With this seventh Autumn Verse 33, mid-way in the third quarter of the Calendar year, a new beginning for the soul is needed —for the sake of Earth and for our development too, our destiny being linked so closely with Earth's.

With joy, our service shall we now more consciously, warmly give!

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*. (RS's *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, warmly given, 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 ic erhst 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

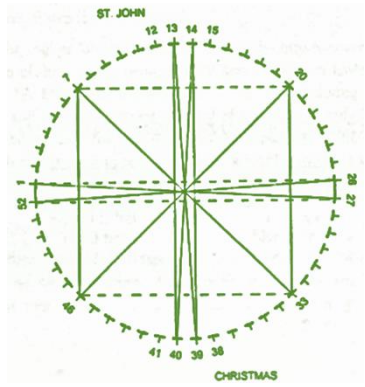
Especially since the upward development of the consciousness soul within the present Age of Michael, human self-awareness is somewhat growing that without conscious *thinking through our actions*, and bringing warmth of loving participation to Earth, Earth on its own could not exist. May there also be awareness 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.'

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 – Inspiring me

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 needs perceived and tasks are addressed without hesitation. And do we wonder where our impulses to act 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 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 the clutches of Luciferic-Ahrimanic forces —and worse.

Centered in each of the Calendar's four groups of 13 verses is one cornerstone verse, 7, 20, 33, or 46, 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 also cornerstone Verse 20 below)

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

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, and 33, brings us to 52, the verse of Holy Week when Christ "re-made" each day of the week, overcoming past (moon) 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.

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. Scorpio in its sign ♏ shows 3 initiation gates.

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, **M***editations 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. Flowing to us from *The Gospel of St. John*, this eternal wisdom brings us the **power needed for continuance of the Earth's existence and its 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

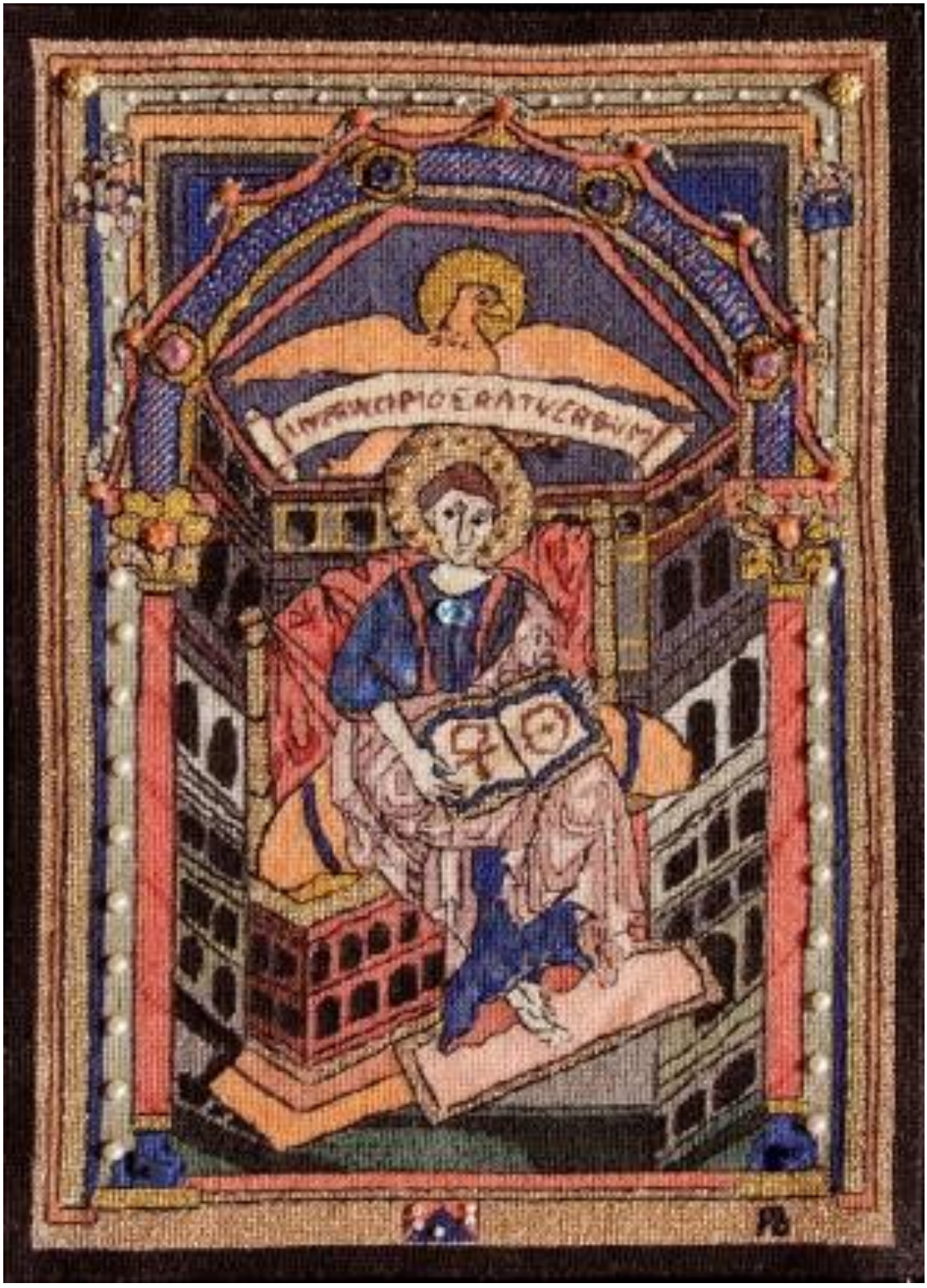
Where Verse 33 looks to our *conscious* connection to Earth, Verse 20 suggests that we could bring death on our own future development toward spiritual freedom if we don't take up deeply our own spiritual connections. The translation of cornerstone Verse 20 here is by Ruth and Hans Pusch. (For reference: Page 3 of Verse 20's "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.

Two pictures for contemplation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