

## 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 of 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. Created by the force of thinking, we have a new sense of self like a chalice 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 of love, or it would be nothing but "a vain illusion of selfhood" —separate, self-centered, empty. Vain delusions of self grandeur 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 Cosmic Christ.

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 my Christ filled Ego can turn thoughts into pure love. In my heart I am to bring the fire power from Christ to a new level of love. There in my heart lives love's power —the power of becoming. We appreciate 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? . . .If I



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



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

As we know, along with freedom the mission of Earth is Love; yet the word itself appears this week for the first time in the Calendar. 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. In our relationships this year shall we be aware 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 delusion of one's overly self-important, self-bounded nature is needed, for only through this sacrifice can the soul in humility, love and a \*developing quality of self-discipline awake in the spirit world and live there. (\*GA 155 Lecture May 30, 1912)

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." (*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 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, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.**

Note: The "Conditions" mentioned each week in these commentaries come from Rudolf Steiner's *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, Chapter 5, where he gives a series of seven conditions to be met by the student entering esoteric training as essential to the education of the inner life. He states "None require complete perfection as this is not possible . . .we need only to strive toward that goal. . .It is our attitude and will to begin that are important."