

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 44: Will Permeates Thinking

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Verse 44 relates to the Spirit Self, spiritual member of the human being just beginning to be developed, and to Condition 5, "Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution once it is taken." Noting in the verse the presence of will force marked with accented beats, we are reminded that what is determined by the ego in Condition 4 must be taken up by Spirit Self as resolution in Condition 5.

In this early February, still deep in winter, we may have an almost unconscious awareness of -not Spring, and yet there is something new stirring within the Earth. We are gaining consciousness of what we can bring to this physical world—from divine thought we met at Christmas and our new spirit child experiences. We feel that this physical world gives us our tasks, our work in this incarnation on earth. But clarity of soul leads us further to meaningful, willed and caring action.

Ergreifend neue Sinnesreize
Erfüllet Seelenklarheit
Eingedenk vollzogner Geistgeburt,
Verwirrend sprossend Weltenwerden
Mit meines Denkens Schöpferwillen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

In grasping ever new sense stirrings,
Recalling Spirit birth achieved,
Soul clarity now fills
Confounding, teeming life of worlds
With my own thinking's shaping will.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Somewhat unconsciously we experience new sense stirrings— etheric forces in Earth— as Winter's power must soon begin to give way to the forces of Spring. We could be thrown off balance with all the "confusing, teeming life" coming toward us that often seems to be without reason or logic. But we have received a "Spirit birth" within from Christmas, and we are more prepared to see, to grasp with ego control, something new even in the ordinary—also to meet with new clarity confusing events that may pop up seemingly from out of nowhere.

We may ask ourselves, "Have we realized new clarity within? Have we experienced new courage and wisdom in our dealings with other people?" The verse gives us clear assurance: "With my own thinking's shaping will" I have a new clarity of soul, a new mindfulness, "Eingedenk", to understand the world. I really am a new person since Christmas. My new individuality, my new self is ready to take hold.



Embracing new-born senses' stirrings,
Clearness of soul,
Mindful of Spirit-birth fulfilled,
Imbues the world's confusing, sprouting
growth
With my own thinking's Shaping Will.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



Rembrandt and angel

Experience tells us that only when we are able to see something clearly, can we go forward in a meaningful way. Lacking clarity of self causes us to flounder, to spin our wheels as we may say. New understanding of one's self gives the moral will to use this understanding for thoughtful, loving action. The divine thoughts we took in over Christmas and the Holy Nights help us now to see how we can have a wholesome, reverent influence in our physical world, in our relationships with others.

The verse indeed speaks of a real power of transformation, when my clarity of soul fills the bewildering, sprouting growth of the world's evolving with "the creative will of my thinking."

Willi Sucher expressed that fall and winter, called Moon time of the year, is when our *will nature* must be active for Earth and cosmos. Nature cannot live *into the future* unless, through the instruments of our bodies, we bring new impulses and creative, caring deeds into the earth. Although modern science has yet to recognize this idea, it is essential that we make such thoughts strong.

Thoughts, as we know, are actual forces in the etheric world, and "magically" or miraculously they can be taken up by others! If we recognize this concept, we can take seriously our ability to have a powerful impact on science —and on the world's social forms.

In coping with the sense world's new
appeals
Mindful of the spirit birth
achieved —
Soul's clarity would fill —
Bewild'ring, growing, world-becoming
With my thinking's own creative
will.

tr. by John F. Gardner



Seizing each new sensation
And mindful of the spirit's birth
fulfilled,
My soul's lucidity imbues
The whirling tumult of the world's
becoming
With my thinking's own creative
will.

tr. by John Thomson

The *Calendar of the Soul* not only shows us the soul moving through the year, but also the flow of changes in nature. The forward pull that we sense for our own new actions, we may also sense in the next season getting ready to move from darkness to more light. Perhaps our new openness to ideas and to people is reflected in the new swelling buds, even blossoms opening, on many leaf-bare trees and bushes.

Even if some winter storms still await, we sense that the days now hold a touch of warmth, and we may like to remind ourselves of the warmth we too have within us of love for world and man. We shall indeed remember to extend rays of our own warmth!

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 9 and 44

In Verse 9, here translated by John F. Gardner, I am to understand that in order for me to find my true Self, I must create the space and attention it will need by losing my old self. I must not cover up, or hang on to what I was last year, or before.

Powerfully different are the self's will forces in Verse 44 where soul clarity coming from Spirit birth gives "creative (healing) will forces" to world's confusions.

Vergessend meine Willenseigenheit
Erfüllet Weltenwärme sommerkündend
Mir Geist und Seelenwesen;
Im Licht mich zu verlieren
Gebietet mir das Geistesschauen
Und kraftvoll kündet Ahnung mir:
Verliere dich, um dich zu finden

Forgotten is my own self-will
As cosmic warmth, foretelling summer,
Fills my being, soul and spirit;
To lose myself within the light
Is spirit vision's bidding,
And strongly heart's divining tells me:
Lose yourself, to find your Self..

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

Here is a beautiful verse by Rudolf Steiner, which reflects imaginatively the mood of this week and the furthering of the resolution experienced in Verse 43 by the soul wanting to enter into the world with warming force.

Into Cosmic Distances

Into cosmic distances I will carry
My feeling heart, so that it grows warm
In the fire of the holy forces' working;

Into cosmic thoughts I will weave
My own thinking, so that it grows clear
In the light of eternal life-becoming;

Into depths of soul I will sink
Devoted contemplation, so that it grows
strong
For the true goals of human activity.

In the peace of God I strive thus
Amidst life's battles and cares
To prepare myself for the higher Self;

Aspiring to work in joy-filled peace,
Sensing cosmic being in my own being,
I seek to fulfill my human duty;

May I live then in anticipation,
Oriented toward my soul's star
Which gives me my place in spirit realms.

—Rudolf Steiner