

# Lied/Song: “Die Gedanken sind frei”

Gitarren-Griffe: GDC alternativ(1): DAG alternativ(2): AED  
guitar-chords: GDC alternative(1): DAG alternative(2): AED

Die Gedanken sind frei, wer kann sie erraten,  
sie fliegen vorbei wie nächtliche Schatten.  
Kein Mensch kann sie wissen, kein Jäger erschießen  
mit Pulver und Blei:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

es bleibet da bei: Die Gedanken sind frei

## Deutsche Version “Die Gedanken sind frei”

1. Die Gedanken sind frei  
wer kann sie erraten?  
Sie fliehen vorbei  
wie nächtliche Schatten.  
Kein Mensch kann sie wissen,  
kein Jäger erschießen  
mit Pulver und Blei:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

2. Ich denke, was ich will  
und was mich beglückt,  
doch alles in der Still'  
und wie es sich schicket.  
Mein Wunsch und Begehrn  
kann niemand verwehren,  
es bleibt dabei:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

3. Und sperrt man mich ein  
im finsternen Kerker,  
das alles sind rein  
vergebliche Werke.  
Denn meine Gedanken  
zerreißen die Schranken  
und Mauern entzwei:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

## german-english version “My Thoughts Are Free”

1. Die Gedanken sind frei  
My thoughts freely flower.,  
Die Gedanken sind frei  
My thoughts give me power.  
No scholar can map them,  
No hunter can trap them,  
No man can deny:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

2. I think as I please,  
And this gives me pleasure.,  
My conscience decrees,  
This right I must treasure;  
My thoughts will not cater  
To duke or dictator,  
No man can deny:--  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

3. And if tyrants take me  
And throw me in prison,  
My thoughts will burst free,  
Like blossoms in season.  
Foundations will crumble,  
The structure will tumble,  
And free men will cry:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

4. Neither trouble or pain  
Will ever touch me again.  
No good comes of fretting.,  
My hope's in forgetting.  
Within myself still  
I can think as I will,  
But I laugh, do not cry:  
Die Gedanken sind frei!

“Die Gedanken sind frei” is a German song about the freedom of thought.

The idea represented in the title — that thoughts are free — was expressed as early as in Antiquity and became prominent again in the Middle Ages, when Walther von der Vogelweide (c.1170-1230) wrote: *joch sint iedoch gedanke frei* (“yet still thoughts are free”). In the 12th century Austrian minnesinger Dietmar von Aist (presumably) had composed the song *Gedanke die sint ledic vri* (“only thoughts are free”). About 1229 Freidank wrote: *diu bant mac nieman vinden, diu mîne gedanke binden.* (“this band may no one twine, that will my thoughts confine”).

The text as it first occurred on leaflets about 1780 originally had four strophes to which a fifth was later added. Today, their order may vary. An early version in the shape of a dialogue between a captive and his beloved can be found under the title *Lied des Verfolgten im Thurm. Nach Schweizerliedern* (“Song of the persecuted in the tower. After Swiss songs”) in Achim von Arnim and Clemens Brentano’s circa 1805 folk poetry collection *Des Knaben Wunderhorn*, Vol. III. This version was given a new musical setting by Gustav Mahler in his 1898 *Lieder aus "Des Knaben Wunderhorn"* for voice and orchestra.

Since the days of the Carlsbad Decrees and the Age of Metternich *Die Gedanken sind frei* was a popular protest song against political repression and censorship, especially among the banned Burschenschaften student fraternities. In the aftermath of the 1848 German Revolution and in Nazi Germany, the song was proscribed. It had importance for the White Rose anti-Nazi resistance movement in Germany. One night in 1942 Sophie Scholl played the song on her flute outside the walls of Ulm prison where her father Robert had been detained for calling Adolf Hitler a “Scourge of God”. (...) It is also featured in the 1998 German movie 23 about the hacker Karl Koch.

source: [https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Die\\_Gedanken\\_sind\\_frei](https://secure.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/en/wiki/Die_Gedanken_sind_frei)

Zusammengetragen für:  
Compiled for:

