

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 40: The Silver Verse- Feeling

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 40 relates to the Physical member of the Human Being, and to Condition 1, "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." If the *Calendar of the Soul* is to be experienced as a path to initiation, the essential thing, as H.D. van Goudoever notes, is to feel the growing intensity in the verses, with each of the four seasons corresponding to a higher level of consciousness.

Verse 40 begins the fourth quarter of the Calendar, Verses 40 to 52. This quarter relates strongly to the fourth principle of man, the Ego. After the birth of the spirit child, we feel a new life beginning. Unlike the Autumn verses pointing back to Summer, the Winter verses now point forward to the coming Spring. We have a new sense of self like a chalice, created by the force of thinking; becoming the bearer of the highest forces of the spirit. (See Lecture 12, of the Hamburg John Gospel)

Und bin ich in den Geistestiefen,
Erfüllt in meinen Seelengründen

Aus Herzens Liebewelten

Der Eigenheiten leerer Wahn

Sich mit des Weltenwortes
Feuerkraft

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

And when I am in spirit depths,
Then in my soul's deep grounds,
Out of the heart's own worlds of Love,
The vain delusions of my separate self
Are filled with fiery force of Cosmic
Word.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack

We feel that our awakened sense of self needs to be filled with the "fiery force of the Cosmic Word," the Christ power, or it would be nothing but "a vain illusion of selfhood" —separate, self-centered, empty. "Vain delusions of self" are just the medium in which Lucifer and Ahriman work most successfully. Thus, in this "silver," "feeling" verse, all such vain delusions must be filled out of the heart's own "worlds of love," love for the cosmic Word.

The German (*Feuerkraft* - fire power) feels wonderful in its sounding! I fill myself (the very ground of my soul) with the fiery strength, the fire-will of the Cosmic Word. Only the Christ filled Ego can turn wisdom into pure love. In our hearts we are to bring the fire power from Christ to a new level of love. There in our hearts lives all the power of becoming—that is, love's power. We may enjoy the simple but moving words of love in Christina Rossetti's lyrics to the Christmas song, "In the Bleak Midwinter," which finishes with the repeated words, "What can I give Him, Poor as I am?"



Ernesto Genoni

And when I am in spirit deeps,
Then in the very soil of soul
From heart's own worlds of love,
The vain delusions of my self
Are filled with ardor of the cosmic
Word.

tr. by Daisy Aldan



...If I were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can, I give Him, —Give my heart."

As we know, the mission of Earth is Love; yet the word itself appears this week for the first time in the Calendar, and then twice more only in Verses 41 and 48. In our awakened hearts the deep feelings of our soul must be active now with the power of love. Shall we be aware in our relationships to the world this year of how the powers of Love can work like "transformative white magic?"

Yes, the ability of even self transformation will be a new faculty in the evolution of Christianity. But for this, the sacrifice of the delusions we have of our self-bound nature, the subjective and inaccurate views of one's soul, is needed, for only through this sacrifice, can the soul awake in the spirit world and live there. The developing "I" must be on the lookout for temptations from Lucifer or Ahriman and with the fire of love overcome them.

The verse makes clear that the cosmic Word, the creative force in the universe, is love.

Higher faculties of cognition are also needed. H.D. van Goudoever offers, "Because our faculty of imagination (Summertime) has a subjective basis, it has no importance as yet for the cosmos. The higher faculties of inspiration (Autumn) and intuition (Winter) not only have cosmic importance but also carry cosmic responsibility." (van Goudoever, H.D., *A Contemplation About Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul*.)

When I am in the depths of
spirit
Then in my inmost soul,
From the heart's unbounded love
The vain emptiness of narrow
self is filled
With the fire of the cosmic
Word

tr. by John Thomson



And when I live in spirit depths
And dwell within my soul's
foundations,
There streams from love-worlds
of the heart,
To fill the vain delusion of the
self,
The fiery power of the cosmic
Word.

tr. Ruth and Hans Pusch

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 13 and 40

In this last verse of the Calendar's first quarter, Verse 13, Daisy Aldan's translation, we see not "And when I am in spirit deeps," but "And when I am in senses' heights." Here, the soul looks into the future and sees the being she wants to become —knows even the high goal of the gods, which is that in future, man, as a spiritually evolving being will have spirit kinship —indeed, will be called upon to become a hierarchical being!

Und bin ich in den Sinneshöhen,
So flammt in meinen Seelentiefen
Aus Geistes Feuerwelten
Der Götter Wahrheitswort:
In Geistesgründen suche ahnend
Dich geistverwandt zu finden.

And when I am in senses' heights
There flames within my depth of soul
From Spirit fire-worlds,
The Word-of-Truth of gods:
In grounds of Spirit, seek divining
To find your Spirit kinship.

Through meditating the Calendar as it relates to our soul and our relationship to the world, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.