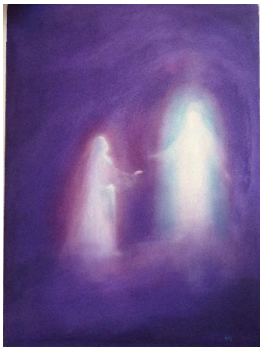

Verse 18 speaks to the human soul whose growing consciousness enables it to ask a serious question and to aspire to becoming a "worthy garment" for the Cosmic Spirit—whose seed gifts, after one-third of the year, the Soul is now more able to appreciate.

As anticipated in 'ego' Verse 17, the soul recognizes what it must do if it would ally itself to its proper individual, but also cosmic, task.

Here a five petalled white flower is offered to represent the human being showing 'Condition 5,' that of Spirit Self beginning to flower within.

May we, too, awaken to spirit within!

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 18: The Soul Asks of Itself

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 18, relates to Spirit Self as well as to **Condition 5, "Steadfastness in carrying out a resolution once it is taken."**

Last week's "ego" verse 17, ending with the prophetic words of the Cosmic I, "To find in future Me in you", tells of the human I's reception of the Cosmic Word into its heart—its depth of soul. The "wonder" that the soul has experienced in the verses up to now must transform gradually into action as the soul awakens from usual summer dreaminess. Like the flower absorbing the sun now comes into fruit, the soul, too, having been filled from out Sun-radiant spaces, must from Cosmic Seed-Word's (Welten-Keimesworte) gifts, gradually form human fruit of soul.

Kann ich die Seele weiten,
Dass sie sich selbst verbindet
Empfangnem Welten-Keimesworte?

Ich ahne, dass ich Kraft muss finden
Die Seele würdig zu gestalten,
Zum Geisteskleide sich zu bilden.

original German by Rudolf Steiner

Anne Stockton

Can I expand my soul,
That it unites itself
To the seed planted by the Cosmic Word?

I sense that I must find the force
That shapes the soul in worthy fashion
To form itself into the garment of the Spirit.

tr. by Sophia Walsh

In Verse 18 we find an awakened soul, conscious of its need—even its true and deep wish—to grow in strength to become a worthy ally of the "Cosmic-Seed Word"—able to provide both a *proper expanse* for this seed gift and a proper protective form for it. The soul retains a remembrance of how in Verse 16, it felt the rather stern command through *ahnen* "To shelter Spirit grace (gift) within."

Soul strength comes to us from the Cosmos but on Earth it is *we* who must act. Gathering the gifts of the summer into our soul, we wish to find new life with them—even to enhancing the structure of the soul— molding it worthily as Spirit garment! We ask ourselves, "Can we achieve all that is needed?"

Quickly we feel an earnestness to find the strength to transform the gifts received, thus to become the architects of our own soul growth. As nature's glory fades in late summer and no longer speaks so vibrantly through our senses, it will be our task to "return," transformed, our Spirit-Word's gifts. A quiet eagerness fills our determination to become a proper vessel for shining, love-filled action.

We may think of the Calendar's first 17 verses so immersed in nature as especially relating to the Father god; whereas with Verse 18, we enter the second one-third of the year and find the world of the Son. We feel in the "Cosmic-Seed Word", the world of the Christ and the soul's need to awaken, to accept the task of higher self-development. We are ready to take up Verse 17's bidding "Fill full your depth of spirit from out my width of worlds."

Valerie Jacobs illustrates Verse 18

Can I expand my soul,
So she allies herself
With cosmic Seed-Word now
conceived?
I feel that I must find the strength
To give my soul a worthy form,
To mold itself as Spirit garment.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

In this 18th verse, the first of only two verses in all 52 verses with a question, we feel with deep understanding that **our soul garment for the Spirit must encompass creative, nourishing love**. We sense Christ's great love for us and from His creative Seed-Word, we wish His love to bloom in our soul speech and heart-felt creativity. Resolve *is* happening as is fitting for the fifth verse of seven.

Remembering, too, that the growth of human consciousness is the path of human development through all incarnations of the human from Saturn to Vulcan, we contemplate again the words from Verse 17, "To find in future Me in You," and understand that alone through Christ's gift of His "Cosmic Seed-Word" to us, can our I be strengthened and sustained. Wondrously, he gifts us with the capacity of extending our human consciousness both now on Earth and in all spheres of the spiritual world even to the highest.

The soul stands in awe before such a great gift of spirit received and asks if it can expand itself to unite with the Christ seed, sensing that it must become a worthy garment for this great gift of grace, this gift of great love.

Can I stretch my soul
So that it unites itself
With the cosmic seed-word it
received?
I sense I must find the strength
To form my soul worthily
To become a garment of the
spirit.

tr. by Christopher Bamford

Iris Sullivan Parsifal in the Heart

Can I make wide my soul
That it unites itself
With Cosmic Seed-Word now
conceived?
A vision dawns in me: that I must
find the strength
To fashion worthily my soul
To be a fitting raiment for the
Spirit.

tr. by Brigitte Knack

Calendar of the Soul Verse 35

The polar opposite verse from Verse 18 is Verse 35, corresponding to three weeks before Christmas. *Here is the original German of Verse 35 and a translation by Daisy Aldan. You can see how in Verse 35, there is a reflection of the mood of Verse 18. Verse 35 is the only other verse in which the soul asks a question of itself.*

Kann ich das Sein erkennen,	Can I conceive true being,
Dass es sich wiederfindet	So it may find itself anew
Im Seelenschaffensdrange?	In soul's creative impulse?
Ich fühle, dass mir Macht verlieh'n	I feel that strength is lent to me
Das eigne Selbst dem Weltenselbst	To integrate my self as member
Als Glied bescheiden einzuleben.	Of cosmic Self, with modesty.

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