

## Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 35 - Conceive True Being

**Verse 35** relates to the Astral bodily member and to Condition 3 "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as actions."

Astral Verse 35 within this astral third-quarter of the year is the second of only two verses in all the Calendar that asks a question of the Self. The first question, in Verse 18, asks "Can my soul be a fitting garment for the Spirit?" In Verse 35 the question is "Can I recognize or conceive of true being" —that one who shall be director in my soul. We're asking in fact, Can I recognize in the spiritual world itself—the source of truth, that I may be its worthy ally?

Kann ich das Sein erkennen,

Dass es sich wiederfindet

Im Seelenschaffensdrange?

Ich fühle, dass mir Macht verlieh'n,

Das eigne Selbst dem Weltenselbst

Als Glied bescheiden einzuleben.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

Can I conceive true being,

So it may find itself anew

In soul's creative impulse?

I feel that strength is lent to me

To integrate my self as member

Of cosmic Self, with modesty.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

Preparation was made for this inner development in "corresponding" Verse 18 where we had the presentiment to ask if we can find the force within us to form of our soul "a worthy garment for the spirit". —Now, we feel with strength lent from higher beings that we must do so, that this is our task.

We find another picture of this task foretold for us in Verse 17 where the Cosmic Word directed us to "Fill full your spirit depths with my world widths —so in future to find Myself in you" —thus, to find the Cosmic Word in ourselves. Now in this first week of Advent we are preparing—with some knowledge—for the spirit birth within us at Christmas. Verse 36 will take this thought further.

Looking at Line 1 of the verse, we think of our connection to the "bygone treasure" of Verse 34, which we felt as cosmic impulse "reviving our inner life". We feel now that our wish is for this true being to live within us —to inspire with "creative impulse" our thoughts, feelings and deeds. Here we remember that the greatest source of creativity is love. We wish a loving impulse to be our mission, not forgetting that creative love in action must be accompanied by wisdom and soul strength.



Iris Sullivan

Can I so deeply know true being

That it may find itself anew

Within the soul's creative urge?

I feel that I am granted power

To live my own Self's humble part

As member of the Cosmic Self.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



Iris Sullivan

Although the I feels empowered by the question asked and understands that it humbly, modestly belongs to the cosmic community, we sense a need for the I to really look at itself —to know itself. Underlying questions must be contemplated—and asked again. Am I in a position to "so deeply know true being", do I know the laws of the astral body, the etheric body —am I prepared?

Its task, if it would "find itself anew" as in Line 2, the Self, newly awakened and nurtured by heavenly powers, must seek and recognize the essence of True Being.

In Verse 33 with the idea that Earth and Nature would be but “a frozen empty waste” without the consciousness of human beings, we may have contemplated that this could only be true if our capacities and strength do really come to us from higher beings, with the following idea that we must then have “membership” in the cosmic World-organism and World-Self. With our roots in heavenly spheres thankfully sending us strength—and wisdom, we can rightfully create in the realm of Earth.

In both Verses 34 and 35, there is a feeling of shared responsibility for the way the world goes on, and as mentioned above the question arises whether the soul's creating work is really in accord with the intent of the world's creation.

Even as Earth sleeps and daily the darkness comes earlier, we must remain awake. If there is to be life in the world, we must create it. But what or how we are to create is an individualized calling, not only a part of humanity's soul drama as a whole. And it must happen out of individual soul freedom.

Can I cognize true being  
That it is ever present  
In the Soul's creative urge?  
I feel the power is lent to me  
That I may humbly live  
Membered within the cosmic  
Self.

*tr. by John Thomson*



Can I true Being know  
That it may find itself anew  
In urge of soul's creating?  
I feel that power is lent me  
This Self of mine into the Self of  
Worlds  
To live as member humbly.

*tr. by Ernst Lehms*

Of course, if freedom is defined as acting out of one's central-most impulse, that of one's higher self, then the more we can ascertain what that impulse is, the more we can attain to freedom and creative deeds. As Rudolf Steiner has said, the need to “know oneself” must involve *evolving* the self, and we find this need clearly a part of the autumn verses.

We are to waken the sleeping forces within ourselves. Gradually learn to activate spiritual eyes and ears—higher senses in the astral body—so that over time they may be imprinted in the etheric body.

Egotism in our time can be a huge stumbling block to progress. With modesty, humbleness, so essential to our evolving we must become vigilant to overcoming the egotism that would like to hide within us. We remember Rudolf Steiner's warning that as one proceeds to “waken”, faults also emerge unbidden.

We have so much to thank Rudolf Steiner for—in the whole *Calendar of the Soul* as well as in the Christmas Conference he gave us a path by which “human beings may lift themselves beyond their own little selves, and to call us to awaken to the conscious willing of being allowed to become the instrument of the wise *Guidance of the World*.”—Marie Steiner.

## Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verse 18

In Verse 18, translated by Sophia Walsh, we find the soul awake and conscious of its need—its deep wish, to grow in strength to become a worthy ally of the “Cosmic-Seed Word”, to provide proper soil for this seed gift and a proper protective form for it.

Kann ich die Seele weiten,  
Dass sie sich selbst verbindet,  
Empfangnem Welten-Keimesworte?  
Ich ahne, dass ich Kraft muss finden  
Die Seele würdig zu gestalten  
Zum Geisteskleide sich zu bilden.

Can I expand my soul,  
That it unites itself  
To the seed planted by the Cosmic Word?  
I sense that I must find the force  
That shapes the soul in worthy fashion  
To form itself into the garment of the Spirit.

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