

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

Eloise Krivosheia

In 1912 Rudolf Steiner gave us the Calendar of the Soul as a dynamic pathway to self-knowledge and spiritual awakening. Because Easter is truly a moving festival, the number of weeks between Christmas and Easter varies. This year in order to arrive at a rather early date for Easter, March 31, with Verse 1, we will need to double up two verses before Easter and after Whitsun on May 19, we'll stretch out.

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

Now in the very ground of my soul are "godly forces", the I in my will, my fire-will. 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.

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.

Our striving will wants to kindle the fiery force of the Cosmic Word, filling our deeds of human loving and working, and bringing the creative 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.

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,” the same as 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 the human being, we will do rightful deeds through this white magic, through love, intuitively, consciously, creatively. When done out of pure love, one’s deeds potently benefit the world.

May we also value each other even as Christ Jesus taught his disciples that the Father loves and values each of them. For the Father knows when even a lowly sparrow falls to the ground, then “Have no fear”, for how much more He cares for you, for “you are worth more than many sparrows.” Matt 10:29-31

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

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

In Verse 37 we are drawn 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.”

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 12 and 41

In Verse 12, the next to last verse of the Calendar's first quarter, Daisy Aldan's translation begins with words not like "The soul's creative might strives from deepest grounds of heart," but finds in nature "The beauteous 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 beauteous 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.

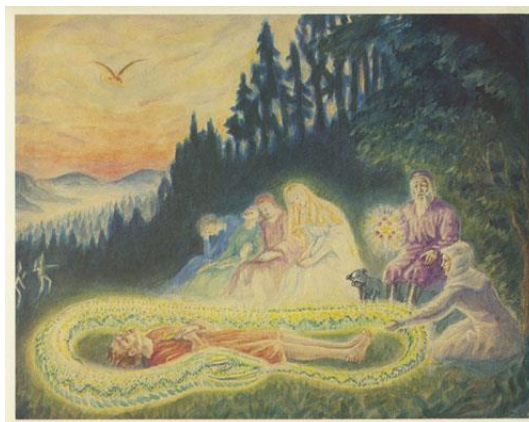
Lemniscate Calendar from Tom Mellett

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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.

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*.