

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

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 45 relates to Life Spirit, a spiritual member of the human being to be developed mostly in the far future, and to Condition 6 now, "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 attained 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 more profoundly. As we know, it is by thinking that what comes to us through the senses gains intellectual meaning. In that our senses are merely "camera-like," they often are called "dull," even "dark." Alone, 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



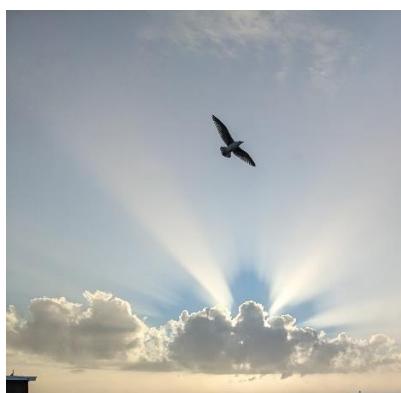
The might of thought grows firm
In union with the Spirit's birth,
It rays on senses' dull enticements
A shining clarity.

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 the nature of *inner truth* is the ability to "shine forth." Heightened is our understanding of what we want to offer the world and our sense that actively growing the forces of the *higher ego* furthers our "human becoming".

We would be enmeshed in all sorts of tangled perceptions without the Being of Light's gift to our own light of thinking. It gives a stimulating vigor to our being, to our experiences, and to our sense of who we are, but we must use this gift with reverence—to find the revelation of 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



With deeper perceptions of how the seasons and our souls gradually change, our higher thinking

growing ever stronger, our clarity of soul ever more shining —we can live more fully in balance between "world" and "soul." Our nature experiences through Spring will be heightened as our souls connect with the elemental life of nature, the "World's Becoming". With joy we can discover that the inner truths brought forth by the light of thinking, help us to perceive the "invisible" movements of Earth and Man toward the true Light. We comprehend, too, that the richness of each person's perceptions and experiences filling the soul can and must play a part in the "world's evolving."

But wait, we may ask just how in the last four lines "soul abundance" is to connect with the senses revelations, not so much with the "might of thinking" but with the "light of thinking"? Is this light of thinking somehow connected to heart thinking, and if so, how? Here, we may find illuminating help in Rudolf Steiner's lecture November 30, 1919, GA 194, where he emphasizes the new need for human beings to perceive all sense impressions very differently than before was possible.

In shining a new light on our "communication with all the world", he states that we must develop a delicacy of communication with the world such that we perceive it not merely in the form of sense impressions, but also with spiritual content. "A new and profound change has occurred in all material phenomena in that they now have a soul spiritual aspect. Sense processes have become ensouled."

We must make sure that we "enter into a communicative soul relationship with the world in our experience of every ray of light, of every tone and perception of warmth. Indeed, such soul communication must become a matter of real significance to us."

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

With sense impressions having spiritual content, soul is communicated in every sense impression. Significantly, *human beings will gradually be able to engage much more spiritually with the material world*. Rudolf Steiner further explains, "We must cease to see light materialistically — must become aware that Soul is moving through cosmic space on wings of light".

Raising our awareness in this way will enable human beings to sense how the Light of the World *lives within all sense perceptions*. Wondrously, the great consequence of humanity's new ability to perceive soul in all of nature and all the world's manifestations will be the capacity to grasp new meanings in even the Mystery of Golgotha — meanings, that until recently human beings have lacked the maturity to comprehend.

Warmly I can recommend a full reading of this mentioned lecture for revelation of new heart and soul forces! For not with greater physical light but with inner understanding we shall shine.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 8 and 45

In "Whitsun" Verse 8, here translated by John F. Gardner, is also found a kind of polarity between thinking and perceiving although now in 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



Being of Light - David Newbatt