

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 26 Michaelmas Week

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 26 relates to our seventh member, Spirit Human Being, and as such to the initiation step of Intuition. The verse also conveys Condition 7, "to unite all previous six conditions in living."

We can sense in the soul's awareness of its own powerful will forces that it will bring a grand finish to the second quarter of the year and ready itself for the third quarter's rhythm connected to the astral. In this sense the four quarters of the year relate to the physical, beginning at Easter; the etheric, beginning at St John's; the astral at Michaelmas; and the Ego after Christmas.

The soul begins its meditation by feeling a self likeness with Mother Nature, recognizing that as Nature's will forces brought to burgeoning life the glorious bloom and maturity of spring and summer, the soul carries its own will forces that can give birth to a new Sense of Self capable of bearing the higher Self.

Natur, dein mütterliches Sein,
Ich trage es in meinem Willenswesen;
Und meines Willens Feuermacht,
Sie stählet meines Geistes Triebe,
Dass sie gebären Selbstgefühl,
Zu tragen mich in mir.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Supersensible School of Michael

O Nature, your maternal being
I bear within the essence of my will,
And my own will's dynamic fire power,
It steels my spirit's driving forces
That they give birth to Sense of Self
To bear my Self in me.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

Not a quiet verse! For the will rings forth! Fundamentally the verse tells us, my spirit's driving impulses are to give birth to my Sense of Self that will bear my higher Self in me. It is our Michaelic wish to create with our own will's "fire force" our sense of self that we may bear our higher self and its responsibilities within.

With the recent August Perseids meteor showers, we are aware how Michael's gift of cosmic iron is in our spirit impulses, and we know that the fire in our will can turn this cosmic iron into strong, supple steel for the mighty tasks for which the world is crying out.



Nature Spirits and my Self - D.N. Dunlop

O Nature, your maternal life
I bear within the essence of my will.
And my will's fiery energy
Shall steel my spirit striving,
That sense of self springs forth
from it
To hold Me in myself.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



David Newbatt

Roberta van Schilfgaard writes: "It is our will now that must be engaged in the coming third quarter of the Calendar, our will to understand with our own reason what we have received in the spring and summer. If the Spirit Child is to be born at Christmas, this coming third quarter must be devoted to the conscious, reasoned understanding of the spirit impulses we were given this past summer. We must permeate our soul with our own work in this direction. We must make these impulses our own if we are to be true 'battlers' with Michael for the spirit."

Michael, fiery "thought-prince of the universe," Spirit of our Time, leaves us free to follow his leadership to our higher ego or not, but the goal is a new understanding of our fellow beings *in a brotherly way*—replacing the egotism of the lower ego and leading to a new sense of social harmony and community development. This we may find as we experience a Consciousness Soul connection to the next quarter of the Calendar.

For yes, soul rhythm is another rhythm to be experienced in each of the 13-week quarters of the Calendar. Beginning at Easter we can say the Sentient Soul is experienced for the first quarter of 13 weeks; at St John's the Intellectual or Gemüt* Soul, at Michaelmas the Consciousness or Spiritual Soul, and after Christmas the Ego, or "I".

*For English speakers, the "untranslatable" concept of Gemüt Soul may be thought of as "the mind warmed by a loving heart and stimulated by the soul's imaginative power." Or again, it might be described as "the soul in a state of unconscious intuition arising from the working together of heart and mind."

Nature, your mothering existence
I carry it in my will's being;
And my will's fiery might
Steels the incentives of my spirit
That they give birth to sense of selfhood
To carry me within myself.

tr. by Sophia Walsh



Anne Stockton

Nature, your essence motherly,
I bear within the being of my will;
And my will's fire-force,
It steels impulses of the spirit,
So they bear a sense of self
To bear myself in me.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Although the Day of Michaelmas, September 29, falls a week after the Autumn Equinox, Michaelmas Tide is all the surrounding days, marking a celebrated time to wake deeper inner soul aspects.

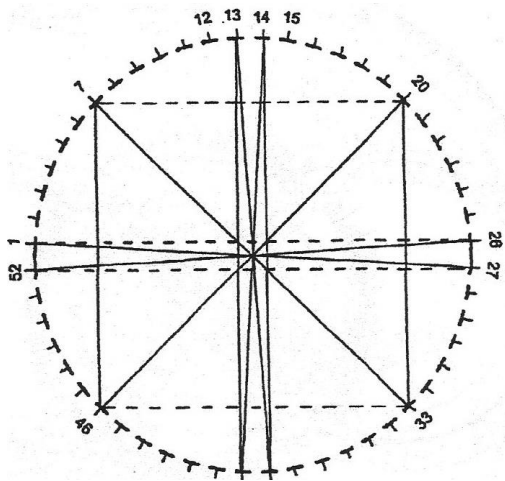
Rudolf Steiner distinguishes for us that of the four festivals of the year as they are connected with the Solstices and the Equinoxes, Michaelmas stands apart. The others tell of spiritual events; the birth of Jesus, the Mystery of Golgotha and the birth of John the Baptist. But Michaelmas must be a **new festival** "established in a great and worthy way out of the spirit," involving scientific, religious, and artistic experiences—experiences that may bring to the fore "a great deal of insight into our human inner nature."

"It must be something which can kindle feelings of fellowship among those who assemble at such a festival—a festival we create out of our heart's will, in our wish to celebrate socially and out of the will of Gods and Spirits. Then the Spirit would again be among humankind!" (May 23, 1923)

This may be a good time to mention something that you may have noticed; that is, how easily one forgets the content of a verse and each time one meets it, it must be re-brought to mind. I've always thought this was because the verses are "written out of the etheric", and like flowing water, they simply flow by us and so need to be recreated. H.D. van Goudover gives an awe inspiring explanation:

He says Steiner "has given the verses a new language, a Michaelic language, which can be known by the fact that the verses call forth hardly any *mental picture* which can be remembered, but only *conceptual images of thought* which must be newly created each time. It is a language of *light*, which comes to life only through re-creation. Through the missing of mental pictures which can be remembered, this language is transparent for the living as well as for those who have died."

Calendar of the Soul Verse 26 and Corresponding Verse 27



St. John's ----->	12-13	
	9	15
	6	19
	3	25
Easter----->	1-26	<----- Michaelmas
(polar verse of 26 is 27)		
(the polar verse)----->	27	- 52
	28	49
	33	45
	35	40
Christmas----->	38-39	

In the above Karl König diagram the corresponding or polar opposite Verses 26 and 27, are now side by side.

In the translation by Daisy Aldan, the will power so vivid in Verse 26 becomes in Verse 27 something tender.

In meines Wesens Tiefen dringen:
 Erregt ein ahnungsvolles Sehnen,
 Dass ich mich selbstbetrachtend finde,
 Als Sommersonnengabe, die als Keim
 In Herbstesstimmung wärmend lebt
 Als meiner Seele Kräftetrieb.

To penetrate my being's depths:
 A longing filled with boding stirs,
 That I in self-beholding find myself
 As sun-gift of the summer which as seed
 In mood of autumn, warming lives
 As drive of power of my soul.

Verses 26 and 27 are beautifully complementary, one closing the second quarter of the year and the other opening the third quarter. Also, in the Eight-fold Path, Verse 26 closes the fourth step, Right Action, and Verse 27 opens the fifth step, Right Vocation. (Each step comprises 7 verses.)

Step 4: Right Action, deriving the best that is possible from one's situation and satisfaction from one's tasks and activity in the world.

Step 5: Right Vocation, relating to the arrangement of our life as a whole.

At Michaelmas time, we see Step 5 mirroring Step 4. The steps are two kinds of action, integrating harmoniously.

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