

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 39: The Golden Verse

Verse 39 relates to Spirit Man or Spirit Human, as yet our highest undeveloped spirit member, and to Condition 7, Intuition, "Unite all previous Conditions in our Living."

As at a physical birth, the soul awakens in the physical world, so in spirit birth our soul awakens each Christmas in the spiritual world. Now at New Year's the sound of the shepherds' golden music has reached its peak and will ebb away. But in the three verses after Christmas, the Three Kings present themselves; first the Golden King in Verse 39, then the Kings of Silver and Bronze, each with his gift: a new thinking, feeling and willing.

During Summer and Autumn our forces were reorganizing our astral body, preparing us for a spiritual birth, a Spirit Revelation, at Christmas. Devoted surrender to the thoughts of the divine (the gold), gives us the power to gain cosmic meaning, that is, thinking in a creative way, about our own being.

Higher, not intellectual, but imaginative thinking is now able to reveal to us a clearer sense of Self. With this new kind of knowledge about the Self we will be more able to bring love into our actions as we move through Verses 40 and 41. At this time of year Heaven and Earth are in special union.

An Geisteoffenbarung hingegeben
Gewinne ich des Weltenwesens Licht.

Gedankenkraft, sie wächst

Sich klärend mir mich selbst zu
gegen,

Und weckend löst sich mir

Aus Denkermacht das
Selbstgefühl

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Devoted to the Spirit's revelation

I gain the Light of Cosmic Being.

Thought power grows

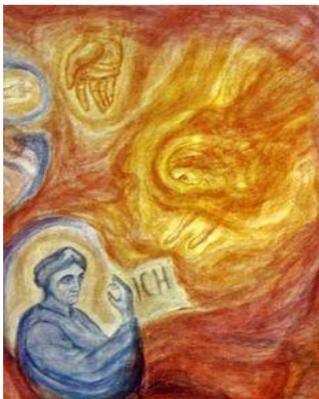
And clarifies to give my Self to
me,

And wakening comes forth

From thinker's might my Sense of
Self.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

How beautifully Rudolf Steiner's Gospel of St John, in each lecture seems to reveal and illuminate Verse 39! In lecture two we're asked if from our inner being we can look into ourselves and see the Divine? "The Light of Cosmic Being" brings us this power. Without this perception of the divinity in man, the focus on our self would appear dark and empty, even as the world in mid-winter may appear to ordinary perception.



Rudolf Steiner Smaller cupola

I give myself to the Spirit's
revelation
And gain the light of cosmic Being;
The power of thought grows strong
and clear
And gives my own true self to me;
By thinking's power the sense of self
Awakens and is freed.

tr. by John Thomson



David Newbatt

Surrendering to Spirit revelation in order to awaken true self-awareness, is not a giving up . It is an act of will in which we give our small self over to the spirit in full trust. This trust opens us to

the Christ Light and guidance in every step we need to take in order to live in this Light and shine it into our world.

This "thinking" verse emphasizes our need for the power of thinking to understand esoteric concepts, but then something more is needed; the power of the Christ, the love of the good and true, what the Spirit reveals to us. The soul must leave earthly thinking for what is revealed by the Spirit. Rudolf Steiner's lecture six of the Hamburg John gospel speaks of strength for our soul effort coming to us from the Christ, who will enable us to have a consciousness of the Spirit of Higher Self "by the force of our own inner being." Thus, the ego always has work to do!

But memory plays a big part and will do so in the verses to come. Our devoted surrender to the thought of the divine has given us a new power of thinking by which we may find more meaning in the verses from now to Easter. The ego is given special capacity now to remember and to reflect on what has been experienced. Astral pictures rise and pass away; but the ego uses etheric forces to remember and memory can be strengthened. From Christmas on, we can begin to waken up this faculty—for new purposes.

Surrendered to the Spirit revelation,
I gain the light of cosmic essence.
The strength of thinking grows and
And clarifying, grants me to myself:
And waking, frees itself
From force of thinking, Self-
awareness.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



Devoted to the Spirit's revelation
World-being's light I gain;
Thought power grows in clarity
To give my Self to me;
And wakening from thinker's might
Feeling of Self is freed.

tr. by William Mann

Lecture 6 of the John gospel even brings out the necessity that we understand (remember) our past as far back as Saturn, Sun and Moon stages of Earth as Christ explains to Nicodemus that in future "except a man be born of water and air he cannot enter the kingdom of Heaven." Future man, "must bear within him the consciousness that if he wishes to unite himself again consciously with the gods, his true existence will be in those regions from which he has sprung. He has become condensed out of water and air and he will again become diffused into them. He can only spiritually anticipate this condition today by gaining within his inner nature a consciousness of the future state of his physical body. Only by becoming conscious of it today, however, will he gain the power to do so. When we have acquired this consciousness, our earthly goal will have been reached, our earthly mission attained.

"Man will come again to a consciousness of the spirit through the force of the Christ Who appeared upon the earth. He will not only perceive in his physical environment with physical senses, but by means of the force of his own inner being of which he is now unconscious, a consciousness of his divine existence will flash up within him."

Thus, we need to make ourselves conscious of what did happen in world evolution and in our own lives and what will happen. We can only do this by surrendering our thinking to the Creative Spirit. We are in the Consciousness Soul Age, so an understanding of the nature of the cosmos can come to us.

First we need the power of thinking to reach higher understandings of the human I, and we do indeed need to purify lower aspects of the sentient soul for the development of spiritual organs of perception, but then the thinker's might must give way to spiritual perceptions in order to bring to birth true self awareness. From now on we can pay more attention to our inspirations and intuitions.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 14 and 39

In July, Verse 14, Ruth and Hans Pusch's translation, we see not "Surrendered to the spirit's revelation," but "Surrendering to senses' revelation." How weak the soul appears in the whole verse—without guidance and leadership—it's Self even is missing—the World has taken possession of man. Much awakening and ego strengthening has occurred between Verse 14 and Verse 39!

An Sinnesoffenbarung hingegeben	Surrendering to senses' revelation
Verlor ich Eigenwesens Trieb,	I lost the drive of my own being,
Gedankentraum, er schien	And dreamlike thinking seemed
Betäubend mir das Selbst zu rauben,	To daze and rob me of my Self.
Doch weckend nahet schon	Yet quickening there draws near
Im Sinnenschein mir Weltendenken.	In sense appearance cosmic thinking.

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

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St.John's> 12-13
           9      14<- (polar verse)
           6      19
           3      23
Easter-----> 1-26 <--- Michaelmas
           27 - 52
           29      49
           32      45
           34      42
Christmas-> 38-39 <---(this week's verse)
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