Liane Collot d'Herbois

With Verse 35, the First Verse of Advent, for only the second time in the Calendar a question is asked. And an affirmative answer is necessary if the I is to evolve—if True Being will find a home within and the Self become a true cosmic member.

May we wake and in freedom serve creatively!

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

Eloise Krivosheia

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 with new strength lent to me I may be its worthy ally?**

Kann ich das Sein erkennen,
Dass es sich wiederfindet
Im Seelenschaffensdrange?
Ich fühle, dass mir Macht verliehen,
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 felt we must ask if we could find the force within us to form of our soul "a worthy garment for the spirit". — Now, we feel, with strength lent to us from higher beings, that we *can* integrate our being even further.

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" —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 this week's Verse 35, 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 be within us *consciously* —to inspire with "creative impulse" our thoughts, feelings and deeds.

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 a positive answer to the question asked and understands that it humbly, modestly belongs to *cosmic* community, we seem to sense a need for the I really to look at itself – to know itself. Underlying questions can be contemplated—and asked again. Am I in a position to recognize the Christ, not Lucifer. Do I know the laws of the astral body, the etheric body —am I prepared?

For "true being" to "find itself anew" within my creative urge, the Self, newly awakened and nurtured by heavenly powers, must sincerely seek and recognize the *essence* of this 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; and with the following thought that we must *truly* be "members" of 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; with concern always that our soul's creating work must be in accord with the intent of the world's creation. We may ponder in Line 4 the use of the verb "lent". For this power to build up my own self is not originally mine but comes from higher beings. I can thus live as cosmic member —with a humble thankfulness.

Even as Earth sleeps and daily the darkness comes earlier, we are to remain awake, for if there is to be new 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 Lehrs

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

healthy creative deeds. As Rudolf Steiner has said, the need to "know oneself" must bring to the fore *evolving* the self, and we find this need clearly a part of the autumn verses.

Joyfully we can waken sleeping forces within ourselves —and gradually learn to activate spiritual eyes and ears, higher senses in the astral body, over time their intuiting to be imprinted in the etheric body.

Egotism in our time can be a huge stumbling block to progress. But with modesty and humbleness we can become vigilant to overcoming the Luciferic egotism that would like to hide within us. We remember Rudolf Steiner's warning that as one proceeds to "waken", faults also emerge unbidden.

Marie Steiner expressed how much we have to thank Rudolf Steiner for. In the whole Calendar of the Soul as well as through the Christmas Conference he gave us a path by which "we may lift ourselves beyond our own little selves, and to call us to awaken to conscious willing of being allowed to become the instrument of the wise Guidance of the World."

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verse 18

In Verse 18, translated by Daisy Aldan, we find an awakened soul, conscious of its need and deep wish to grow in strength and understanding to become a proper protective form for "Cosmic-Seed Word".

Kann ich die Seele weiten,	Can I expand my soul,
Dass sie sich selbst verbindet	So she allies herself
Empfangnem Welten-Keimesworte?	With cosmic Seed-Word now conceived?
Ich ahne, dass ich Kraft muss finden	I feel that I must find the strength
Die Seele würdig zu gestalten,	To give my soul a worthy form,
Zum Geisteskleide sich zu bilden.	To mold itself as Spirit garment.

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