



**In Verse 44 we experience will forces permeating our thinking,** which is right for this 4<sup>th</sup> period of the year that relates especially to the strengthened "I", "ich" in German. The verse tells of a new *soul clarity*, with which our own *shaping will* can send loving, nourishing thoughts into the world. We can become aware of new sense stirrings in nature and even in our inner life. Having learned much from the experiences of the past 12 months, we do sense a stronger "soul clarity" with which to live into the world. In these remaining winter weeks this is the time to take on new understandings.

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

Eloise Krivosheia

**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 I 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. From divine thoughts we met at Christmas and our new "spirit child" experiences, we are gaining consciousness of what we can bring to this physical world. 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

Erfüllt 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*

Perhaps semi-consciously we experience these new sense stirrings—etheric forces in Earth. 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—and to meet with a fresh clarity confusing events that may pop up seemingly from out of nowhere.

We may even ask ourselves, "Are we finding new clarity within? Are we experiencing new courage and wisdom in our dealings with other people?" The verse gives us clear assurance: "With my own thinking's



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*

"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 able and ready to take hold, consciously, responsibly.

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 brings weakness, causing us to flounder, to "spin our wheels". New understanding of one's self gives the moral will to use this understanding for thoughtful, loving action. Divine thoughts we took in over Christmas and the Holy Nights help us see new ways we may bring about a wholesome, reverent influence in our physical world, in our relationships with others.

The verse indeed speaks of a real power of transformation, when clarity of soul fills the bewildering, sprouting growth of the world's evolving with "the creative, shaping 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 instrument of our self, 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 spiritually awakening 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's growth as it moves 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 seasons; as already we sense a move from Winter's darkness to the light of Spring. Perhaps our new openness to ideas and to people is reflected in the already 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 the world and for others. We shall indeed remember to extend rays of our own warmth!

### Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 9 and 44

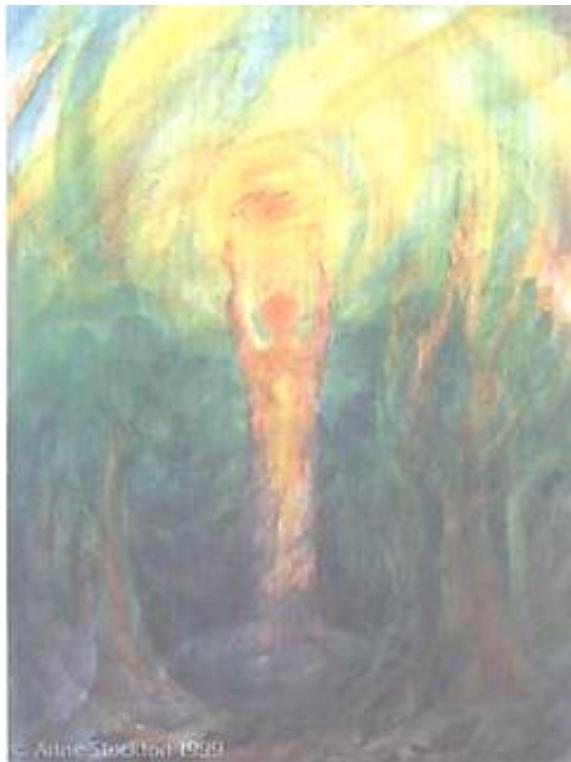
In Verse 9, here translated by John F. Gardner, I am to understand that in order for me to find my true Self, I must create the space and attention it will need by losing my old self. I must not cover up, or hang on to what I was last year, or years before. Powerfully different are the self's will forces in Verse 44 where "soul clarity" coming from Christmas' Spirit birth confidently extends its "creative (healing) will forces" to world confusions.

Vergessend meine Willenseigenheit  
Erfüllt 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.

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

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