Verse 49 brings awareness of inner strength, inner clarity of thought with a reception of love and gentleness coming to us from Cosmic heights.

Grateful we can be, too, that as spiritual light and power lovingly guide us in strength and clarity of thought, we may, even like these new little apricot blossoms, radiate our gifts to the world.

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

Eloise Krivosheia

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 Christ, of the universe, have long been permeating our human body with light and love, enabling us increasingly to understand the spiritual significance of our growing thought clarity.

In this verse we experience the reality 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 is coming, a dawning "cosmic day" with Christ's Easter gifts 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 Hoffnungsstrahlen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner

Arild Rosenkrantz

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, Weltenwort, Welten-Dasein, Weltenselbst, Geisteslicht are variously 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 human I as a force coming from the Cosmic Being Who Himself is World Thinking, World Light. Appreciating its own inner gifted experience of spirit growth, the I looks with strong expectation toward a coming new day of love and brightness.

Line 3 reminds us how important it is for clarity of thought that we have clarity of recalling, of remembering! Rudolf Steiner vividly urges us to practice recalling 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 can search into and recall which 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 through warmth of heart toward fellow human beings and toward nature, to our joy our own thought clarity also further advances.

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 clarity of thought enhanced and consciousness further developed, we feel a turning of "inward rays of hope" toward an approaching cosmic day of new inspiration, even overflowing with light-filled peace and love. We may further imagine this coming Cosmic Day bringing together in harmony heaven and earth, spirit and physical—as indeed these polarities were joined by Christ at Golgotha when his blood entered Earth.**

The Verse's 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, and can be taken up, for through the power of Easter and Whitsun, the means have already been fulfilled.

In consequence of bringing clarity of thought and felt spirit growth strongly into our awareness, it is the I of the consciousness soul in this verse that expresses hope in the last line. Remembering then how "will" is a fundamental aspect of the consciousness soul, we understand how the "I," sending out its "rays of inner hope," contains *an active will element*. Our experience is thus of capable rays of hope, not just wishful anticipation of a better day to come. Then, because of the Christ's great Easter gifts to us, by Verse 10, another "I" verse, we'll be given word of a new "conception" of our Spirit Child, the essence of which is love. This week's Condition 4 urges a meeting of truth and 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, 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 warmly feel, truly experience, the Christ within.

We recall also in Verse 48 of last week, how the certainty of light-filled "cosmic thinking" can dissolve perplexities of the soul and "focusing its powerful beams, awaken love in human hearts".

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 motivation for spiritualization of humanity?"

Beautifully Eleanor Merry 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."

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 4 and 49

Complementing this week's Verse 49, 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 mood and will to reach higher personal attainments lovingly uniting self and world.

We see that in thinking, we determine our own spirt birth and higher development. When we truly become aware of and really feel our I within 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-illumined 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

Notes

**At the Gates of Spiritual Science* has been retitled *Founding a Science of the Spirit*: (CW 95)

** 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.

***See Benjamin Cherry's *The Spiritual Power of Naming*, pages 27-28, New View, Winter 2020-21.