

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

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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, "quicken" the life of our senses —Line 2. The senses 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 1999

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.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch

But note! With these first enticing hints of spring, the cosmos asks us to use our senses more consciously. Along with Nature's "joy in becoming," we are to bring to the fore our new "winter thinking," the new clarity we've won regarding world existence. Rightly, this new, stronger power within will help us grasp the world of thought that brings forth Nature and its meaning for us. Each year I can experience a greater conscious awareness that a new cognitive power is within me and that 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. In this week we have already a semi-conscious inner power to help with answers stirring within us as we accompany the world's "joy in becoming," the beauty of new growth.

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 now well "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 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 will arise out of the world's great
womb

To quicken senses' shine, the joy of
growth,

Oh, may it find my thinking-power,
Well-armed now through the godly forces,
Which strongly live within my being.

tr. by Giselher Weber



We know the light of Christ lives strongly in us. Importantly, in the last line of the verse the German, *im Innern*, carries a meaning more like "in the inner-life of my being" 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 from Winter 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.

tr. 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, our earthly schooling.

This Verse 6 is a beautiful expression of what has become a truism for many people: we are a microcosm of the macrocosm. Poet Daisy Aldan's translation is a favorite of mine.

Es ist erstanden aus der Eigenheit
Mein Selbst und findet sich
Als Weltenoffenbarung
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.

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