

Calendar of the Soul Verses 10 and 11 (because of a late Easter, both are meditated this week)

Rudolf Steiner

"Ego" Verse 10 relates to Condition 4, "Balance the truths you stand for in your soul with an open heart for the needs of others and the outer world."

Thus in our current cultural tempest, these words clearly speak of our spiritual balance that must be carried out with inner resoluteness and endurance

The verse itself offers further spiritual balances. Beauty can take us out of "ourselves." In these summer days the rising glory of the Sun indeed entices us high into splendid cosmos spaces, and we sense a cosmic grandeur. Our human limitedness may seem to dissolve; we feel a touching of the loving light of God, an intuitive perception that God recognizes us, too.

Zu sommerlichen Höhen
Erhebt der Sonne leuchtend Wesen
sich;
Es nimmt mein menschlich Fühlen
In seine Raumesweiten mit.
Erahndend regt im Innern sich
Empfindung, dumpf mir kündend,
Erkennen wirst du einst:
Dich fühlte jetzt ein Gotteswesen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



To summer's lofty heights
The Sun uplifts his radiant Being;
He bears my human feeling
Abroad into His spacious realm.
Awareness striving in my heart
Bespeaks its dim perception:
The time will come when you will
know
A god's own Being felt you now.

tr. by John F. Gardner.



Prophetically, the verse says that one day—at Christmas perhaps—we may dimly recognize this "sensing" of us by a "Godly Being" was like a 'conception' for the future birth of our Spirit Child within.

My I, filled with the uplifting joy and beauty of this cosmic experience, offers gratitude in that even as I feel the presence of God, I sense God is feeling my presence as well.

To lofty summer heights
The gleaming being of the Sun
ascends,
It takes my human feeling
Along with it to space
expanses.
In boding, stirs within my
being,
Sensation, dimly heralding,
One day you will discern:
A godly being sensed in you.

tr. by Daisy Aldan.

Increasingly with this union, the human I will be filled by the power of Christ and ever more capably overcome through its own forces influences wishing to pull it down. "Yet, one cannot be forced to accept the Christ nor will the deed of Christ act on any of us unless through our own inner forces we decide to let it do so. . . .One's ascent into higher world is based on freedom." (*Occult Science, An Outline*, p.74, Adams tr.)

Karl König sees this verse as a preparation for a crossing of the threshold in Verse 12, the sacred time of St. John's Tide. "It is the soul-spiritual task to prepare for this conception." He says to bear in one's heart the last two lines is a "cognitive necessity". (König, *The Calendar of the Soul, A Commentary*, p.121,)

"Spirit Self" Verse 11 relates to Condition 5, "Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution; love for your action."

Condition 5 verses carry an awareness of the Ego's intention in Condition 4 verses and declare the necessity of carrying it out. A mental picture can be made of each two lines, noting the movement from "thinking" in the first two lines, to "feeling" in the next two lines, to "willing" in the last two lines. Thus, the spiritual pupil can individualize the verse, making it "one's personal sphere and property."

Es ist in dieser Sonnenstunde
An dir, die weise Kunde zu
erkennen:
An Weltenschönheit hingegeben
In dir dich fühlend zu durchleben:
Verlieren kann das Menschen-Ich
Und finden sich im Welten-Ich.
original German by Rudolf Steiner.



It is your task in this Sun-hour
The Tidings, wisdom-filled, to
recognize:
Surrendered now to cosmic beauty,
To feel yourself in self, experience
this:
The human "I" can lose itself
And find itself in cosmic "I".
tr. by Daisy Aldan.



In this Sun-hour it is
For you to know what wisdom tells:

To beauty in the world
surrendered,
Within yourself to live and feel:

The human I can both be lost
And found within the Cosmic I.

tr. by John F. Gardner.

In Verse 10, the threshold was reached and now the door is open. König comments: "This verse has three aspects. It is a summons to the human soul, strong, admonishing and still full of supporting love. The soul can feel itself to be standing at a threshold, and the threshold guardian comes to meet it with his hands raised and says: 'It is for you to hear and understand the tidings that I have to bring to you in this, the sun's high hour.'"

"Filled with the revelations of the world's beauty and surrendered to the cosmic periphery, you are warned that in crossing the threshold, in approaching this "holy domain of the I of worlds, you can find yourself, and you can equally well lose yourself here. . . . The human soul asks, shall I dare?" Can I retain my individuality if I cross? (*Ibid.* p. 122)

Eleanor C. Merry, poet, artist, musician, finds the meaning of the verse beautifully put by Steiner in his description of true Nature-consciousness. If the human being "flowers with the flower, seeds with the seed, and fruits with the fruit, and thus unfolds in himself a finer sensitivity to Nature, he thereby prepares to live, above all in midsummer season, in devotion to the Universe, to the starry heavens. Then every little brightly colored beetle becomes for him like a mysterious revelation of the Cosmic Life upon the stem of the plant and every breath in the atmosphere becomes a harbinger of Cosmic life within earthly life."

Then what might be feared as a loss of self becomes infinite gain. "Pouring himself out into the 'radiant Being of the Sun' man feels the quickening of his own Being as something kindled by the Wisdom of the cosmos, and blessed by it." (Merry, *The Calendar of the Soul*, p. 127)

And the rhythms within *The Calendar of the Soul* are powerful. In the "contrast verses" 16, 37 and 42, courageous words of encouragement will be addressed to the soul. We remember that the 52 verses of *The Calendar of the Soul* are a path with the Christ through the year. When we live consciously in these rhythms of the world and of the year, we experience Christ and receive His power.