

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 29 - Kindling Thinking

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 29 relates to the third member of the human being, the Astral, and to Condition 3, which is "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as action." Astral and etheric forces in us are supportively intertwined. Astral forces sink down into the etheric so that we may think about what we take in. Just as plants have the hierarchies' thinking in them, holding their etheric together, when our thinking is strong, it holds us together as logical, organized, "rational" human beings. Without strong, clear thinking, we may act from emotion—running off in all directions, even as the Greeks called it "panic."

Can we think new spiritual thoughts at this time? Can we be conscious of our higher self? We need to become conscious of where our higher spiritual forces come from—those forces out of which we build ourselves up.

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.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Arild Rosenkranz

Oneself, the shining light of thinking,
To kindle forcefully within,
Imbuing life with meaning
From Cosmic Spirit's spring of strength
For me is summer's heritage,
Is Fall's repose and also Winter's
hope.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

With new thinking kindled from "Cosmic Spirit's spring of strength" we have indeed the ability to look at our past experiences of summer where we rode Sun-high with Apollo, and viewing these experiences now with awe and reverence in *Faith*, we come to Autumn's present, warmly, peacefully accepting with *Love* what we have learned. Winter we look to with *Hope*, that what is not yet here will come and we will succeed in what is needed to be overcome. Winter always bears the future within it, as it includes Christmas. Like the seeds in the Earth, we may view winter as a seed, a seed that is in the process of becoming.

Eleanor Merry has beautifully written, "Winter's Hope also arises in its true nature when the light of Sun-radiant Thinking is able clearly to grasp that the Future is willed by the living Cosmic Spirit."

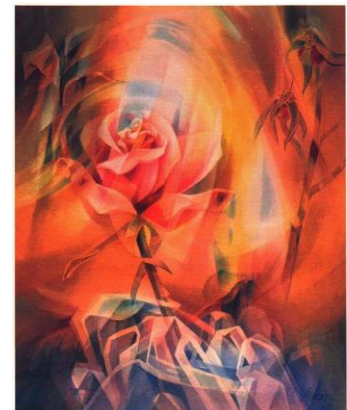
As we stand now in Autumn's Present we play our part in the three Christian virtues of Faith (past), Love (present) and Hope (future). This Autumn time is Spirit-Present, the time for presence of mind: for decision and resolve. Within our soul, the light of spirit may radiate forth, warmly "imbuing life with meaning"—Aldan, "interpreting events of life"—Gardner.



David Newbatt

To brighten thinking's flame
By my own inward strength,
Interpreting events of life
With pow'r from cosmic spirit
source;
This now for me is summer's boon,
Is autumn's calm, and winter's
hope as well

tr. by John F. Gardner



Leszek Forczek

With the Sun power of the summer, etheric forces have come in to us which perhaps many times we consciously felt with joy as it entered and filled our souls. The summer growth forces of children are the same forces we take in in the summer as adults for soul growth. As we mature, these etheric/astral forces given to us in the 10 moon months of embryological development are gradually used up. But new etheric forces come into us at the "right time". These "in time" forces come in to meet our challenges just when we need them.

These of course are divine forces from the "Cosmic Spirit's spring of strength". We are reminded of the great power of transfiguration in the cosmos that brings about the changes of the seasons - and of our souls. As part of that transfiguration, we are both a result and continuation of it.

That this clear inward realization of Cosmic Spirit might be awakened in us, the Summer has called our Thinking up into the heights. Now it is within us, shining, and eager to be kindled to flame by our own strong endeavor -which must be joined with the Cosmic Spirit. We think about these things; with awe and reverence we take them in.

Astral forces now of Imagination -"pictures of truths", even of Inspiration, mingle with memory experiences of our summer and with inner strength we make clear to ourselves what is our goal. For we are free and capable now of contemplating our role in the ongoing transfiguration of the world and of finding clarity in our own unique gift to the world. Out of clearness and quietness, *true* Hope may arise that will be matured in Winter's darkness.

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.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



J.M. Turner

To fan the spark of thinking into
flame
By my own strong endeavor,
To read life's inner meaning
Out of the cosmic spirit's fount of
strength:
This is my summer heritage,
My autumn solace and my winter hope.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch

Calendar of the Soul Verses 29 and 24

The corresponding verse of Verse 29 is Verse 24. In this translation, by Simon Blaxland de Lange, what was proclaimed before Michaelmas in Verse 24 has now happened. The spirit of the world has caused light to ray out of soul darkness, and brightness is now able to rise up out of the soul.

Sich selbst erschaffend stets,
Wird Seelensein sich selbst gewahr;
Der Weltengeist, er strebet fort
In Selbsterkenntnis neu belebt
Und schafft aus Seelenfinsternis
Des Selbstsinns Willensfrucht.

Unceasingly itself renewing
The soul grows self-aware;
In new self-knowledge vivified
The Spirit of the world strives on,
Creating from the darkness of the soul
What sense of self matures as fruit of will.

The above contemplations are only one of many ways of experiencing Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar of the Soul*. Through meditating the Calendar, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.



Vincent van Gogh, 1888

For Meditation