

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 5: Spirit Light Frees Soul Essence

Eloise Krivosheia

This "Spirit Self" verse is connected to **Condition 5 (Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution once it is taken.)** Verse 5 is one of the 4 **Light Verses**. Description of a Light Verse is on page 2.

We remember that last week the "I" wanted to unite with the flowing light of the sun-illuminated world so that the warmth of the Christ light would enter human thinking's clarity and help to join man and world. So we look to see if this goal, this resolve is carried through in Verse 5.

And indeed, we find that in its connection with the Light Being and with the wider world, the I is released from a lower self-centeredness to its higher self, toward Spirit Self.

Again we can say that the Light that carries life and love is the substance of the Christ. The essence of our soul lives in this light.

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.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



Ninetta Sombart

Within the light that out of spirit
depths
Weaves germinating power into space
And manifests the gods' creative
work:
Within its shine, the soul's true being
Is widened into worldwide life
And resurrected
From narrow selfhood's inner power.

translation by Ruth and Hans Pusch



Risen to the Sun- Leszek Forczek

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



Anne Stockton

In this verse we can feel a heightened consciousness. We are becoming aware of our Spirit—a first step toward the path of initiation. You might detect in the 7 lines of this verse, the 7 members of the human being: Physical, Etheric, Astral, Ego, Spirit Self, Life Spirit, Spirit Man.

Line 1, beginning with "In Light. . ." brings to mind the fact that nothing can exist or grow without light. Physical light can show us objects; but spiritual light can show us man as gods' creation.

In Line 4, the true being of the soul shines in this Light - or is seen shining. For me, this is the I wanting to raise itself and then appearing in the fifth line with the selflessness of the Spirit Self, it expands to feel the whole world.

In Lines 2 and 3 you may feel an inner glow from beholding all space filled with the god's creative work and then in greater consciousness than ever before, recognizing with Lines 4, 5 and 6 that we in our essence live there, too, —in a new "resurrected" sense. This "resurrected sense" seems even a reflection of the Easter resurrection of Christ. We are beginning to feel a birth from out of our "chrysalis." We may touch the experience of entering Time in an eternal sense.

Reflecting on the etheric qualities of "fruit bearing" in Line 2 and meeting the word "resurrected" in Line 6 we are reminded of Life Spirit, etheric transformative power of the Christ. This evolution from Etheric to Life Spirit examples how beautifully the lines of the verse are constructed. With "fructification" in Line 2, we may contemplate that the Etheric body was gained on Old Sun, Earth incarnation number two, and with "resurrection" in Line 6, that in the far future, on Venus, Earth incarnation number six, the Etheric will be transformed to Life Spirit.

My sister once made the observation that as one's own essence, one's I, is of like kind to the essence of God, it must have the same forceful livingness in it as has the germ in the seed of a plant—which is enough to push open the earth—even a rock—and cause a new plant to grow even into all its diversified parts.

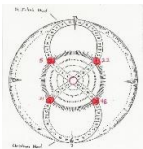
Within the light, which out of spirit
depths
In space its fertile splendour weaves,
Revealing thus the Gods' creating,
In it appears the soul's inherent being
To universal being widened
And risen now
From narrow selfhood's inner sway.

Tr. by Brigitte Knaack



In light which out of Spirit depth
In space fruit-bearing weaving,
Which there reveals the gods'
creating:
The essence of the soul appears
Expanded to the universe
And resurrected
From narrow selfhood's inner might.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



The Four "Light Verses". Another aspect of Verse 5 is its place among the 52 verses. In a diagram (larger, see Verse 48) showing how Earth and Sun move in the form of a lemniscate, you can see how the Earth appears to pass 4 times through the place where the Sun has been. The four verses spaced out 5 weeks from the Sun in the diagram show Verses 5, 22, 31 and 48; each one 5 weeks out from an Equinox or Solstice. Here is the description as given by RvS:

The Light Verses

We may notice that the verses five weeks before and five weeks after Easter start with "In the light" and the verses five weeks before and five weeks after Michaelmas start with "The light." This difference may seem subtle, but it clearly shows our relation to the light.

The verses speak in a progression of the soul's relation to the Light:

- Light out of Spirit depths lifting us into world widths (5);
- Light becoming spirit light in us in order to give birth to our fruits for ripening in course of time (22);
- Light becoming the very force of our life of will, shining into senses' dullness, in order to give birth to creative forces out of our soul impulses which can ripen in our human work (31);
- And finally Light (world thinking) wakening Love in us (48);

This rhythm of the Light verses may be likened to the rhythmic system in us, connecting our will nature, our metabolic system, with our head nature. The Christ rhythms inherent in these verses sum up the significance of the entire course of the year in a most wonderful way.