

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 8: Whitsun - Hearing God within

Eloise Krivosheia

"Etheric" Verse 8 relates to Condition 2, "Feel ourselves to be a part of life". For the consciousness soul, strongly experiencing the beautiful sense world, "The might of senses grows in covenant with God's creating". My joy in seeing everywhere new growth in plants and creatures leads me to higher feelings, even to union with the I AM, whereby with new cognition I gladly find myself member of the cosmos.

Es wächst der Sinne Macht
Im Bunde mit der Götter
Schaffen,

Sie drückt des Denkens Kraft
Zur Traumes Dumpfheit mir herab.

Wenn göttlich Wesen
Sich meiner Seele einen will,
Muss menschlich Denken
Im Traumessein sich still
bescheiden.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



Iris Sullivan

The might of senses grows
In covenant with God's
creating;

Suppresses thinking's force
Unto the dimness of a dream.

When godly Being
Will with my soul unite,
Must human thinking
To dream existence humbly
yield.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



David Newbatt

The senses' might grows strong
In union with the god's creative work;

It presses down my power of thought
Into a dreamlike dullness.

Whenever godly being
Would with my soul commune,

Then must my human thinking
Abide in humble dream.

tr. by John F. Gardner



David Newbatt

A "Godly being wishes to unite with my soul". . . Our ordinary human thinking must dim down if I am to attain that higher communication which permits God's word to be heard in me, to be *understood in me*.

First, when strongly I sense the special gifts of God's glorious creation, my personal, willed thinking must dim down so that I experience 'heart thinking,' an intuitive, ahnung-like perception. Opening then to me is the godly being's wish to communicate. In dream-like acceptance I feel a humble contentment, a comfort in opening myself to this higher receptive state. Living heart thinking, understanding, can flow into me.

The power of the senses grows
In union with the gods' creation,
And vigour of thought subsides
To a dreamlike drowsiness.

When godly being wills
Union with my soul,
Then thinking must accept
In quietness the state of dream.

tr. by John Thomson.



Ninetta Sombart

Strong grows the power of sense
United with divine creative powers,
The keenness of my thought is dulled
To the sleepy wonder of a dream.

When life divine seeks union
With my soul, then human thought
Must will itself to silence
As though within a dream.

tr. by Isabel Grieve.

Last week the soul called on the forces of Ahnung, which we may think of as intuition, or a kind of higher thinking, to insure that we not fall prey to Lucifer's enticements in the sense world. While appreciating the shining beauty of nature, we asked that we not give way to a Luciferic fantasy-like mood that would prevent that higher consciousness we need to take in subtle thoughts of the spirit.

Thus prepared, we look in joyful appreciation at Springtime's many flowers, taking in their individual beauty, their perfection in form. In our flow of "heart thinking" we may take in the harmonious idea that flowers in their perfection do verily manifest the perfection of their creator. *"Then does the green mantle of plants so work upon us that we feel and perceive in our inner being something spiritually bursting forth into bloom."* Rudolf Steiner, *The Spiritual Beings in the Heavenly Body and in the Kingdoms of Nature*.



There is a similarity of Spring/Summer time with our night time sleep and when we are in the spiritual world between death and rebirth. These are all special connecting times for us with the spiritual world. Even as we can more easily connect to the spiritual world during these Spring and Summer days, the spiritual world itself actually wants to 'commune' or 'unite' with us. Verse 8 indicates that it is indeed the ego's choice, and responsibility now, to take in 'godly thoughts' as in Gardner's beautiful lines: "Whenever godly being Would with my soul commune, Then must my human thinking Abide in humble dream." -



How best, we ask, may we enable godly beings to work in us, connect with us, especially during nighttime and summer? We know it must be by reading, meditating and thinking spiritual thoughts, and most especially, it is by learning to understand the life of Christ, the Mystery of Golgotha and the magnificent gifts Christ has given and continually gives to us, to the world. These are the thoughts that help us to evolve higher -as we are intended.

It may seem astounding that Lucifer's very gift to us of freedom is that by which we also can understand the Christ. In Rudolf Steiner's lecture of March 22, 1909, Berlin, he illuminates this puzzle saying that the human deed of using our freedom to understand the Christ becomes a deed whereby "the Luciferic Spirits are cleansed and purified in the fire of Christianity, and the wrong done to the earth by them is changed into blessing."

Important it is that we work into our life of the day what we have taken in during sleep. And when we take up during the day thoughts of some significance—not just mundane thoughts, 'godly beings' can then permeate them at night with a certain will that then endows our daytime with the will to do our work with a kind of artistry and warmth for other people, helping us to put into practice Christ's ideas of brotherhood.

We may indeed ask, too, that godly beings help us refine and purify our thoughts—in all our work—even thoughts of a legalistic or business nature. 'Mein Ahnen' we asked for in last week's verse can grow into a powerful force in our lives for the good, for uniting in community.



An important happening at this time, of which only later in the year will we be conscious that it has occurred, is that our 'spirit child,' to be reborn in us at Christmas, is now conceived in us anew.

The *Calendar of the Soul* wants to help us become conscious of all these spiritual experiences.

An extensive study and meditation of the Calendar for many years was carried out by Roberta van Schilfgaarde. Here is a small section of what she wrote, mainly about Verse 8, but also including 9 through 13, which verses complete the second 7-verse set of rhythms in the Calendar. She offers practical steps to take and her concluding thought is especially significant for our time.

On Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar of the Soul*

Concerning Verses 8-13

"If we wish to become esoteric students, we must train ourselves vigorously in the mood of devotion." Rudolf Steiner

"Verse 8 is the verse of Pentecost, the 50th day after Easter when the Disciples of Christ Jesus suddenly understood the mighty events they had experienced during the previous three years. Their earthly thoughts became suppressed by the Holy Spirit, so that they could be filled with the creative understanding that led to their vast work as Apostles. This verse marks the yearly time when our ordinary thinking also needs to be suppressed for a higher perception and understanding. Spirit beings in light and warmth are expecting, hoping that the human "I", through enhanced sense experience will commune with the cosmic harmonies now so vividly streaming through nature.

This enhancement of communing, this higher capacity of knowing, expressed by the word "Ahnung" is connected with human feelings, particularly strong feelings of devotion. It is in the first chapter of *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, that Steiner writes, "If we wish to become esoteric students, we must train ourselves vigorously in the mood of devotion." He describes how a force of higher cognitive power is gathered in when we try to enter deeply and lovingly into another person's good qualities. How much more true this would be if we should enter with consciousness into the light and warmth of the divine world! This would mean our being gifted with the forces of the invisible, creative Beings who live within this light and warmth. These very forces are the spiritual nourishment needed by the cosmos from us, as vital members of the cosmic community, to offer back to spiritual realms if evolutionary hopes of the divine world are to be realized. Only through the cooperative activity of human and angelic spirits, can our mutual evolution be accomplished.

We need to forget our own will, preferably for a time each day, to try to feel our being as one with light and warmth, to experience our true self as cosmic self. It is "Ahnung" that announces to us that we need to lose our ordinary consciousness and try to expand our consciousness in order to grasp our cosmic self. In verses 8-10 we enter into consciousness that the Spirit Child is conceived in us. In verse 10, our wakening sentience is told that a godly being also feels our evolving presence. Verses 11, 12, and 13 are connected with the three higher bodies of our seven-fold being. These verses show us how we can activate increasingly higher states of consciousness. Even the Sun is at its strongest during this summer solstice time. Verse 13 speaks of the "fire" around us and within us. The Word of Truth of Gods urges use of this new capacity of Ahnung to seek our spirit relations.

This new capacity seems to be a re-emergence on a higher level of a state of consciousness that we had in very ancient times. We had no self-consciousness at that time as we do now, but we did not lose consciousness in sleep as we do now. We may say, at that time we had in sleep a clairvoyant consciousness and in the daytime a dull earthly consciousness. We also experienced an intermediate state, a kind of waking-dreaming, in which we knew (without self-consciousness) that we were with spiritual beings because, as Rudolf Steiner said, 'we could behold them.' This waking-dreaming wants to be born in us again, this time with self-consciousness."

With joy and good wishes for your Whitsuntide,

Eloise