

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

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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 our fourth principle, the "I". 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. Imagine one's new self like a chalice becoming the bearer of the highest forces of the spirit. (Lecture 12 Hamburg John Gospel speaks more of this.)

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

In this "silver," "feeling" verse, egotistic delusions that would detract one from love for others have no place in the awakened sense of self. There can be no separate, self-centered coldness or delusions of self grandeur —which is the medium in which Lucifer especially works most successfully. When deep in spirit, in grounds of soul, the I experiences loving, heart-felt forces that reach the source, the fiery Cosmic Word, to fill full what otherwise could become "vain delusions of the separate self".

Through it's very sounding, in the last line the word *Feuerkraft* reveals the Cosmic Word's **fire power** that can fill the delusionary barrenness of egotistic feelings! In the very ground of the soul, feeling the fiery strength, the fire-will of the Cosmic Word, the Christ filled Ego can turn thoughts toward pure love. There in the heart, love's creative power lives with new consciousness. We hear it in the simple but moving words 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 were a wise man, I would do my part. Yet what I can, I give Him, —Give my heart."



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



We are truly blessed to have in Lecture 10 of his Matthew Gospel, Rudolf Steiner showing with such heart felt care how because Christ incarnated in man and is within Earth now, His magical love and Cosmic nourishment could flow into His disciples and into us as could never before have happened.

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 again only in Verses 41 and 48. In our awakened self the deep feelings of our soul must be active now with the power of Love. We ask, 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 *self-transformation* will be a new faculty in the evolution of Christianity. And for this, the sacrifice of the delusion of one's overly self-important, self-bounded nature is needed. 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)

Also needed are higher faculties of cognition. H.D. van Goudoever offers, "Because our faculty of imagination (in 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 importance for the cosmos but carry cosmic responsibility." (from *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 Verse 13, the last verse of the Calendar's first quarter, 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 it wants to become —it senses even the high goal of the gods, which is that in future, the human being, 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 in these commentaries come from Rudolf Steiner's *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, Ch. 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."