

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

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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 a further 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.

It may be called a "mystery" that we can sense this urge to hear the Cosmic Word within us. Can we be aware of something so sublime, even the Cosmic Word of Christ communicating within our very being? Then what can it be, what is actually meant in the last line "offering up our self," "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. Not a severe goal, for this is what we now **desire**, just as with stages of life, child to adult, e.g., we leave previous ways behind.

Similarly as spiritual pupils, we develop new ways, 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
Yearning toward revelation
Mysteriously the Cosmic Word:
Imbue the goals of your work
With the light of my spirit
To sacrifice yourself through me.

tr. by Ross Rentea MD



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. He brought with him the higher self that normally 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."

In the verse, we experience Christ's divine wish to make manifest His love to us. Recalling how in the Sunshine of summer we took it in, we recognize now that the Cosmic Spirit in Verse 36 expresses Christ's real wish to unite with Man so that together we may insure the proper evolution of Man and World. In Verse 17 below we feel how intimately and lovingly expressed is Christ's wish to be in us.

Verse 36 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 now embrace. Already we Earth beings are able to begin transforming lower astral qualities to those of Spirit Self, leading thus to the development of this higher member.

A 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.

The True I relates to Life Spirit, the higher spirit member we look to the Venus incarnation of Earth to achieve. It will be our sixth member -Spirit Man being the seventh. Rudolf Steiner shows in a chart human development in relation to the constellations and to the members of Christ. (See P.4.)

In the chart, human Spirit Self development is linked with Scorpio, and this development is seen vividly in the sign of the mighty constellation of Scorpio. Once the high flying eagle at Earth's creation, it fell with the 'Garden of Eden's Fall of Man' to the level of a Scorpion, showing its great sting with the Judas kiss and the Crucifixion; pointing also to the death of Man without the Christ.

But the sign of Scorpio will be transmuted again—as human beings are called upon and able to bring about future harmony in the world. It will then become not the eagle, as it was associated with the beloved John disciple, but even the dove of peace and devotion, signifying the transformed astral body, the higher self's connection to the Holy Spirit -as seen in the Parzifal Grail story. Thus in symbolism it will rise from death's sting to harmony and devotion to Christ.

Scorpio also holds three most interesting places in the precession of the equinoxes that reflect its eagle state, its fallen state and its coming dove state. 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's present incarnation, then again at Earth's mid-point, half way through Atlantis, and again at the end of present Earth incarnation it will be the last constellation in this position.

In its untransformed astral nature the Scorpion awaits redemption by our higher self working in us. Significantly, sidereally, Sun enters Scorpio on November 23 just before the start of Advent, thus accompanying the Calendar verses that take us through Advent on the path of self-knowledge, as powerfully these verses urge us to reach higher, 'purifying' our souls, so that we may be prepared at Christmas to meet the pure child, the 'Nathan' Jesus.

We are reminded of this path of reaching higher in Chapter 14 *At the Gates of Spiritual Science* where we learn how logical thinking -not opinions, superficial and emotional, is fundamental to purifying our thinking and our astral nature.

Jonathan Hilton, astrosopher, 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".

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

From: *Influence of Spiritual Beings on Man* - Lecture 2 - Rudolf Steiner 01/27/1908

. . . .there are other beings whose *lowest* sphere of operation is man's *highest*. Let us try to conceive of these beings whose lowest sphere of operation is man's highest (Libra in the Zodiac). When we relate man to the Zodiac, he reaches to Libra. The Being whose innermost nature belongs wholly to the Zodiac, whose forces belong wholly to the Zodiac, who only manifests in planetary life through his lowest member, which corresponds to Libra (as man's lowest member corresponds to Pisces) —this is the Being who spreads life throughout the whole of our universe:

	Aries	12th member	} "Mystical Lamb"
	Taurus	11th member	
	Gemini	10th member	
	Cancer	9th member	
	Leo	8th member	
	Virgo	7th member	
7th Spirit-Man	Libra	6th member	
6th Life-Spirit	Scorpio		
5th Spirit-Self	Sagittarius		
4th Ego	Capricorn		
3rd Astral Body	Aquarius		
2nd Etheric Body	Pisces		
1st Physical Body			

Just as man receives life into himself, so does this Being radiate life through the whole of our universe. This is the Being Who has the power to make the great sacrifice and Who is inscribed in the Zodiac as the Being Who for the sake of our world offers Himself in sacrifice. Just as man strives upwards into the Zodiac, so does this Being send us His sacrificial gift from Aries —which is related to Him as Libra is related to man. And just as man turns his ego upwards to Libra, so does this Being radiate His very Self over our sphere in sacrifice.

This Being is called the "Mystical Lamb," for Lamb and Aries are the same; therefore the description 'Sacrificial Lamb' or 'Ram' is given to Christ. Christ belongs to the cosmos as a whole. His I, his Ego, reaches to Aries and thus He becomes Himself the "Great Sacrifice;" is related with the whole of mankind and in a certain sense the beings and forces present on the earth are His creations. The configuration of forces is such that He could become the Creator of these beings in the constellation of Aries, or the Lamb. The designation "Sacrificial Lamb" or "Mystical Lamb" is drawn from the heavens themselves.

This is one of the aspects revealed to us when from our circumscribed existence we look up into the heavens and perceive the interworking of heavenly forces and beings in cosmic space. Gradually we begin to realize that the forces streaming from heavenly body to heavenly body are akin to those forces which stream from one human soul to another as love and hate. We perceive soul-forces streaming from star to star and learn to recognize the heavenly script which records for us what is wrought and effected by those forces in cosmic space.