

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 33 – Giving Life to Earth

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 33 relates both to the seventh, undeveloped member of the human being, Spirit Man, with Condition 7, which is "Unite all things in living," and to the first, developed member of the human being, the Physical, with Condition 1 "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." The verse is thus both a finish and a new beginning, a resurrection. Right Habits, 6th step in the 8-fold path also begins.

The soul now begins to devote itself to its surroundings. This characterizes the dawn of the Michaelic age that brings warmth and spirituality, *permeated with essential being.* (Michael Mystery, Letter 2.)

Verse 33 expresses a deep feeling for how isolated and frozen the world would be without *human soul experience* giving life and warmth to the world. To have "conscious experience," thought is required. For the world now to progress —the conscious thinking of human participation is needed.

The creation of the world by the gods is complete. Future world creation/transformation now requires the conscious participation of human beings. Aware that we need Earth for our own evolution, we have some understanding how human soul destiny is united with the destiny of our world. Christ gave us the power to build ourselves and through this we can save Earth, too, from death. We build now on what we have taken in in the summer; and our consciousness and our soul forces create new self-substance (as in Verse 32), —without which Earth would be bereft having no forces to rebuild or transform itself.

So fühle ich erst die Welt,
Die ausser meiner Seele Miterleben
An sich nur frostig leeres Leben
Und ohne Macht sich offenbarend,
In Seelen sich von neuem schaffend,
In sich den Tod nur finden könnte.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



And now I feel the world out there,
Without my soul's engagement
But a frozen, empty waste,
Revealing its own powerlessness;
In souls it springs to life anew,
But in itself it only death could find.

tr. by John Thomson

Especially since the upward development of the consciousness soul within the Age of Michael (beginning 1879) and the Age of Light (1899), there is growing dependence on human beings to bring in new transforming possibilities for Earth. Even now awareness is growing that without human self-renewal, human consciousness *thinking through* our experiences, bringing the warmth of loving participation, Earth on its own could not exist. We are aware also that without the Divine Word, *we* could not exist.

In Line 5 Earth finds "life anew" through human souls, who, "creating self anew", continually bring a "resurrection" for Earth. Alone, without human work on the self, Earth faces 'naught but death.' M



Now first I feel the world,
Which shorn from the experience
of my soul,
As but a frozen empty waste
Devoid of might, unfold itself,
In souls creating self anew,
In self alone, can find but death.

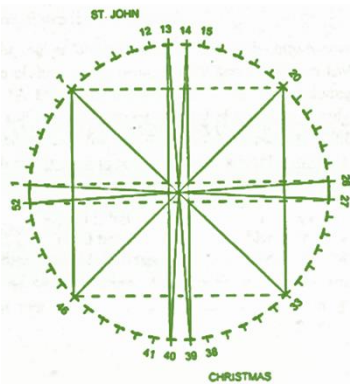
tr. by Daisy Aldan



David Newbatt

Our task, then, is to give love and soul strength—thinking, feeling, willing—to the world. Love in action is creative action -as we experienced in Verse 32. Then *will* lines up with need perceived and the task is addressed without hesitation. *Many times we don't know where our impulses to action come from. Shall*

it be from our higher self, our angel, other higher beings, from the dead, all who look lovingly upon us from the spiritual world? Truly, our higher I shines into us from the spiritual world lending us the desire to understand the love of Christ. And out of love, in joy and union, we too may become creative beings.



You recall that Verse 33 is a "cornerstone verse." (Chart by Karl König) At this point in particular the Self must awaken to its responsibilities for the destiny of "Man and World" and must actively take up the goal of higher self-development. Not to do so would be to fall into Luciferic-Ahrimanic temptations.

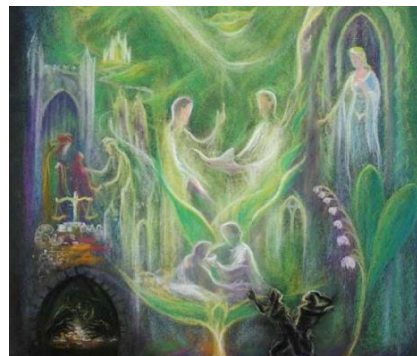
Centered in each of the Calendar's four groups of 13 verses, one cornerstone verse, 7, 20, 33, or 46, is designed to waken us up to a change, to a new step that we must take. There is even the character of warning, a threat of soul death, that lies over us if we fail to make the step. Forming a cross, also a perfect square in the zodiac, the theme of these verses is

totally different from that of the rest of the Calendar. They are the only ones in which "death" has a part. (See cornerstone Verse 20 below)

The number of this week's verse, 33, is a Sun cycle rhythm. Since the Mystery of Golgotha, it is also a Christ rhythm, working in human activity. Calendar verses can be greatly illuminated by finding connections through their rhythms. Adding Calendar rhythm 19, a moon rhythm, to 33, brings us to 52, the verse of Holy Week when Christ "re-made" each day of the week, overcoming (moon) past thinking. On Holy Saturday the sacrifice and love of Christ for us led Him also to descend with healing etheric forces into inner Earth. Rudolf Steiner's *The Interior of the Earth* can help us further understand our part in spiritualizing all of Earth, even the interior.

So now for the first time
I feel the world without me,
empty and bleak and cold,
feeble without the breath
of my participation—unensouled,
by human self-renewal, self-
creation,
assured of naught but death.

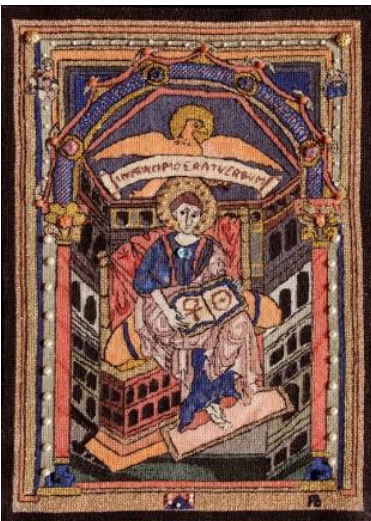
Paraphrase by Owen Barfield



At first I feel the world
revealed as empty frozen life.
When seen without my soul's
participation,
it appears devoid of its own power.
The world finds itself newly created in
human souls
without which it would only find death.

tr. by Dennis Klocek

A study of the constellation of Scorpio and its signs can lead to a further penetration of the verse's connection with resurrection. The verse spans astrological Scorpio (Oct 23 to Nov 21) and sidereal Scorpio (Nov 17 to Dec-16). As the 8th sign of the Zodiac, Scorpio is a sign of great intensity and of extremes as different as are its two symbols, Scorpion and its ancient sign of Eagle.



Astrosopher Willi Sucher sees future Scorpio still with the symbol of the 3 gates of initiation -like an "m", but there is no end sting of death. Instead, the gates of initiation hold an upraised cross of resurrection—new life.† Thus, the new Scorpio will reveal a power of resurrection—as we find in Verse 33. The mystery of death becomes the mystery of resurrection. It is our higher I that the future Scorpio sign foretells with the uplifted cross.

John and Beredene Jocelyn in their book, *Meditations On The Signs Of The Zodiac*, describe the transforming power of *The Gospel of St John* by the disciple who was himself of the sign of Scorpio as the high-flying

eagle. "Every human 'I' is a part of the divine 'I' that encompasses all the wisdom of the universe as it was, is, and shall be. From *The Gospel of St. John* flows to us this eternal wisdom; therefore, this Gospel has in it the **power needed for the continuance of the Earth's existence and further evolution, and the power that every human 'I' needs for the achievement of the transformation of the sting of the Scorpion into the soaring wings of the Eagle.**"

Calendar of the Soul Verses 33 and 20

Where Verse 33 looks to our *conscious* connection to Earth, Verse 20 suggests that we could bring death on our own future development toward spiritual freedom if we don't take up deeply our own spiritual connections. The translation of cornerstone Verse 20 here is by Ruth and Hans Pusch. (Page 3 of the Verse 20 Commentary contains many details about these plain speaking cornerstone verses.)

So fühl ich erst mein Sein,
Das fern vom Welten-Dasein
In sich, sich selbst erlöschen
Und bauend nur auf eignem Grunde
In sich, sich selbst ertöten müsste.

Original by Rudolf Steiner

I feel at last my life's reality
Which, severed from the world's existence
Would in itself obliterate itself
And building only on its own foundation
Would in itself bring death upon itself.

Ruth and Hans Pusch

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

A poem from John and Beredene Jocelyn's book, *Meditations On The Signs Of The Zodiac* in their chapter on the constellation sign of Scorpio.

The Fiercest War That Man Doth Wage

No value have the things of earth
Save as they serve to bring to birth
Within the person of the man
A fruitful knowledge of God's plan.
The fiercest war that man doth wage
Takes place within his earthly cage,
From this he has to free his soul
To bring to birth the Christ, his goal.

All contest comes to Christ the man,
All fiery forces are but fan
To fuse the Spirit with the Earth
Till God's own Son is brought to birth.

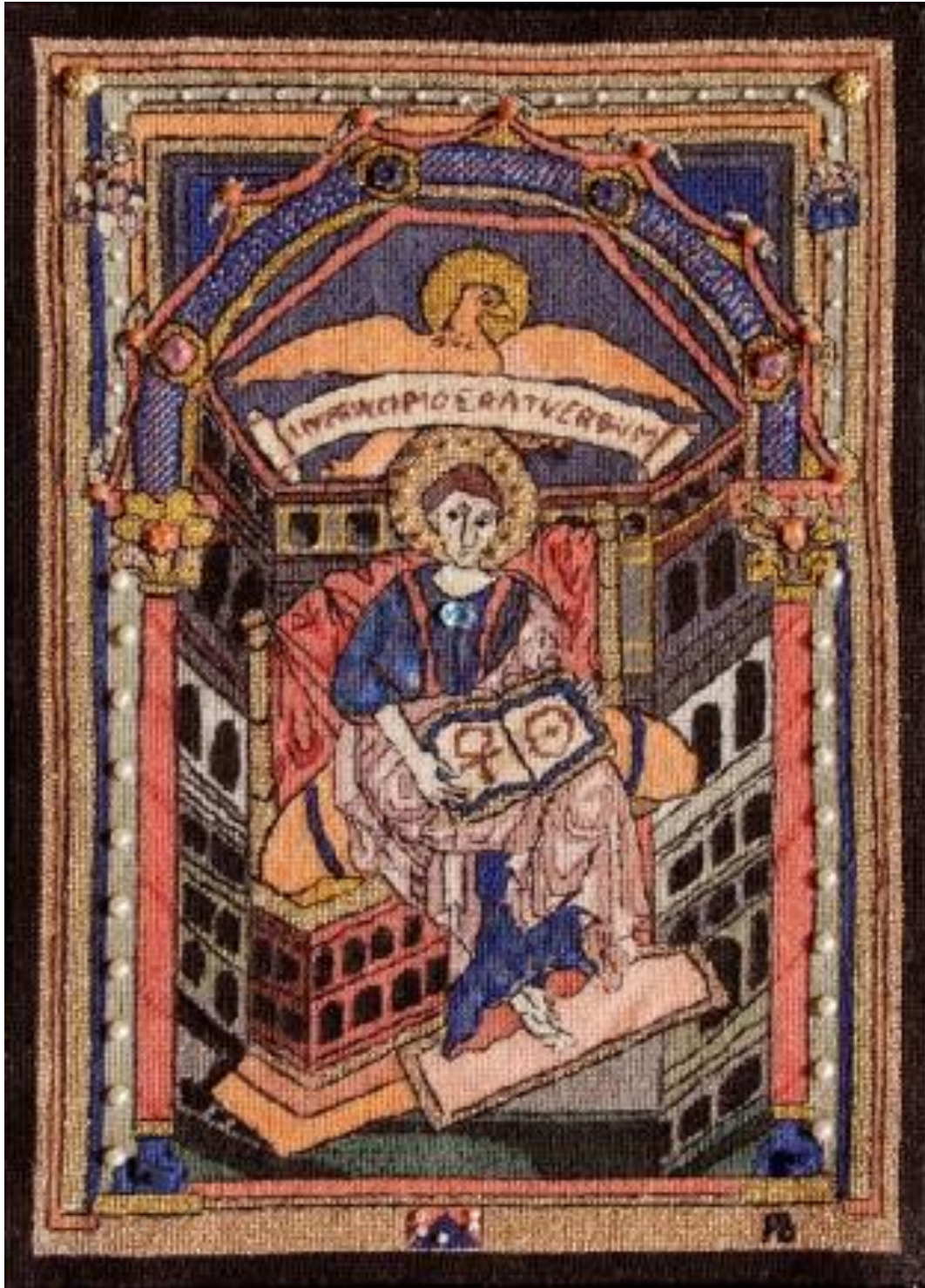
The Lord from heaven builds the flesh,
His Spirit doth it full enmesh,
Then doth his alchemy divine
Transmute the base, the gold refine.

When once we are become of God,
Alive are we to light the clod -
Those souls so sunk by matter stark
Who take the light to be the dark.
These blinded mortals hinder much,
As souls diseased we treat as such,
The Earth today is hampered by
These darkened ones who Christ belie.

No other will but God's be done,
No other race but his we run,
We are not clay but God's own kin,
Only the touch with earth brought sin.

Yet shall the Earth be made pure white
By love and life of Christ, the light;
Our sins although they scarlet be
Are wiped away because of Thee.

Two pictures for contemplation



Anne Beversdorf

See 2nd picture enlarged below.

