

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 41: The Bronze Verse- Willing

Eloise Krivosheia

Verse 41 relates to the Etheric member of the Human Being, to Condition 2, "Feel ourselves to be a part of the whole of life." The Calendar has 8 series of 7 verses each, relating to the qualities of the steps in the 8-fold path. Verses 40-46, relating to "Right Mindfulness," comprise the seventh in the series. In such a series, later steps are dependent on their corresponding previous steps. Thus, Eight-fold step two, Right Judgment, can develop to become Right mindfulness in step seven. The present must build on the past.

The godly forces, the fire-will —I in the will, is now in the very ground of my soul. The soul's creative power, love, is striving—out of the ground of its heart—to kindle godly forces for righteous acts in human life. It wants to mold, reshape, both itself and its deeds in the image of Christ.

The consciousness soul works out into the world to transform and heal it *creatively*. Its human love is a spiritual power—not just a faculty, or an attitude. The power of this creative love is "white magic," -we remember the three magi gave their devotional gifts of love to the new born Jesus. In the future, when the power of Christ is deeply effective in him, man will do rightful deeds through this magic, through love, intuitively. When done out of pure love, one's deeds do well for the world.

Der Seele Schaffensmacht,
Sie strebet aus dem
Herzengrunde,
Im Menschenleben Götterkräfte
Zu rechtem Wirken zu entflammen,
Sich selber zu gestalten
In Menschenliebe und im
Menschenwerke.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

The soul's creative might
Strives outward from the heart's own
core
To kindle and inflame god-given
powers
In human life to right activity;
The soul thus shapes itself
In human loving and in human working.

tr. By Ruth and Hans Pusch.

We're striving to kindle the "fiery force of the Cosmic Word to fill our deeds of human loving and working," bringing the fire power from Christ to a new active level of love for "right activity." This is the time to show our love, show its power of transforming relationships—even of the world, out of the heart's new, high sense of responsible creativity.



..... The good Samaritan

Creative powers of the soul
Strive from the heart's deep ground
That all the God-given powers in life
Ignite for rightful deeds,
Shaping the soul
In love and labour for humanity.

tr. by John Thomson



Love each other as I have loved you

"If we are grounded in Christ, we bear within us the pattern of a true social order, in that the various forces of our inward nature are brought into harmony." Ephesians by Stanley Drake. P. 44.

As we already felt last week we can sense the growing intensity in the verses, raising our consciousness, especially now in this Ego-quarter of the year.

It may seem odd that in the Calendar Rudolf Steiner uses the word *heart* in only 7 verses. The winter verses beginning with Christmas and onward are centered in the heart, and the word *heart* is used—"with the most varied shades of meaning and context", Karl König notes, "each time revealing a new aspect of its being and an unexpected picture of its activity and its life."

Verse 37 first draws us toward the desire of the heart which longs to carry spirit-light into the dark Night of Winter;

In Verse 38, we feel the heart's clear radiance out of which the Cosmic Word is born. Skipping a verse, in Verse 40, we are aware of the heart's "worlds of love" where the fiery power of the Word brings forth new life.

In this week's verse, 41, striving out of the very ground of the heart, the creative power of the Soul itself arises. Divine forces flame up as "right action," so that **the Soul itself may be shaped through human love and human deeds.**

In 42 the soul feels an inner premonition of senses' revelation "through warmth of heart."

In 43 "Through the heart's force it gives to the world's 'show and seeming' the mighty gift of *being*"; five verses further on in "48, cosmic light awakens love within man's heart.

The soul's creative might,
It strives from deepest grounds
of heart
To set aflame for rightful doing
Forces divine in human life,
Shaping itself thereby
In human love and human work.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



Irma Stropeni

The soul's creative power
Out of the core of heart is striving
To kindle in the human life
For righteous acts, the godly forces,
So it may mold itself
In human love and also human deeds.

tr. Daisy Aldan

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 12 and 41

In this next to last verse of the Calendar's first quarter, Verse 12, Daisy Aldan's translation, we see not "The soul's creative might strives from deepest grounds of heart," but "The beautiful luster of the world compels me from the depth of soul."

Whereas Verses 38-41 take us into the depths of winter, of the spirit, their corresponding Verses 12-15 take us into the heights of summer, of nature.

Der Welten Schönheitsglanz,
Er zwinget mich aus Seelentiefen
Des Eigenlebens Götterkräfte
Zum Weltenfluge zu entbinden,
Mich selber zu verlassen,
Vertrauend nur mich suchend
In Weltenlicht und Weltenwärme.

The beautiful luster of the world
Compels me from the depth of soul
That I release to cosmic flight
The godly forces of my own life:
To leave myself below,
And trusting, seek myself
In cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

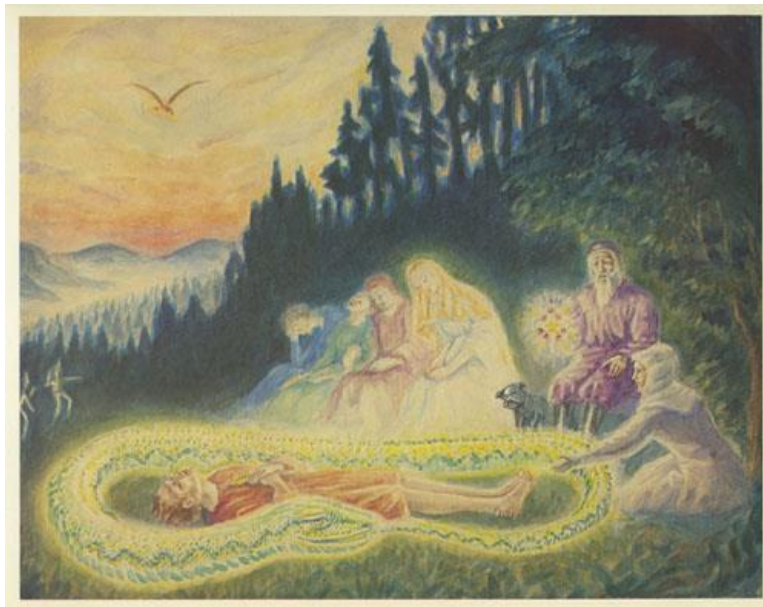
Lemniscate Calendar from Tom Mellett

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St.John's -----> 12-13<----- (polar verse)
                   9    15
                   6    19
                   3    23
Easter-----> 1-26 <----- Michaelmas
                   27 - 52
                   29   49
                   32   45
                   34   41<----- (this week's verse)
Christmas-----> 38-39
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Through meditating the Calendar, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.

A dear friend used often to remind me of a most comforting teaching of Christ in Matt 10: 29-31. Perhaps it may also be a simple but powerful imagination for us in relation to our fellow human beings. Christ is giving the disciples a look at God's world and how they may feel loved and valued in it. He tells them regarding one apparently nearly valueless little creature, "not one sparrow falls to the ground but that the Father knows it." He says, "So have no fear. You are worth more than many sparrows." Thus, in Verse 41, we find our soul, "May mold itself in human love and human deeds."

We may be reminded, too, of loving care for another in Goethe's story of the Green Snake and the beautiful lily.



The Selfless Sacrifice of the Green Snake Protecting the Young Man and later in utter sacrifice building a bridge for people to again freely reach the spiritual world gave transforming gifts to the souls of the group and the whole community. From Goethe's *The Green Snake and the Beautiful Lily*.