

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

Eloise Krivosheia

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 when the soul awakens in the physical world, so in spirit birth our soul awakens each Christmas in the spiritual world. Soon at New Year's when the sound of the shepherds' golden music will have reached its peak and ebbs away, three new gifts are presented. We hear these in the three verses after Christmas as imaginatively the Three Kings present themselves: first the Golden King in Verse 39, then the Kings of Silver and Bronze in 40 and 41, each with his gift, in all, a new thinking, a new feeling, a new willing.

During Summer and Autumn our forces were reorganizing our astral body, preparing us for a spiritual birth, a Spirit Revelation at Christmas. A devoted surrender to thoughts of the divine (the gold) gives us the power to gain individual "cosmic meaning" —to think creatively about our cosmic 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 Geistesoffenbarung hingegeben
Gewinne ich des Weltenwesens Licht.
Gedankenkraft, sie wächst
Sich klärend mir mich selbst zu
geben,
Und weckend löst sich mir
Aus Denkermacht das
Selbstgefühl.

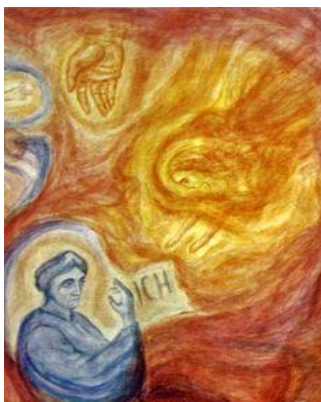
original German by Rudolf Steiner



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

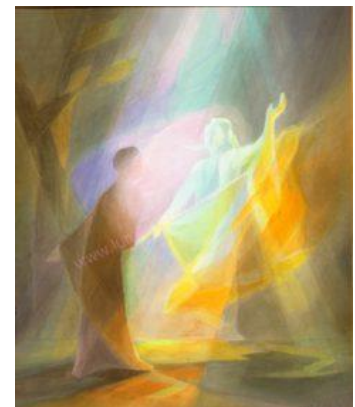
How beautifully Rudolf Steiner's *Gospel of St John*, in each lecture seems to reveal and illuminate Verse 39! In lecture two we are asked if from our inner being we can look into ourselves and see the Divine? The "Light of Cosmic Being" brings us this power. Without this perception of the divinity in the human being, 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. This is the power of Christ, love of the good and the true, what the Spirit reveals to us. Rudolf Steiner's lecture six of the Hamburg cycle of St John lectures speaks of strength for our soul effort coming to us from the Christ, Who will enable us "by the forces of our own inner being" to have a consciousness of the Spirit of our Higher Self. With Christ given strength and its own true efforts, the soul can fulfill its need to gain knowledge of the Spirit.

But memory is vital and will play a significant part in the verses to come. Our devoted surrender to the thoughts of the divine has given us a new power of thinking by which in the verses from now to Easter we can find even greater meaning. The ego now is given a special capacity 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 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 waking from thinker's might
Feeling of Self is freed.
tr. by William Mann

Quite astonishingly, Lecture 6 of the John Gospel Hamburg lectures, even brings out the necessity that we understand, "remember," our past as far back as Saturn, Sun and Moon stages of Earth even 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, Rudolf Steiner reveals in stunning words, "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 spiritually into them. He can only anticipate this condition today by gaining within his inner nature a consciousness of the *future* state of his physical body. Only by becoming conscious today that he will have this future state will he gain the power to attain it."

From the same lecture: [The human being] "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."

You may have been surprised in Lecture 1 of the *World History* lectures given by Rudolf Steiner in the evenings of the Christmas Conference how much he talked about memory and the three kinds going back to "old cosmic memory" and then of a new memory to come called "Spirit-Memory." We see this memory connection to the first stanza of *The Foundation Stone Mantra*, to "Practice Spirit-recollection In depths of Soul, Where in the wielding World-Creator-Life Thine own I Comes to being Within the I of God. Then in the All-World-Being of Man Thou wilt truly *live*."

How beautifully, then, Verse 39 connects to the John gospel lectures, to the *World History* lectures and to the great *Foundation Stone of Love*.

Today we can work to make ourselves conscious of what did happen in world evolution and in our own lives and what is to happen. By surrendering our thinking to the Creative Spirit we can do this. We are in the Consciousness Soul Age so with our devotion an understanding of the nature of the cosmos can come to us.

We do indeed need the power of thinking to reach higher understandings of the human I, and we need to purify lower aspects of the 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 in the verses 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" as in this week's verse, but "Surrendering to senses' revelation." How weak the soul appears in the whole verse—without guidance and leadership—its 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
Verlor ich Eigenwesens Trieb,
Gedankentraum, er schien
Betäubend mir das Selbst zu rauben,
Doch weckend nahet schon
Im Sinnenschein mir Weltendenken.

Surrendering to senses' revelation
I lost the drive of my own being,
And dreamlike thinking seemed
To daze and rob me of my Self.
Yet quickening there draws near
In sense appearance cosmic thinking.

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