

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 45: Thinking's Shining Light

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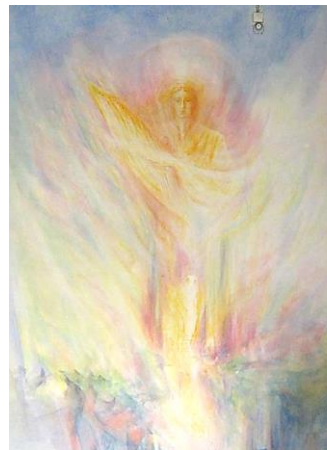
Verse 45 relates to Life Spirit, a spiritual member of the human being to be developed mostly in the future, and to Condition 6, "Feel gratitude for everything that falls to your lot."

In close connection to the birth of Spirit within, the soul in this season does feel with gratitude a stronger thinking growing within itself. "Might of thought" in Line 1 tells us that with our firmer thought forces, inner truths can be revealed, and Line 2 confirms that we have regained a spiritual connection with our higher Self. In this union our thoughts are firmed and clarified within us.

Winter offers a further help in that with bare branches and less landscape color, nature's enticements to the senses are less strong. Allowed more freedom, the power of our thinking can now more easily reach higher—or deeper. As we know, it is only by thinking that what comes to us through the senses gains meaning. In that our senses are merely "camera-like," they often are called "dull." They can give us physical truths but not inner truths.

Es festigt sich Gedankenmacht
Im Bunde mit der Geistgeburt,
Sie hellt der Sinne dumpfe Reize
Zur vollen Klarheit auf.
Wenn Seelenfülle
Sich mit dem Weltenwerden einen will,
Muss Sinnesoffenbarung
Des Denkens Licht empfangen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



David Newbatt

The might of thought grows firm
In union with the Spirit's birth,
It rays on senses' dull enticements
A shining clarity.
If soul abundance
Would be united with evolving worlds,
Then senses' revelation must
Receive the light of thinking.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Wisdom from clear thinking must of course be earnestly sought. With gratitude and joy we offer our stronger winter thinking in "shining clarity" to the world, aware that soul clarity *carrying inner truth* is "shining." Our sense of what individually we want to offer the world is heightened. Actively growing our higher ego thinking forces, furthers our "human becoming".

We would be enmeshed in all sorts of tangled perceptions without the Being of Light's gift of higher, clearer thinking. This gift we know is a stimulating vigor to our being, to our experiences, and to our sense of who we are, but we must use it with reverence—really find its shining truth within.



The power of thought grows stronger
United with the Spirit's birth,
It brightens all the silent charms of sense
To brightest glory.
If fullness of the soul seeks union
With the world's rebirth,
Then on the world of sense
The light of thought must fall.

tr. by Isabel Grieve



A message running through Rudolf Steiner's Mystery Dramas is that if we are to help shape incomplete creation (indicated here in Verse 45, Lines 5 and 6) we must descend into the depths of our own being there to find access to the "Being of Light".

With last week's verse we felt our responsibility to use the "creative will" of our thinking to help make order out of the world's confusions—to transform with clarity of soul the often "bewildering sprouting growth in the world's becoming".

If we are now to "help shape incomplete creation", then as cautioned in the last two lines of Verse 45, our perceptions must receive the "light of thinking". Our thinking must permeate our perceptions, giving objective, "thinking attention" to what we see and hear—to all our senses, the better to remember experiences and impressions and the more deeply to understand what is sensed.

Lines 5 and 6 can now also be assured: "Soul abundance," the richness of perceptions and experiences filling our soul, can unite with the "world's evolving."

With gratitude we thank the Being who is the "Light of the World."

My power of thought grows firm
United with the Spirit's birth.

It lifts the senses' dull appeal
To bright-lit clarity.

When soul abundance

Desires union with the world's becoming,

Must senses' revelation

Receive the light of thinking.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch.



Firm grows the might of thought
In union with the spirit's birth;

It lights the senses' dim enticements
To lucid clarity.

When soul abundance

Seeks union with the world's evolving,

Must senses' revelation

Receive the light of thinking.

tr. by Giselher Weber

Through the cycles of the seasons, our higher thinking can grow ever stronger, our clarity of soul more shining—each strengthening the other. With deeper perceptions of how the seasons and our souls gradually change, we may live more fully in balance between our "world" and our "soul." Our experiences are heightened by taking part in the elemental life of nature, the "World's Becoming", which will strengthen through Spring.

The inner truths that the power of our thinking can bring forth help us to perceive the "invisible" movements of Earth and Man toward the Light.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 8 and 45

In the "Whitsun" verse, here translated by John F. Gardner, is found also a kind of polarity between thinking and perceiving, but in Verse 8 it is intellectual thinking that must subside so that spiritual beings may commune with Man, God's word to be heard and understood with intuitive perception.

Es wächst der Sinne Macht
Im Bunde mit der Götter Schaffen,
Sie drückt des Denkens Kraft
Zur Traumes Dumpfheit mir herab.

Wenn göttlich Wesen
Sich meiner Seele einen will,
Muss menschlich Denken
Im Traumessein sich still bescheiden.

The senses' might grows strong
In union with the god's creative work;
It presses down my power of thought
Into a dreamlike dullness.

Whenever godly being
Would with my soul commune,
Then must my human thinking
Abide in humble dream.

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