

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 49: Clarity of Thought

Verse 49 relates to the fourth member of the human being, the Ego or I, and to Condition 4, "Balance the truths you stand for in your soul with an open heart for the needs of the outer world."

The life forces of the universe and of Christ have been permeating the body with the forces of light, preventing it from hardening and alienating from the etheric substances of nature. In this verse we experience the trueness of both past and future.

Our I takes reverent pause to recognize how through the life forces of Christ its own clarity of thought has been building up these months since Michaelmas and especially since Christmas. Looking toward the future it feels a real change in consciousness coming, a dawning "cosmic day" with Christ's Easter gift of love. We may ask what in this sense is a "cosmic day"?

Ich fühle Kraft des Weltenseins:
So spricht Gedankenklarheit,
Gedenkend eignen Geistes Wachsen
In finstern Weltennächten,
Und neigt dem nahen Weltentage
Des Innern Hoffungsstrahlen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Hans Stolp

I feel the force of Cosmic Being;
So clarity of thought now speaks,
Recalling its own spirit's growth
In somber cosmic nights,
And to the dawning cosmic day
It turns its inward rays of hope.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

In the Calendar of the Soul the name Christ does not appear but we find that the German words Weltenseins, Welten-Ich, Weltendenken, Weltewort, Welten-Dasein, Weltenselbst, Geisteslicht in English are translated "Cosmic Being, World Being, Cosmic I, World Thinking, Cosmic Word, World Existence, Cosmic Self, Cosmic Spirit, Spirit Light, revealing for us different aspects of the Christ.

In Line 2, clarity of thought is thus experienced by the I as a force coming from the Cosmic Being Who Himself is World Thinking, and therefore enables the I to see clearly its own spirit's growth.

Line 3 reminds us how important it is for clarity of thought that we have clarity of recalling, of remembering! Rudolf Steiner urges us to practice recalling of course in panel one of the *Foundation Stone Meditation*, and in many places how to practice, such as in *At the Gates of Spiritual Science*.

With the enabling power of Christ, this verse tells us we are to search into and recall what experiences during darker winter months have built up our thinking and how. Such beholding, when we pay attention and give appreciation to the experiences from which we gained new insights, contributes to inner strengthening. As we vivify the life of our senses in nature, we further awaken growth of thought clarity.



Iris Sullivan

I feel the force of cosmic life:
Thus speaks my clarity of thought,
Recalling its own spirit growth
Through nights of cosmic darkness,
And to the new approach of cosmic
day
It turns its inward rays of hope.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



David Newbatt

With enhanced clarity of thought and further developed consciousness, we next turn "inward rays of hope" toward an approaching "cosmic day", which may be described: With heart forces of peace and love, and in full consciousness, we behold spirit and physical together, a harmony of spirit and physical —as indeed these polarities were joined by Christ at Golgotha when his blood entered Earth.*

These last two lines thus look toward the approach of a future world made possible by Christ; a future where spirit is not rejected but given its full place in the minds and hearts of everyone and in all affairs. This hope for a heaven and earth together in harmony has strength, for through the power of Easter and Whitsun, the means have already been fulfilled.

Hope in Line 6 is expressed by the I in the consciousness soul—reflecting a "will" element, more active than the mere anticipation of the intellectual soul in the "hope" of Verses 28 and 29, even in 38, with its reference to "heaven's own fruit of hope." We look forward now to a new conception and growth of our Spirit Child, the essence of which is love. Mindful of "Condition 4", our I wishes to manifest this love.

I feel your strength of life, O world,
So the clear voice of thinking cries.

Mindful of its own spirit's growth

Through the dark world-night
achieved,

And to the world-day as it nears

Bending its inward rays of hope.

tr. by A.C. Harwood



I feel the force of cosmic Being:

So speaks thought clarity,

Recalling growth of its own spirit

In somber cosmic nights;

Inclines toward cosmic day that
nears

The rays of inner hope..

tr. by Daisy Aldan

We may remember how essential it is for clear thinking and for bringing our spirit child to birth that we ask: Can we free ourselves from preconceptions? —that we may bring into our soul a quality of peace which can transcend all inner doubt and fear? Can we look at each event and each being with a fresh gaze and absolutely open mind? Can we trust ourselves and each other if we are to feel safe in being different?

Yes, we can begin to recognize each other anew, with gratitude and a fresh sense of wonder. We can practice sensitively beholding and listening. The Christ tells us in Luke 11 that if we are to see the world clearly then our body must be full of light, not darkness; meaning we feel ourselves united with the Spirit.

As Cindy Hines has written in her homage for this week, Christ encourages us to expand our depth, to develop more flexibility in our thinking, and to grow beyond the tendency of either/or. A multiplicity of views is needed, rather than extremes. With our knowledge of Christ and his gifts, we need never fear hopelessness.

As Ita Wegman expressed in her 1929 essay, *The Mystery of the Earth*: "The signs of the times speak to us in unambiguous language. The natural world is changing, and it poses serious questions to us: Do we want to transform our thinking? Do we choose to recognize that the cosmic challenge that appears to us in chaos and suffering need not mean destruction, but rather the spiritualization of humanity?"

And as Eleanor Merry beautifully expresses the entire verse, "Remembering the inner strength which times of darkness and stress have called up within us, we know now that we have a firm ground upon which to erect the creations of clear Thought, whose roots are Memory, and whose flowers are Hope."

*Note: A challenging and bountifully rewarding study by Sergei O. Prokofieff on how Christ remade the earth and man during Easter Friday, Saturday and Sunday, giving to each of us the restored phantom and the resurrection body, is contained in his book *The Mystery of the Resurrection in the Light of Anthroposophy*, all of it of course, but especially Chapter 3.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 4 and 49

As in Verse 49, this week, there is another mysterious bringing together of consciousness and thinking in Verse 4, the fourth week after Easter.

In Verse 4 the "I" feels the essential nature of its true being and this feeling unites with "floods of light."

In bringing the gift of warmth to clarity of thought, consciousness gradually transforms.

Thus in thinking, we determine our own spirit birth and higher development. When we truly become aware of, really feel, our I in the spiritual world, we attain a higher I consciousness.

Ich fühle Wesen meines Wesens:

So spricht Empfindung,
Die in der sonnerhellten Welt
Mit Lichtesfluten sich vereint;
Sie will dem Denken
Zur Klarheit Wärme schenken
Und Mensch und Welt
In Einheit fest verbinden.

Original German by Rudolf Steiner

I feel the essence of my being:

So speaks perceptive feeling,
Which in the sun-illuminated world
Unites itself with floods of light;
To thinking's clarity
This feeling would give warmth
And man and world
In unity bind fast.

tr. by Giselher Weber.

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