

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 48: Light Awakening Love

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 48 relates to the third member of the human being, the Astral, and to Condition 3, "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as actions." Cosmic light, encompassing wisdom, helps us focus and perceive significance in the world. Then meaning, freedom and real love can arise. The verse, a "light verse", is like a blessing, a prayer.

Each of the four "Light" verses has a different character—coming from the Christ through different hierarchical beings. Like transitional meditations between the seasons, the two appearing five weeks before and after Easter begin with "In the light"; the two before and after Michaelmas, with "The light."

This subtle difference shows the soul's possibility for creative development in relation to cosmic light's spiritual forces. **Vividly, lovingly, all four verses speak. Verse 48 reveals Cosmic or world thinking flowing powerfully into our soul, able to unravel our soul perplexities and wakening love within us.**

Im Lichte, das aus Weltenhöhen
Der Seele machtvoll fließen will,
Erscheine, lösend Seelenrätsel,
Des Weltendenkens Sicherheit,
Versammelnd seiner Strahlen
Macht,
Im Menschenherzen Liebe
weckend.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



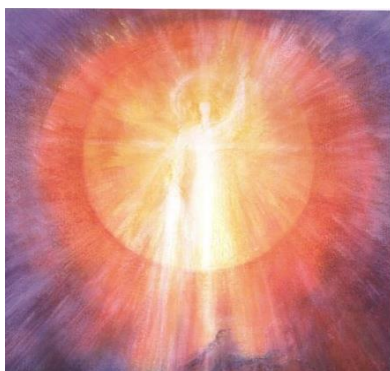
Anne Stockton

Within the light, which out of cosmic heights
Would flow into the soul with might,
May Cosmic Thinking's certainty shine forth,
Resolving riddles of the soul,
And, focusing its mighty rays,
Awaken love within the human heart.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

Verse 5 speaks of light out of spirit depths lifting us into world widths; Verse 22 of light becoming spirit light within us in order to give birth to our fruits so they can ripen in the course of time; Verse 31 of inner light becoming our life of will, shining into sense experience in order to raise soul impulses into creative forces that will ripen in human work.

These four light verses are like the rhythmic system in us, connecting our head with our will, our will with our head. The power of Christ in the rhythms inherent in the verses illuminates the significance of the entire course of the year in a most profound way.



David Newbatt

In light, which out of cosmic heights
Would flow with might into my soul,
Let world-thought certainty appear,
Resolving riddles of the soul,
And rallying its mighty rays,
In human hearts awaken love.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



Leszek Forczek - Washing of the Feet

With the soul experiencing light throughout the year in the four different ways, each of us as an individual soul also works in the world as a light-filled heart in different ways as the year proceeds. A quotation from Rudolf Steiner's lecture to young doctors, Nov 30, 1919, applies to all the light verses: "with every breath of air, we take not only air but also light into ourselves, and we transform this light within us and make it our own as we do any other substance: we digest it, we make it an integral part of our self."

The light of the 48th verse, is not one that brings things about, such as does the light from spirit's depths in corresponding Verse 5, but has the blessing quality of world thinking solving riddles of the soul and engendering love in human hearts. Its cognitional aspect, shining in light, flows from the "heights" to the soul. If we receive this "world thought" and work with it, the puzzlements we have consciously, even unconsciously, are illuminated. Meaning is thereby given to what previously we could only observe and question. Cosmic thoughts, the world thinking of living thought beings, thus play a huge part in human destiny, in evolving the human spirit of mankind.

As we know, our mission in world evolution is fully to bring love into the world—for which, freedom of the human spirit is necessary. The light of the Christ, which enables that which is significant in the world to be illuminated with meaning, is the "truth that shall make us free." This "truth," this meaning in life, is what leads to inner certainty in the soul, inner calm of the soul. How warmly grateful, even in small things, we feel when someone explains to us what has been a puzzlement. How much grander, on a cosmic scale then, cosmic light becomes the warmth that awakens love.

Within the light that out of
world-wide heights
Would stream with power toward
the soul,
May certainty of cosmic thinking
Arise to solve the soul's enigmas—
And focusing its mighty rays,
Awaken love in human hearts.

** tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch*



David Newbatt

In the light that wills to flow
from cosmic heights, into the human
soul,
May there appear the certainty
Of cosmic thinking that dissolves
perplexities
And focusing its powerful beams,
Awaken love in human hearts.

** tr. by John Thomson*

An interesting consideration is that it is only in the consciousness soul, the spiritual soul, that we can understand or feel comfort with these thoughts of higher beings, that we may be open to intuition. Certainty and meaning, George O'Neil maintains in his *Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Outlined*, are not obtained in the realm of the human intellect, the rational soul. Doubt, questioning, riddles surround us when our thoughts are of earthly matters.

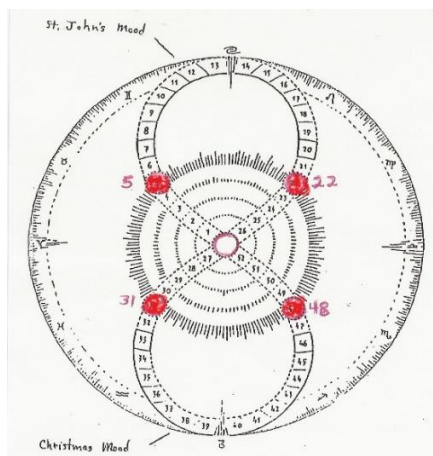
Higher thinking becomes a "seeing" that alone is open to cosmic thoughts. And yet, O'Neil continues, ". . . spiritual activity (freedom) is in itself a riddle particularly for those who do not summon up the strength to intensify their thinking-forces. This new thinking, World thinking, is in essence meditative and needs exercise to be reached. Love in its highest potency is spiritual love; it implies intuition, and the ability to grasp living ideas."

Now, in this pre-Easter season, evidence of Cosmic Thoughts, expressing themselves increasingly in bountiful creation throughout nature, is a powerful stimulus to human soul certainty. Our place in creation, too, we see, and with grateful hearts our love flows back to the creator beings.

Light, now more and more seen returning to Earth, awakens in our hearts highest love that does not permit uncertainty. With inner ears, we hear, "Have Light in yourselves, that you may become the children of Light." -Eleanor Merry.

When we think, let it be creatively —letting what we offer stream love to other human hearts, to all beings.

Because the Sun moves through the universe in a lemniscate pattern, there are four times (the time of each light verse) when Earth in its revolution around the Sun, passes through the Sun pattern. This is why the four Light Verses, 5, 22, 31, and 48 carry a special connection with an impulse from the spiritual Sun.



Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 5 and 48

In Verse 5, the fifth week after Easter, we can feel a heightened consciousness. We are becoming aware of our Spirit—a first step toward the path of initiation.

As the last five verses of the year come closer and closer together with the first five after Easter, until finally Verses 1 and 52 are the corresponding verses, it is possible to experience by comparing the verses word for word a kind of pull between them. Gradually they seem to interpenetrate, to go over into each other.

H. D. van Goudoever in his *A Contemplation about Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul* suggests that this movement may be felt as a mystery—the past year gradually becoming the new. Then, rather than seeing the 52 verses as an ever-recurring cycle of sameness, thoughtful experience will reveal that with each Easter the spiral begins ascent to a higher plane than was possible the year before. The many rhythms in the Calendar can also be taken up with higher understandings. Each year we can feel ever increasing strength flowing from the weekly verses.

Here is corresponding Verse 5 to our current week's Verse 48.

Im Lichte, das aus Geistestiefen
 Im Raume fruchtbar webend
 Der Götter Schaffen offenbart:
 In ihm erscheint der Seele Wesen
 Geweitet zu dem Weltensein
 Und auferstanden
 Aus enger Selbstheit Innenmacht.

In light that wells from spirit depths
 And weaving fruitfully in space
 Reveals the gods' creative work;
 Appears the soul's own being,
 Expanded now to world existence
 And risen free
 From narrow inwardness of self.

tr. by John F. Gardner.

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