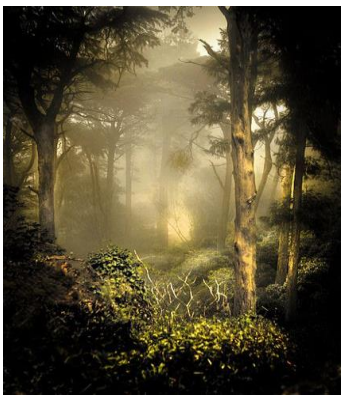

With "Ego" Verse 23, we experience the consciousness soul in contemplation of some of Rudolf Steiner's most beautiful, light-filled lines of poetry revealing much behind those 'misty veilings'.

We, too, in the rush of life, may discern in autumn's mystic "fogs," a sweet signal to pause, ponder, and refresh.

Nature's weaving beauty, may it fill our day and joyfully, too, soft misty veilings come our way!

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 23: Envisioning Something New

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 23 relates to the fourth member of the human being, the EGO, or I, and to Condition 4, "Balance the truths you stand for in your soul with an open heart for the needs of the outer world." We are in balance when we feel a Christ connection within and our outer activities are a manifestation or a reflection of our inner beliefs.

Uniquely, this verse imposes a real pause to the consciousness soul's otherwise ongoing consideration of its outer and inner life events. Now, between summer experiences and autumn's change of focus, the soul pauses, appears engrossed in the changing face of nature, here described so simply, so beautifully. It reminds us perhaps of another significant pause, a "solstice," when each year the lofty sun waits several days at St John's tide before beginning its descending path. Such a pause brings opportunity between major experiences for the ego to contemplate what has happened —and what is to happen in the next stage of development —of each of us, of course, but also of the *world*.

We recognize in the first few lines of Verse 23 a truth that we ourselves are now less enticed by nature's charms —which in fact are much subdued now. The light, too, has changed—less brilliant and oftentimes there is even fog or mist layers in early mornings. "Dämpfet" connotes dim or damp. (see Pusch translation)

Es dämpfet herbstlich sich
Der Sinne Reizesstreben;
In Lichtesoffenbarung mischen
Der Nebel dumpfe Schleier sich.
Ich selber schau in Raumesweiten
Des Herbstes Winterschlaf.
Der Sommer hat an mich
Sich selber hingegeben.

original German by Rudolf Steiner

Autumnally is dimmed
The sense-drive to enticements;
In light-unfoldings mingle
The misty veilings of the fogs.
I can behold in space expanses
The winter sleep of Fall.
The Summer has surrendered
Its very self to me.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Then in Line 5 something very subtle happens. Like <u>every</u> Step 5 in development, something new must actually take place if evolution is to go forward properly. The ego prepares for it, as in this "ego" verse, and the new step is foreshadowed in Line 5. The subtlety is contained in the translation of the German word *schau* as "behold", which conveys a deeper implication, or consciousness, than if just the word "see" were used. Behold allows the "holding in contemplation", or "heart envisioning", of something to come, something that lies ahead very possibly with special significance.

And indeed, as the soul wakes further into the autumn season, the polar verse with Verse 23, which is Verse 30, will carry a joyous burst of awakened consciousness and new activity. (Page 3).

Benedizioni Pasquali painter

Nature's charms that thrill the sense
Are all subdued in autumn now;
The radiance of the light appears
Through veils of darkening mist.
I gaze into the widths of space
And see there autumn's winter-sleep.
The summer has surrendered
Itself to me.

tr. by John Thomson

In this verse we can have a new understanding of what we received in the summer. And this week we are given time to ponder the "gifts of the summer". Are we prepared or preparing to make use of these gifts? We ponder also autumn's "light unfoldings" perhaps as something symbolic or prophetic? With lingering gaze at the new autumn world, our senses are not slumbering, like the slumbering of nature, but are awake—even acute.

We sense that although nature's world may have fallen into an autumn sleep, as ego being we are awake to what is "Spring" for the soul. Concerned more now with what is *within* us and how we can take up what lies ahead; we are able to look with gratitude on our experiences of the summer. In summer's "surrender" there is the utilitarian concept of digestion. By 'digesting' our experiences, that is, with new understandings of them, thus making them "our own", we make them useful to us.

There dims in damp autumnal air
The senses' luring magic;
The light's revealing radiance
Is dulled by hazy veils of mist.
In distances around me I can see
The autumn's winter sleep;
The summer's life has yielded
Itself into my keeping.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch

Into autumnal dimness
The stirring of the senses dies away.
Dim veils of mist now mingle
With revelations of the light;
And I behold in widths of space
The Autumn's winter-sleep.
The Summer has itself
Now yielded up to me.

tr. by Ernst Lehrs .

Rudolf Steiner has mentioned the problem that we too often tend to stare at nature, rather than looking "into" what is there. We get "far sighted" he says. But if we really look, or "behold", then inner nature begins to speak to us. The mists of fall—even in California's desert landscape—remind us that the Earth is really very watery, most of it being ocean.

With water often connected to the idea of the etheric, we are reminded of the Christ, whose etheric body since Golgotha is within the Earth. Again we sense there *must be a path* to recognize the Christ, the living I AM within our selves. —Our Michaelmas guide awaits.

Calendar of the Soul Verse 30

On the other side of Michaelmas the polar opposite of Verse 23 is Verse 30. In the following translation by Daisy Aldan, the inner light of Verse 23 has expanded with conscious certainty to become our life of will; —shining into our sense experience in order to raise soul impulses into creative forces that will ripen in human work.

Es spriessen mir im Seelensonnenlicht
Des Denkens reife Früchte,
In Selbstbewusstseins Sicherheit
Verwandelt alles Fühlen sich.
Empfinden kann ich freudevoll
Des Herbstes Geisterwachen:
Der Winter wird in mir
Den Seelensommer wecken.

In sunlight of my soul are sprouting now
The ripening fruits of thinking;
To certainty of conscious self
All feeling now transforms itself.
Now I can sense in joyful mood
The autumn spirit waking:
The winter will in me
Wake summer of the soul..

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

A little note:

In the wondrous account of *The Chemical Wedding* of Christian Rosenkreutz AD 1459, it is a joy to see how closely the captivating experiences of Christian Rosenkreutz ally with Verses 23 and 30; as his uncertain, even dim, yet eager consciousness gradually through 7 days of challenges awakens to an initiatory, and humble, awe-filled understanding.