

## Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 38 – Birth of Spirit Child

**Verse 38** relates to the Life Spirit, as yet undeveloped spiritual member of the human being, and to Condition 6, "Feel Gratitude for everything that falls to your lot."

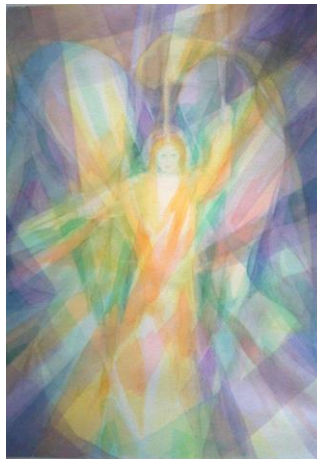
Our challenge during Advent has been to meet our earthly self with the transformative forces of the Light, the true light of the Sun so that we may be prepared for the ever renewing birth of the higher Self at Christmas, that Self first born in the Nathan child of the Luke gospel. In Christmas week the miracle is to be accomplished.

In Verse 38 we meet what may be surprising, that our thoughts, our Spirit Child has been enchanted but is now freed. And Hope, now fruitful, in corresponding Verse 15 could only "lame" because our higher thinking, our higher Self, lay "enchanted" in the dreaminess of summer. It had not yet awakened, the self had not yet earned through its own efforts the needed maturing transformation.

Yet, as we felt summer's radiance and warmth of heart, conception for heaven's fruit of hope had truly occurred, and in time to come, when all had been prepared in womb of soul, there would be a renewed birth of our higher self, our spirit child.

Ich fuehle wie entzaubert  
Das Geisteskind im Seelenschoss;  
Es hat in Herzenshelligkeit  
Gezeugt das heilige Weltenwort  
Der Hoffnung Himmelsfrucht,  
Die jubelnd waechst in  
Weltenfernen  
Aus meines Wesens Gottesgrund..

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Iris Sullivan My Higher Self

I feel the Spirit Child  
Set free from spell in womb of soul;  
The holy cosmic Word conceived  
In clarity of heart  
The heaven-fruit of hope,  
Which joyous grows toward farthest  
worlds  
Out of my being's godly ground.

tr. by Daisy Aldan

After meeting the transforming challenges of Advent, our thinking has been lifted to higher clarity, and we have earned the right of hope for "heaven's fruit," which now awakened from its summer enchantment, can grow, rejoicing into farthest worlds. The awakened soul, archetypal Madonna, is able to give birth to the higher self. The last line, "out of my being's godly ground", seems to indicate that we can be freed during this holy season from the worldly lures and traps of Lucifer, Ahriman and their minions. However, we need to be wakeful, to stand by our highest thinking with Christ.



Iris Sullivan

I feel, free of enchantment,  
The spirit child in my soul's core;  
In heart-high gladness has  
The holy cosmic Word engendered  
The heavenly fruit of hope,  
Which grows rejoicing into  
farthest worlds  
Out of my being's godly roots.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



Iris Sullivan

We have prepared during these 4 weeks of Advent to heighten our Christmas awareness, our experience

of that higher self that we can call our "Spirit Child". Summer's experience of imaginative, somewhat dreaming life enabled the soul to feel a higher degree of cosmic reality and the I felt the weaving of the spirit enchanted in a beautiful world. The breathing out of the Earth during summer allowed the spirit *conception* to take place in the soul of the spheres. That conception has now matured in the human womb, can be birthed at Christmas, and lives in our heart, ever to be renewed.

Patsy Scala sees the heavenly fruition of our hope as the deepest truth of our being. "It is the power that can change the world, and extends to the farthest reaches of the cosmos." We are "to hold in our minds and in our hearts the truth that this spirit child in the soul's womb is always within us and always ready to be birthed in every moment."

H.D. van Goudoever sees the human soul as the Madonna who bears for each person one's own spirit fruit, and says, "In the consciousness soul, the birth of the 'I' becomes a common concern for all humanity. In the new phase of Christianity, each soul is called upon to become a Madonna." He continues:

"As at physical birth when the soul awakens to the physical world, so at the spirit birth, *the soul awakens in the spiritual world*. Christmas is a birth festival in the sense that each year around this time a birth of spirit takes place anew, the birth of the new Adam—the Adam with the higher self, the Spirit Child."

And so we hear the sound of golden music, which begins on Christmas Eve—for the Shepherds continue to sing every year, and our hearts are filled with a great gratitude.

As if freed from enchantment, I  
feel  
The spirit child in the soul's womb—  
In the brightness of the heart  
The holy Word of Worlds has  
produced hope's heavenly fruit—  
which, from the divine ground of my  
being,  
grows rejoicing into the farthest  
worlds.

tr. by Christopher Bamford



I feel, as free from all enchantment,  
The Spirit's Child within the womb of  
soul;  
The holy cosmic Word has borne  
In the radiance of the heart  
The heavenly fruit of hope  
Whose joy goes out to farthest  
worlds  
From the Godhead's ground of my  
being.

tr. by John B Thomson

## Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 15 and 38

In July, Verse 15, Daisy Aldan translation, we see how the I felt itself "enchanted" in worldly glory, and in feeling enfolded by the spirit's weaving in all the beauties and colors of the earth, it felt strength. The verses of the Calendar from 5 to 20 relate closely to the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke. Luke 1:45 says of Mary, "And blessed is she that believed: for there shall be a performance of those things which were told her from the Lord." When spiritual connections are seen and "believed", then strength is given from the spiritual world. Indeed, spirit strength will be born anew every Christmas.

Ich fühle wie verzaubert  
Im Weltenschein des Geistes Weben:  
Es hat in Sinnesdumpfheit  
Gehüllt mein Eigenwesen,  
Zu schenken mir die Kraft:  
Die, ohnmächtig sich selbst zu geben,  
Mein Ich in seinen Schranken ist.

I feel as if enchanted  
In worldly glory, Spirit's weaving:  
It has, in senses' darkness  
Enfolded my own being,  
So it might grant me strength:  
Which, powerless to give myself  
My I" is in its narrow bounds.

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

