

Rudolf Steiner's *Calendar of the Soul* Verse 16: Harbor your ripening gifts

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 16, the Astral, relates to Condition 3, "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as actions." -Earth enters Cancer Sidereally; Leo Tropically. We are timed for something new to come with inspiration from above into our hearts.

In line 1, we meet "Zu bergen." Since German "berg" is mountain, we may picture a mountain fastness, a protected haven, which we create within our soul. Have we received unmerited treasure to shelter and mature within us like a "treasure in a mountain fastness?" This treasure refers to all the heavenly gifts we've been receiving as imaged in the verses, especially 7-13. In these gifts we can feel the love of Christ.

"Geistgeschenk is spirit gift. Is this the unique gift of our own being? A treasure indeed! Given by grace, not by merit and so "unearned". We may then wonder if we ourselves ought not to give to others even if the gift is thought to be not truly merited?

"Gebietet" in line 2 is to plead, beg, or pray. So in the way of "Ahnen", —I feel intuitively a command, a plea, to shelter, to harbor firmly, reverently in depths of soul, *in my will*, these sacred divine gifts.

Zu bergen Geistgeschenk im
Innern,
Gebietet strenge mir mein Ahnen,
Dass reifend Gottesgaben
In Seelengründen fruchtend
Der Selbstheit Früchte bringen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



David Newbatt

My intuition firmly commands me:
"Harbor the spirit's treasures within
you
so that these ripening gifts of God,
growing in the soil of your soul,
may bring forth the very fruits
of your own selfhood."

tr. by Tom Mellett



Arild Rosenkrantz

To harbor Spirit gift within
Is now my dawning vision's
stern request,
That gifts of God, thus
ripening
And fruiting in the depths
of soul,
May yield their fruits to
Selfhood.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



Speaking of the fruit that needs maturing in the soul, the last line tells to what this fruit leads, what it is to accomplish. —Nothing less than our own Selfhood! We may think —"higher Self." God given gifts sown as seeds now, may in winter's ground bear new "light" in the soul, new evolving toward higher self.

In the verse, our Ahnen wants us to understand that now is the time for us to recognize where we are in our own I —in our karma, —in our development! —To recognize who we are as much as we can. What are we doing with the gift of self? Is the fruit of this gift growing and ripening in the soil of our soul?

Again, there is time for maturing. All the wisdom we gain now ripens during the course of the year and makes it possible for us to be more fruitful even as each day passes.

From Eleanor Merry come the following ideas. The gifts of strength working in manifold forms within us are bestowed by the Higher Hierarchies, but there must be within us a foundation for the ultimate fulfillment of the gifts. Knowingly then we feel impelled to gather for future ripening all the impressions we receive into our "center", our inner being —especially now during Summer's "out breathing."

"But the gifts of the Spirit cannot ripen as fruit for the true Self unless they are somehow made fertile in the foundations of the Soul. The Soul is indeed mediator for the gifts of the Spirit but its soil must be prepared in virtue, so that the fruits will ripen to Spirit-strength in the Ego."

From Rudolf Steiner we are reminded from where our maturing and blossoming powers come.

"... All fruits are ripened by power of the Sun.
So quickens the Soul in the shrine of the heart,
So blossoms Spirit-power in the Light of the World,
So ripens Man's strength in the Glory of God."

Comforting words come, too, in Scene 11 of Rudolf Steiner's *The Portal of Initiation* to Strader as he doubts his ability to again reach the Sun Temple and to feel his spiritual connection as others were doing: But he is told, "My friend, trust thou thyself!" "These very words, When thy time is fulfilled, thyself shall speak."

To bear in inward keeping spirit bounty
Is stern command of my prophetic
feeling,
That ripened gifts divine
Maturing in the depths of soul
To selfhood bring their fruits.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



Ninetta Sombart

I have a strong presentiment
To shield the spiritual gift within
So that as it matures God's wealth
Will then bear fruit within my
soul
For selfhood's harvesting.

tr. by John Thomson

Perhaps, as Patsy Scala suggests, we are not just now receiving seeds from the gods but already are feeling a moving in ourselves toward fruition? —A ripening of richer thought and purer love within us? It is part of the mystery of the soul's need to live between the incoming and the maturing soul forces, the now and the not-yet.

And so as the verse tells us, we are led to the insight that we must shelter within us our spirit seed-gifts, our spiritual wisdom. Emphatically, during this mid-season, we must offer these "soul seeds" the chance to grow, to ripen, to come to their destined fruition in the world. A contemplation may thus now be —how we may help our seed-gifts to grow to fulfillment as gifts to the world —how wisdom may become love.

The polar opposite verse from Verse 16 is Verse 37, corresponding to the week before Christmas. From the original German of Verse 37 and in translation by Tom Mellett, we can see how Verse 37 is almost like a fulfillment of the mood of Verse 16.

Zu tragen Geisteslicht in Weltenwinternacht
Erstrebet selig meines Herzens Trieb,
Dass leuchtend Seelenkeime
In Weltengründen wurzeln,
Und Gotteswort im Sinnesdunkel
Verklärend alles Sein durchtönt.

This is the blissful striving of my heart's desire:
To carry the light of the spirit
into the cosmic winter night,
so that sparkling seeds of my soul
may take root in cosmic soil---
and that the Word of God may resound
through the darkness of my senses,
transfiguring my entire existence.