

## Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 27 — like a Morning Prayer

Eloise Krivosheia

**Verse 27** relates to the first member of the human being, the Physical, and carries Condition 1, which is "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." If you like to follow other Calendar rhythms, Verse 27 leads off the third part of several rhythms which begin at Easter: the quarters of the year; the astral member of the human being; and the consciousness soul member. It relates also to the fifth step of the Eight Fold Path, "Right Vocation."

In order to comprehend in Line 2, the German word "*Sehnen*", which relates to a longing of the soul, we may imagine the outward spiral of the soul in spring and early summer as it reaches out to the cosmos and outer nature; whereas now the soul's attention spirals inward. In the verse we hear of **the soul longing to know itself, right into its spiritual depths, "my being's depths"** in Line 1.

This longing stirs a feeling within of a **prescience of the divine**, as may be found in the word *ahnung*. In warm attentiveness to the summer's sun-gift, the soul is able to recognize a secret, or secrets, of the summer. And like a seed, warming in the **autumn mood of heart awakening**, this secret gift will germinate my will forces to be the **"drive of power of my soul."**

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 Kräftertrieb.

*original German by Rudolf Steiner*



Anne Stockton

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

*tr. by Daisy Aldan*

But what is this precious gift of summer? Something that we must become aware of and care for, for it is the priceless essence of our warmth of will. This "secret" gift has to do with what happens when we sleep—or when we are in summer more drowsy than now in autumn when we feel more awake.

At night, and similarly in summer's drowsiness, higher beings implant our higher moral purpose in us, and these sleeping moral implants become our forces in autumn-winter.

How much we can accomplish with high morale as we carry out our ideals! —"Ye men of good will!"

And so, with my heart-warmed will, my fiery morale full of love from higher beings, this is the driving power now of my soul. I want to be awake to this subtle but powerful gift of the summer sun, to feel it as a new birthing of the **spiritual sun** which will expand within my inner being all this autumn.



When to my being's depths  
I penetrate,  
Expectant yearning wakes  
and stirs me  
To find myself, Self contemplating,  
As gift of summer sun, a seed  
That warming lives in autumn mood  
As germinating force of soul.

*tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch*



Iris Sullivan



Another way we may envision the sun-gift of the summer is in the image of fully ripened fruit maturing ever since Springtime, and appearing within it the new seed, or *Keim*, ready to push forward. We awaken to it in self-exploration as the gift of summer sun. Like a spirit-germ it is there within the sheath of soul.

For out of the forces and experiences of the summer, we feel our Self as somehow different, as if something new is within us spiritually. The power of this new "spirit" force will continue to grow throughout the autumn as a driving, enlivening force within the soul. At Christmastime we can recognize the part played by these brightening forces for the gradual development of our "spirit child".

Karl König in his *The Calendar of the Soul, A Commentary*, expresses that the spirit-germ, the self, under the might of the Michael being, and illumined by the autumnal Sun of Christ, will begin to develop and grow in this light. "The more conscious this seed is of itself, the more graciously will the Sun of Christ shine upon it. For it is in the growing darkness of autumn and winter that the dawning of His Spirit-Sun begins. The self of man, which has now arisen, has to find it."

Exploring inner deeps stirs up  
Longings that are promise-filled  
And in the mirror of the self  
I then may find myself, as gift of  
summer's sun,  
That like a seed in the warmth of  
autumn's mood,  
Lives as a force to drive my soul.

*tr. by John Thomson*



To delve into my being's depths  
Stirs up a longing filled with dawning  
vision  
That I, self-contemplating, find  
myself  
As gift of summer sun that lives,  
A warming seed, in autumn mood  
As motivating power of my soul.

*tr. by Brigitte Knaack*

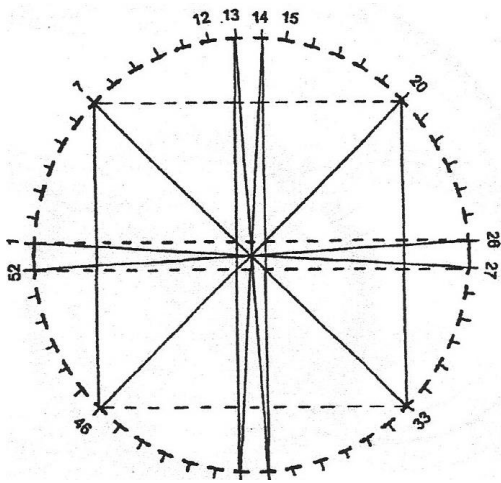
The gifts of the summer have indeed warmed our soul and in gratitude for the nourishments we have received, we may well wish to offer our own gifts to the autumn of Earth. We may give our attention with deeper interest and warmth of heart to what is around us in nature. And when we send out our soul strength to Earth's creatures, its plant life, and all the elemental types, we become the warmth of summer for the autumn of Earth. In the balance of Libra we may feel this reflected.

The nature of will remains much of a mystery. Why, when we expend intense thinking do we often experience a warmth, also a fatigue? The thinking will is so strong. We may remember the Prometheus myth—wherein we see the significant connection between fatigue, even aging, and the fire of willed thinking. In the myth, the liver must be restored each night for during the day it is torn down by willed thinking, symbolized by an eagle. It will be in initiation that finally we will understand the nature of will—even the human power of will. It seems to be an ideal that the Calendar verses point to.

After Michaelmas, with the outside world of the Spring and Summer verses behind us, the soul enters an inner world independent of space. **From now on, the words: power, force, strength can be found in one form or another in almost every verse. The Sun that now begins to shine is different from the day-time Sun. It is the Sun of the soul.**

**Let it shine and resound!**

## Calendar of the Soul Verses 27 and 26



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

The corresponding or "polar opposite" verse from Verse 27 is Verse 26. In this translation, by Brigitte Knaack, the new found spirit-germ within the soul in Verse 27 was preceded by a fiery confident will power in Verse 26 here expressed.

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.

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

In this second half of the year we may gain especially from seeing how the corresponding verses permeate each other. H.D. van Goudoever in his *A Contemplation About Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul* suggests that our thinking contemplation of them will reveal a higher reality in the verses than we sensed before. As we awaken from the dream of summer, we experience a different mood and also a renewed enhancement of consciousness.

As we "listen" to each pair of corresponding verses, van Goudoever believes that our **imaginative** consciousness can change to a greater **inspired** consciousness.

Comparing the corresponding verses is of course only one of the ways of contemplating the *Calendar of the Soul*.

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