

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 10 May I feel the Touch of Christ

By Eloise Krivosheia

"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 sun 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.
Erahnend 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.



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.

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.

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 worlds is based on freedom.

In Calendar Verses 8-10, a spirit meeting takes place, and while in the outer world the power of the senses grows stronger, the experiences within the soul grow deeper. See in Line 5 in the German, *Erahnung*, a mighty "divining" commencing the line that indicates the soul awaking to an awareness that a divine being wants to unite with it.

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

In his *A Contemplation about Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul*, van Goudoever notes that each year at this time, a divine being approaches the soul; it draws near when human thinking is "humbly content." In Verse 9, the I receives a sacred command to "lose myself in light". The holiness of the command is indicated in Line 6, again by Ahnung—for it is like a divine urging or an annunciation to the soul. The mystery of this season lights up more fully in Verse 10, where, as 'man of the spheres', a force divining grows in us and we feel ourselves extended far beyond our sense world thinking.

These thoughts are beautifully expressed in the following paragraphs by Roberta van Schilfgaarde:

"Our ordinary thinking 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 streaming through nature.

This enhancement of communing, this higher capacity of knowing, expressed by the noun "Ahnung", is connected with human feelings, particularly strong feelings of devotion. In the first chapter of *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, 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 creative activities of the light and warmth of the divine world! This would mean our being gifted with creative forces of the Beings who live within the light and warmth. Our response to these 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 go forward harmoniously.

To lofty summer heights
The sun's resplendent being
rises;

It takes my human feeling
Along into its vast abode of space.

Dawning within, a vision stirs,
A feeling, dimly hinting:

One day you will discern:
A Godly Being felt you now.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



To summery heights
Ascends the Sun's resplendent
being;

It takes along my human feeling
Into its own wide realms of space.

Sensation rises in divining
Within me, dimly heralding:

You will in future know:
There felt you now a godly being.

tr. by Giselher Weber

We need to forget our own will, preferably for a time each day, try to feel our being as one with light and warmth, to experience that our true self is a cosmic self. When we forget ourselves, even for a moment, and experience a sudden insight into a color or movement in nature, the soul can be filled with delight and awe; its eyes are opened; it can even be mightily shaken with recognition. It is "Ahnung" that announces that we need to lose our ordinary consciousness, try to expand our consciousness in order to grasp our cosmic self.

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."