

Dear Friends,

April 29, 2020

### Calendar of the Soul Verse 3

The 52 verses of the year may be seen in sets of 7 verses, following the members of the human being: physical, etheric, astral, I, Spirit Self, Life Spirit, and Spirit Human. This Third Week of the Soul Calendar is thus an "astral" verse. In it the awakening I can feel that through its higher perceiving of where it belongs in the universe, where it has come from, who are its creators, it has a new view of itself. It can for a while "forget its personal self", it can be free of its lower astral passions, desires, and subjective feelings that can weigh it down or act as hindrances to living in its higher self. —The I can fathom its true being in the Cosmic Being.



Liane Collot d'Herbois: artist

The I, ever becoming,  
Forgetful of itself and yet Aware  
of its true origin, Speaks to the  
cosmic All:

"As I become more free  
From chains of narrow self, in You  
I fathom my true being."

translation by John Thomson.

This astral verse is also connected to Condition 3 (in KOHW), "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as actions."

Inasmuch as Steiner's verses are also connected to the eight-fold path of Buddha, we may remember through observing these teachings in our daily life, the eight form a path to ennoble, to purify, the astral body. Each set of 7 Calendar verses is especially related to one of the eight teachings. The first seven verses then relating to the first teaching, which may be summarized as

1. Observe how our ideas and conceptions are acquired. Ideas must be a true mirror of the outer world, and not clouded by our subjectivity.

Tom Mellett and Ruth and Hans Pusch give us other beautiful translations:

To the universe there speaks  
the evolving human ego---  
forgetting itself--- aware of  
its original state:

"As I liberate myself  
from the chains of my  
own subjectivity, I  
fathom my true being in  
you."

Translation by Tom Mellett

Es spricht zum Weltenall,  
Sich selbst vergessend  
Und seines Urstands eingedenk,  
Des Menschen wachsend Ich:

In dir, befreiend mich  
Aus meiner Eigenheiten Fessel,  
Ergründe ich mein echtes  
Wesen.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.

Thus to the World-All speaks,  
In self-forgetfulness  
And mindful of its primal  
state,  
The growing human I:

In you, if I can free myself  
From fetters of my  
selfhood,

I fathom my essential being.

translation by Ruth and Hans Pusch

Now the human offspring is an awakened "I" and becoming conscious of the first two Calendar verses—continuing the communication between human being and the Sun and the worlds of Spirit.

The "I" begins to express what it feels in the encounter with the Spirit and it wants liberation— freedom from the bondage of its lower nature—so as to be able to meet its higher nature. Here we embark on the inner path of the soul—path of the consciousness soul through the year with nature and the Christ.

This verse helps the impulse to rise up into the domain of consciousness and to form from it a longing for a higher state.

The "I" wants its thoughts to be grounded in its higher self—not to be imprisoned in trite thoughts.

In the last line, *Ergrunde ich mein echtes Wesen*, *ergrunde* can mean to investigate, to probe, to explore thoroughly, to discover, to fathom, (or to strike root).

It takes courage to thus look into one's being! But the I can encourage itself to live creatively, lovingly. Then we can reach freedom.

--For example, if one is troubled in a group, the "I" can look into what it is doing or saying that might be bringing unwanted things back to it.

In trying to grasp in thought and feeling the essence of our being, we ask that our thoughts and feelings be true! We try to be mindful (*eingedenk*) of our primal state—but mindful at this stage is more feeling than intellect. *Ergrunde* (to fathom) also is closer to a powerful feeling at this stage, for we don't have clear knowledge of our essence—of our "I", of who we are. We are still surrounded by our subjective fetters (*fessel*) our upbringing and our environment.



In this painting by Leszek Forczek we see how music can heal and help the soul to feel its powerful spiritual helpers: its guardian angel, protective, inspiring, strengthening Sun forces from Michael, with healing Mercury forces of Raphael above.

William Blake's *Conversion of Paul* and Hilma af Klint's painting: two examples of the soul moved by its Creator Being

