experiences new wisdoms coming forth each year.