

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 47: Joy in Growth - Armored Thought

Verse 47 relates to the second member of the human being, the Etheric, and to Condition 2, "Feel ourselves to be a part of the whole of life." Etheric forces are powerful in this verse and in these weeks before Easter, new cosmic life forces from Christ are pouring into the womb of worlds and into us .

We may feel this as a sense of "becoming," a hope of something new. The bliss, or joy, of becoming, of new growth that now we sense —is thus not just in the world, but in ourselves. The expansive joy one always feels in new growth "quickens" the life of our senses—in Line 2. They are "brighter" "shining"!

Es will erstehen aus dem
Weltenschosse,

Den Sinnenschein erquickend,
Werdelust.

Sie finde meines Denkens Kraft
Gerüstet durch die Gotteskräfte,
Die kräftig mir im Innern leben.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

There will arise out of the world's
great womb,
Quickening the senses' life, the joy of
growth.

Now may it find my strength of thought
Well armed by powers divine
Which strongly live within my being.

**translation by Ruth and Hans Pusch*

But note! With these first enticing hints of spring, the cosmos asks us to use our senses more consciously. We are to experience along with Nature its "joy in becoming" and with our new winter thinking we've won a new clarity about world existence. Rightly, this new, stronger power within will help us grasp the world of thought that brings forth Nature. And we have also a more or less conscious awareness that "a new power is within me and that it is for me to use".

But What this power is, Who I am truly, and Why I am here, are questions that will accompany our seeking all through the next months. Now, however, we already have that semi-conscious inner power to help with answers stirring within us as we accompany the world's "joy in becoming."

After having passed over last week's fourth "threshold" of the year, we are equipped to face Spring's challenge —that is, to enjoy the coming "becoming" but not to lose our power of thinking! How do we do this? The verse tells that we are to be "armed" to meet the "senses shine" with intensified thinking, our ego force strengthened by forces of higher beings. Indeed, it is by active meditative life that we welcome and cultivate the presence of "powers divine" in our being —the god-like forces, the cosmic thoughts and beings we are to awaken in the soul.

Thus, next to the little "laughter of the flowers", we may well place Rembrandt's *The Man in Armor*."



There shall arise from out the womb of
worlds

The bliss of growth, fostering joys of
sense;

My force of thinking may it find,
Armed with the forces of the gods,
Which live a quickening force in me.

tr. by Alan C. Howard



We know the light of Christ lives strongly in us. In the last line of the verse it is important that the German, *im Innern*, carries a meaning more like 'in the inner-life' rather than just "in" or 'within'.

Line 2's *Werdelust* is variously translated as "joy in becoming", "bliss of growth", and similar, but others see it more as the soul's "lust for experience." In any case, it is an expansive quality contrasted by a "well-armed strength of thinking."

These thinking forces feel a sense of urgency to stand firm against a too expansive tendency. For the self in sensing a change of season to Spring's growth has a wish to spread itself outward without the necessary strength of thought. The soul could thus be overwhelmed. Against such a danger one may wish to remember the phrase from *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, "My I is the lord and master of my soul."

Two other contemplations may be included in this 6th week before Easter: the "raising of Lazarus" by Christ at this time, and the great reflective etheric event of Ascension 6 weeks after Easter.

Here is a beautiful concluding thought from Eleanor Merry in her *Calendar of the Soul Commentary*. "When our thinking can unite with the light of the Sun, it becomes creative for the future. And when we can be quickened within by the same powers that quicken the outer world into life, then will joy infill our deeds, and they will be in harmony with the deeds of Cosmic Beings."

From the womb of worlds will
arise
Joy in becoming, quickening the
senses' life.
May it find my thinking armed
Through the might of God
That lives so strongly in my soul.

* translation by John Thomson



David Newbatt

There will emerge out of the womb of
worlds,
To quicken senses' shine, the joy in
growth.
Now may it find my force of thought
Well armed through forces of the gods,
Which forceful, live within my self.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verse 6

In this Ascension Week verse we feel that we are urged to become more conscious of our Creative Spirit.

We feel cosmic energy coming to us as our I gains in spirit knowledge. We feel closer to the cosmos and to the Creator gods as we contemplate: how our physical body comprises all aspects of what is spread out in nature among the separate plants and animals; how our body is an expression of all the forces of the Zodiac and the planetary spheres; and indeed how it is a picture, a living picture of the deeds of all nine Hierarchies. Our body is thus a fit vehicle for the "I". It has no eternal reality in itself, but is truly a marvelous instrument for us during our current, though temporary, earthly existence.

This Verse 6 is a beautiful expression of what has become a truism for many people: we are a microcosm of the macrocosm.

Es ist erstanden aus der Eigenheit
Mein Selbst und findet sich
Als Weltoffenbarung
In Zeit- und Raumeskräften;
Die Welt, sie zeigt mir überall
Als göttlich Urbild
Des eignen Abbilds Wahrheit.

There has arisen from my narrowness
My Self, and finds itself
As cosmic revelation
In pulse of time and space;
The world shows everywhere to me
As godly archetype
The truth of my own image.

tr. By Daisy Aldan

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