

## 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 Christ light. "The soul's true being is widened into worldwide life."

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*

Can we feel in this verse a heightened consciousness, a freeing of ourselves from lower self? To gradually become aware of our higher place in the world, this will be a first step toward the path of initiation. We 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 Human. Here, it is the Spirit Self that we are reaching toward.

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 shows the human being as gods' creation. In Line 2 we may contemplate that one's I is of like kind to the essence of God, in that it must have the same forceful livingness in it as has the God-created 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.

In Line 4, the Ego line, the true being of the soul shines in this Light - or is seen shining. For me, this is the I wanting to raise itself. Then in Line 5, appearing with the selflessness of the Spirit Self, it expands to feel the whole world.

In Lines 2 and 3 we may feel an inner glow from beholding all space filled with the gods' creative work. Then in greater consciousness than ever before, we recognize with Lines 4, 5 and 6 that we in our essence live in this great universe, too, —now 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, the etheric transfigurative power of the Christ. This developmental progress from Etheric to Life Spirit examples how beautifully the lines of the verse are constructed. With "fructification" in Line 2, we may contemplate that our Etheric, life body was gained on Old Sun, Earth's 2nd state, and with "resurrection" on Line 6, the human being in the far future will have attained Life Spirit on new Venus, Earth's 6<sup>th</sup> state.

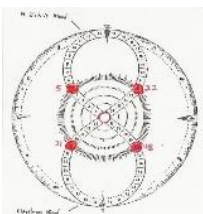
Within the light, which out of spirit  
depths  
In space its fertile splendour weaves,  
Revealing thus the Gods' creating,  
In it appears the soul's inherent being  
To universal being widened  
And risen now  
From narrow selfhood's inner sway.

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 Sun place among the 52 verses. This diagram (a larger one is with Verse 48) maps how Earth and Sun move in the form of a lemniscate. Earth appears to pass 4 times through the place where the Sun has been. The four verses spaced out 5 weeks from 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 of Christ.

In a progression of the soul's relation to the Light, the verses speak to us:

- 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 (in warm 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.