



## Verse 11 - a "spirit self" message

Surrendered to the allure of a glorious sun-lit world we sense a universal divine presence. Shall we dare to lose our earthly self so that we may join a larger cosmic self?

The verses around St. John's Day lead us ever more consciously to feel and trust our deep spiritual connection with the cosmic I.

And may our hearts be glad!

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

*Eloise Krivosheia*

"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 ideals and actions 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", we are indeed 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 Verse 9 reveals our task is to make this experience through *ahnung* a conscious one.

Because the Whitsun event, the Holy Spirit sent by the Christ, enabled the human soul to gain greater understanding of the mystery news of Golgotha, we find now in Lines 1 and 2 the spirit pupil being tenderly commanded to recognize "these tidings, wisdom-filled." Because of the gifts of Easter and Whitsuntide, the human "I" may even contemplate 'finding itself' in Cosmic "I".

Es ist in dieser Sonnenstunde  
An dir, die weise Kunde zu  
erkennen:

An Weltenschönheit hingegen,  
In dir dich fühlend zu  
durchleben:

Verlieren kann das Menschen-Ich  
Und finden sich im Welten-Ich.

*original German by Rudolf Steiner.*



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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: "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. Yet, 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 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*

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 the work of developing our I is on Earth. But the Christ protects 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 its higher self in "cosmic light and cosmic warmth."

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 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 to all of us the *Calendar of the Soul* as part of his hopes and intentions for a spiritually oriented community with an artistic foundation.

In his beautifully put description of true Nature-consciousness Eleanor Merry finds the very meaning of Verse 11. "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."

*Truly it seems that with every verse, meanings and images grow ever more profound, ever more beautiful, ever more intimately connected to the Christ, our world, the Cosmos.*

*The Calendar of the Soul* is, as Rudolf Steiner intended for us, a path with the Christ through the year with all its changes for the soul and the I. When we live consciously with the *Calendar's* many insightful rhythms as they reflect our rhythms and those 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.**