

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 36 – Spirit Light Within

Verse 36, the Rose Verse, relates to the Ego or "I" and to Condition 4 "Balance the truths you stand for in your soul with an open heart for the needs of the outer world." This is the third week of Advent in the soul's path through the constellation of sidereal Scorpio to reach this year's new step toward our spirit birth—our higher self—at Christmas.

How intently the soul expresses its "divine" desire to hear within itself the Word of Christ! Some translators indicate the urge to revelation comes from within—for we strongly want to hear the Word—and some indicate it is an urge of the Cosmic Word Itself. Perhaps it is both—even as we had the promise in Verse 17 that this Christ Word could "in future" be within ourselves. We sense strongly now that there has to be something more than earthly desires—something higher—awaiting our efforts.

Indeed, the Christ speaks earnestly *within us*—wanting strongly for us to understand that we are to fill our work with His Spirit Light. The thought conveyed is that this would grant us a clearer, more wisdom-filled idea of our goals and our work, and further, that some kind of self-sacrifice is also required.

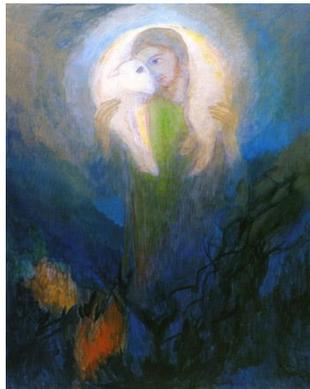
That we can sense this urge to hear the Cosmic Word within us may be called a "mystery." Are we aware of something so sublime that it can be the Cosmic Word communicating within our very being? But what is actually meant by "offering up our self" or "sacrificing our self"?

In meines Wesens Tiefen spricht

Zur Offenbarung drängend
Geheimnisvoll das Weltenwort:

Erfülle deiner Arbeit Ziele
Mit meinem Geisteslichte,
Zu opfern dich durch mich.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



David Newbatt

Now deep within my being speaks,

With urge to revelation,
In mystery, the cosmic Word:
Fulfill the goals of your life's work
With Spirit light from Me,
To offer up yourself through Me.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

When our work is that of fulfilling our highest ideals, we are no longer operating out of the "earthly ego." Even as Christ's love is given to us, our work becomes a higher, selfless desire to give to the world, to others. This level of service means we have left behind—"sacrificed" our lower self—to reach gradually a higher self. We understand *opfern* as "sacrifice", something has to be let go, but it sounds so severe! Yet we know that with each stage of life, e.g., child to adult, we must leave previous ways behind.

As spiritual pupils, similarly we must sacrifice, leaving behind lower earthly desires and egotism. We sacrifice worldly wants in order to serve a higher mission so that we may become true and humble "cosmic partners." Striving each December for ever higher astral stages is our "Advent path"—that path toward the "birth of the higher self," beautifully symbolized by the Nathan / Luke child born at Christmas.



David Newbatt

In the depths of my Being speaks
Toward revelation yearning
Mysteriously the Cosmic Word:
Imbue the goals of your work
With the light of my spirit
To sacrifice yourself through me.

tr. by True Botannica



From the Tassilo Chalice Bavaria c. 780

Of course associating the Nathan Jesus child with the higher self/higher I involves a deep mystery ! From Rudolf Steiner's Gospel lectures we learn that this child came to Earth with no previous incarnations. Unlike all other children, it was born with no developed earthly self, but rather with the higher self with which it had been united in the spiritual world. This fact explains why descriptions of the Luke child tell of the pure love the boy showed to all while apparently lacking any earthly aptitude. (Normally the higher self stays in the spiritual world at birth, raying into a new human child but not incarnating.)

That the Nathan child brought to birth at Christmas his higher self is for me the *symbol* of how each year we may gradually increase our consciousness of bringing to birth our spirit child. More conscious awareness of our experiences during the summer and fall enable us to look forward especially during Advent's greater astral awakening to making further steps in bringing to birth our own spirit child at Christmas. Offering up one's self in loving service to the world is the task for which the Cosmic Word would fill our "life's work with Spirit light from Me."

We experience "the divine wish" to make manifest Christ's love that we took in in Sunshine in summer and know that the Cosmic Spirit in Verse 36 expresses Christ's wish to unite with Man that together we may insure the proper evolution of Man and World.

The verse assumes that we have thought about our life goals and although hindrances may at times cause us to feel helpless, we are not to lose sight of our goals and ideals. Even though Christ's Spirit Light may be physically invisible, we are not to give up, for the last line of Verse 36 suggests an "Air Trial." This is a trial whereby you feel no physical support for what you feel is right for you to do—but you carry on—you "offer up yourself through Me."

Within my being's depths there
speaks,
Its revelation prompting,
Mysteriously the Cosmic Word:
Imbue your labour's aims
With My pure Spirit-light
To sacrifice yourself through Me.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



In the depths of my being,
Full of mystery,
Surging toward revelation,
The Cosmic Word speaks:
"Fulfill the goals of your work
With my spirit light
To sacrifice yourself through me."

tr. by Tom Mellett

The strong connection of the verse with the higher self suggests why it may be called the *Rose Verse*. As Roses are related to five—the number of petals and leaves and rose-hip fruit patterns—so the number five points to our still-developing, fifth human member. This Spirit Self member will contain Man's higher self when fully developed during the Jupiter incarnation of Earth and thus relates to the same capacity for selfless love that angels embrace. For now, we Earth beings are able gradually to transform our lower astral qualities to those of Spirit Self, a beginning development of this higher member.

Another beautiful imagination of the Holy Nights is the glorious upward movement from the Christmas birth of the higher I of Jesus to the birth of the True I at the Baptism of Christ on January 6. (Celebration of this Baptismal date was changed to the Sunday following January 6 by the Pope in 1955.)

The True I relates to Life Spirit, the higher member we can look to the Venus incarnation of Earth to achieve. It will be our sixth member -Spirit Man being the seventh. It is most interesting to see Rudolf Steiner's chart showing this development and relating it to the members of Christ. (See attached excerpt from GA 102 showing Christ's lowest member to be Life Spirit -his highest is Aries.)

This development is seen vividly in the sign of the mighty constellation of Scorpio (siderally Nov 17 to Dec 16) that encompasses most of the Advent season. Once the high flying eagle at Earth's creation, it fell with the Garden of Eden Fall of Man to the level of Scorpion showing its great sting with the Judas kiss and Crucifixion.

But the sign of Scorpio will be transmuted again—as Man is called upon and able to bring about future harmony in the world. It will then become not the eagle but the dove of peace and devotion, signifying the transformed astral body, the higher self's connection to the Holy Spirit in the Parzifal Grail story. It will rise to its highest symbolism.

Scorpio also holds 3 most interesting places in the precession of the equinoxes. Just as Pisces is now the constellation behind the Sun at the Vernal Equinox, March 21, as Aries was at the time of Christ's Baptism, Scorpio was the constellation in this position at the beginning of Earth evolution, then again at Earth's mid-point, half way through Atlantis, and it will be the last constellation when the incarnation of Earth is complete (before going to Jupiter).

Thus, current Scorpio in its untransformed astral nature awaits redemption by the higher self working in Man—even as the Calendar verses take us through Advent on the path of self-knowledge asking us to become purified so that we are prepared at Christmas to meet the pure child, the Nathan genealogical Jesus.

As Jonathan Hilton further describes, *"the true challenge of Advent is to confront our "self" with all that is in need of transformation and prepare the way for the Sun at midnight, the birth of the higher Self at Christmas."* He quotes Sergei Prokofieff who also described the "four weeks of Advent as a path that leads from the ordinary earthly self, or lower self, to the higher self in the Nathan child on December 25". I have attached Jonathan Hilton's whole article on Advent and the Stars as it gives much meaning to these Advent days.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verse 17

In Verse 17, translated by Daisy Aldan, we find the Cosmic Word speaking lovingly and powerfully to us urging us to take His Being into our depths of soul—into our will nature—to find in future His Being in us.

Es spricht das Weltenwort,
Das ich durch Sinnestore,
In Seelengründe durfte führen:

Erfülle deine Geistestiefen
Mit meinen Weltenweiten,
Zu finden einstens mich in dir

Thus speaks the cosmic Word,
Which I through gates of senses
Might lead into the depths of soul:

Fill full your depth of spirit
From out my width of worlds,
To find in future, Me in you.

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