

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 11 How shall I join with the Christ?

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"Spirit Self" Verse 11 relates to Condition 5, "Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution; love for your action." Spirit Self verses carry an awareness of the Ego's intention in the previous verse and declare the necessity of carrying it out. When your actions and ideals match, spiritual freedom is experienced.

A mental picture can be made of each two lines of Verse 11, noting the movement from "thinking" in the first two lines, to "feeling" in the next two lines, to "willing" in the last two lines. With these mental pictures, the spiritual pupil can individualize the verse, making it "one's personal sphere and property" —that is, into a response by one's own soul.

We know Christ is not called by name in the Calendar; but when it is said in this verse that the human "I" can lose itself and find itself again in the Cosmic "I", then we are pointed to the Christ Being.

Each year in Whitsun Verse 8, the human "I" feels through blossoming nature a new connection to divine life, to "godly being." The following verses express entreatment to make this experience a conscious one.

Because the Whitsun event, the Holy Spirit sent by the Christ, gives to the human soul the power to understand the mystery news of Golgotha, we find in Line 2 of Verse 11 the spirit pupil being tenderly commanded to recognize "these tidings, wisdom-filled." Because of the gifts of Easter and Whitsuntide the human "I," now with greater understanding, can contemplate 'finding itself' in Cosmic "I".

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.
Karl König writes in his *Commentary*,
"This verse has three aspects. It is a
summons to the human soul, strong,
admonishing, and yet still full of
supporting love. Feeling itself to be
standing at a threshold, the soul
harkens to its guardian:
'It is for you to hear, to understand
the tidings that I have to bring to you
in this, the sun's high hour.'

König continues: "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 your (higher) self, and you can equally well lose yourself here." The human soul seems to ask, shall I dare? Can I retain my individuality if I cross?

Eleanor Merry in her *Calendar* commentary picks up on this idea. "What may have been feared as a loss will become infinite gain. Pour yourself out into the 'radiant Being of the Sun'. . . Feel the quickening of your own Being as something kindled by the Wisdom of the cosmos and blessed by it."

A gateway to the spiritual world is cosmic beauty: the glory of spring's blooming and rich colors, singing of the birds, dreamy flight of butterflies, limitless blue sky. We can be lost in this glory, losing our sense of personal selfhood and feeling a part of expansive beauty. When we do indeed let our earthly "I" withdraw, we make room in our consciousness for our higher self to come in. And so it is that through feeling the beauty of the world, the human self can reach up to "touch" the Cosmic "I".

In this very high realm of the supersensory world—the Cosmic "I", the Christ, is active through the First Hierarchy, the Spirits of Love, Harmony, and Will. We of course cannot stay out in the heights forever, since our I development work is on Earth. But the Christ will protect our earthly lower self so that we may find it again when we return.

Truly, the verse acquaints us with the seriousness of this experience, but it will be in Verse 12 and following, that the self does actually trustingly seek itself in "cosmic light and cosmic warmth."

In this warm and sun-drenched hour
A sermon holds if thou hast ears to
hear:

Absorbed into the world's fair show
Live thou thy feeling through and
through,

Within thee say, 'I lose myself as man
And find myself to be the World I am.'
paraphrase by Owen Barfield



In this the sun's high hour it rests
With you to understand these words
of wisdom:

Surrendered to the beauty of the
world,
Be stirred with new-enlivened feeling;

The human I can lose itself
And find itself within the cosmic I.
tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch

We may ask why beauty is a gateway. In Rudolf Steiner's *Man and the World of Stars*, is a beautiful, illuminating statement for our work with the *Calendar*. "Art reveals those secrets of nature without which we can never fully understand her. From a certain point onwards it is imperative that we should understand the form and structure of the world as an artistic creation.

"Human willing rises to the level of artistic creativity and finally achieves a relationship to the world that is not merely a matter of passively getting to know it but a positive, active surrender. Such a quality entails that man no longer looks at the world abstractly, with the forces of his head, but he begins increasingly to perceive with his own being. -Living with the course of cosmic existence becomes a relationship that is different from one's connection with the facts and events of everyday life."

In 1912, Rudolf Steiner gave the *Calendar of the Soul* as part of his hopes and intentions for a spiritually oriented community with an artistic foundation.

Merry finds the meaning of the verse beautifully put by Steiner in his description of true Nature-consciousness. "If the human being 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 herald of Cosmic life within earthly life."

Patsy Scala adds that when we understand that beauty unites our personal souls with the world soul, we find within this union, a greater self. We find within our own souls the "I Am" within the "I Am" of the World. Then we know that this is our human truth. This is what it means to be human. Her intention for the week is to "revel in the beauty of summer's arrival, and know that I am an integral part of this beauty. I will see beauty in every face I pass, and along every roadside I travel."

The *Calendar of the Soul* is a path with the Christ through the year. When we live consciously in the rhythms in the *Calendar* as they reflect the rhythms of the world and of the year, we experience Christ and receive His power.

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