

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 51: The Eye Reflects in Gratitude

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 51 relates to the sixth member of the human being, the Life Spirit, and to Condition 6, "Feel gratitude for everything that falls to your lot." Certainly we are grateful for the beauties of this week—apricot trees sporting hundreds of pure white and gold blossoms, bees happily buzzing round, beds of light and dark purple lavender mingling with nearby orangey pink bougainvillea.

This week's verse tells us that the human eye through which nature reveals such treasures, and secrets, is the means whereby the Cosmic Spirit finds Its creation reflected. Shining in our eyes we also mirror to the world our own riches —not only the reflected riches of nature, but our soul's own inner being shines forth. If through our sense experiences we find truth, then what our eyes reflect will be a manifestation of the Divine, it will be the Christ. And Line 3 can say, "the Cosmic Spirit finds itself reflected in the human eye."

Luke 11:34 KJV teaches that 'truth' is single—not two-faced: "The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light, but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed, therefore, that the light which is in thee be not darkness." This might give us pause to think how do we look at the world? With what attitude, what gaze? Do our eyes reflect the Christ? His love?

Ins Innre des Menschenwesens
Ergiesst der Sinne Reichtum sich,
Es findet sich der Weltengeist
Im Spiegelbild des Menschauges,
Das seine Kraft aus ihm
Sich neu erschaffen muss.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Vincent Van Gogh

Into man's inner being
The riches of the senses pour.
The Cosmic Spirit finds itself
Reflected in the human eye,
Which must ever renew its strength
From out that spirit source..

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch

It is our freedom that we can live a life with Christ or not. But our inner strength comes from Christ and as doers in the physical world we must ever again seek His spirit source if we are to renew our inner strength.

The experiences in life live in us as soul; to reach 'ideal man', we must take in Spirit Light. In *Christianity as Mystical Fact*, page 31, Rudolf Steiner tells us that in order to find the Cosmic Spirit, we need His power and we must awaken that power in ourselves. Inner knowledge of the Cosmic Being, the Christ, must be alive within us so that we may creatively change ourselves through our thoughts, our deeds.

As we observe springtime's riches, we are aware that such will always arise out of winter's grave. Out of our own lives, too, we are assured there can always be a resurrection into new life.



Iris Sullivan

Into the inner self of Man
The senses' riches pour
themselves;
The cosmic Spirit finds itself
Reflected in the human eye,
Which must create anew
From It, its inner strength.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



Eyes have been created by the light as Rudolf Steiner tells us in many places, but the course of evolution has darkened mankind's perception of Cosmic Light. Thankfully, we can take up the redeeming task of filling our senses with moral images —thereby awakening within our souls inner understandings of the mysteries of the world. Within our eyes' reflection of the sense world, Cosmic Forces may then find reflection of their creation. Eleanor Merry in her *Calendar of the Soul* beautifully expresses, "The sense-organs will become transmitters of Spiritual Light from Earth to Heaven."

Attainment of morality is a true responsibility of modern man so that the Spirit of the World can find Itself in man's sense-perceptions. For this possibility, as affirmed in Line 6, we can and must create the forces of our perceiving eye anew. Earth evolution requires that a harmonious balance shall develop between man and cosmic world.

Into the inner realm of man
 The riches of the senses pour;
 The cosmic Spirit finds Himself
 In mirrored image of the human eye,
 Which must create anew
 Its power out of Him.

tr. by Giselher Weber



A Waldorf painting

Into the inner life of man
 The senses pour their treasure.
 The Cosmic Spirit finds itself
 Reflected in the human eye,
 Whose strength from it again
 Must ever be renewed.

tr. by John F. Gardner

We may wonder why sense impressions, true knowledge of nature, is so essential for mankind's evolution. All things of spirit are mirrored in the manifest, for all that is physical has its origin and its destiny in spirit. The Divine lives in our souls; it is but waiting for us to awaken to it.

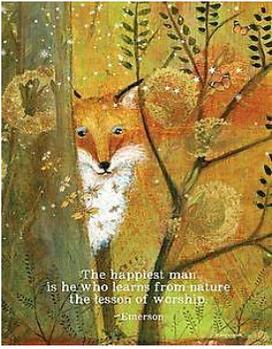
In *Christianity as Mystical Fact*, pages 31-2, Rudolf Steiner also tells us that it is in the soul that we are able to conceive the Divine "by the action of nature". From this conception our soul gives birth not to the Divine Father, but to His manifestation. Thus, the 'Son of Man' is born in us. "This is an actual event in the cosmic process. It is the birth of the Divine. It is an event as real as any natural event, only enacted upon a higher plane."

Karl König notes that in this period before Easter, it is a deeply moving experience for the soul to recognize that the Cosmic Spirit seeks for and finds the human; in the period after Easter, it will be man's turn to rediscover the Spirit ruling in the world. König writes that the soul must continually hold before it this harmony and solace of mutual seeking and finding, and must seek to give it warmth with the force of its sympathetic feeling. "Only then will the Calendar point out the way which will lead to the experience of the Risen One."

51 The Cosmic Spirit finds itself
 Reflected in the human eye

2 The worlds of spirit find again
 Their human offspring,

König then remarks that "the name of Christ is not mentioned in a single verse; yet it is He whose being pervades every line, His way and His truth, which permeate them. It is His life which man follows, His way which the soul seeks, His truth which is found in the word of worlds. The verses of the Calendar are saturated with all this." Karl König, *Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul-A Commentary* p. 43.



A great American, Ralph Waldo Emerson, also understood the message of this verse when he wrote:

"The happiest man is he who learns from nature the lesson of worship."

Verse 51 also finds a joyful expression in Michael Hedley Burton's *In the Light of the Child*, a calendar of the soul for children. His lines see the child feeling gladness in Nature, and expressing that finding beauty in other people's eyes, while offering love in living, is a gift to give to God.

*The beauty of all things, radiant and fair,
How it pours through my heart; how it fills me with gladness
In the people I meet this same beauty is there;
It reflects in their eyes, both in joy and in sadness.*



*And when our eyes sparkle or twinkle or shine,
When warm love is flowing in the way that we live,
Then the water of life in ourselves becomes wine,
And to God this can be the great gift that we give.*

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 2 and 51

In Verse 2 the soul's power of thought is directed so strongly to the fields of sense that it loses its separate life and travels out to worlds of spirit. Spiritual beings are happy to receive again their child whose seed he will find in them. Later in autumn and winter they know this human will be in search of the fruits of newly gained self-consciousness. Then, at the end of the year in Verse 51, he will stand as mirrored image of the Spirit of the World.

*Ins Äussere des Sinnesalls
Verliert Gedankenmacht ihr Eigensein;
Es finden Geisteswelten
Den Menschensprossen wieder
Der seinen Keim in ihnen,
Doch seine Seelenfrucht
In sich muss finden.*

Original German by Rudolf Steiner

*Turned toward the outer universe
The power of thought
Surrenders its self-centeredness;
The worlds of spirit find again
Their human offspring,
While man himself must find once more
In them his first life seed,
But in himself the soul's ripe fruit.*

tr. by Isabel Grieve.

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