

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 42: Warmth of Heart

Verse 42 relates to the Astral member of the Human Being, to Condition 3, "Know thoughts and feelings to be as important for the world as actions." We are in the "Ego" quarter of the year and sense that the ego is directing the astral soul strivings in the verse. As the soul becomes a "picture" of the higher I, our hearts can begin to shine—for the world.

Indeed we find the soul wanting to take into its earthly sensing its now deeper, creative power, the power of love that can reshape and transform. We know that our senses bring to us what is *outside* of us; and like camera pictures that hold no meaning in themselves, may be considered "**dark**"—until there is a soul response to them--a feeling evoked by the soul—that is, "warmth of heart".

Warmth of heart can reveal mysteries, what the senses alone, by themselves, cannot know. With the "gloom" of lowering wintry skies, longer nights and even a "hibernating" world of nature, the soul now from a strong sense of its own strength to penetrate what can be revealed by delving into the "darknesses," its sense perceptions, *wills* to offer its dawning understandings of senses' revelation.

Es ist in diesem Winterdunkel
Die Offenbarung eigener Kraft
Der Seele starker Trieb,
In Finsternisse sie zu lenken
Und ahnend vorzufühlen
Durch Herzenswärme
Sinnesoffenbarung.

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

In this deep winter darkness
A mighty urge impels the soul
To manifest her inner strength,
To guide it into darknesses
And feel as dawning vision
Through warmth of heart the senses'
revelation.

tr. By Brigitte Knaack.

The great interest the soul has in this study of its perceptions is, as Rudolf Steiner tells us, because the healthy soul "loves its material!". Rightly therefore, the soul wants "to manifest its *innate* powers", to try to understand the mysteries of sense darknesses; what they can tell us about ourselves, nature, the world. Higher capacities have been developed in the soul through having taken in many sense experiences and spiritual forces of understanding throughout the summer and fall.

The soul wants now to "show the strength that is its own" in order to receive through "warmth of heart" the revelations that can come to us. We may even say, through willed heart thinking.



Within this dusk of winter,
Soul's robust impulse strives
To show the strength that is its
own:

To guide it into darkness,
And feel ahead divining,
Through warmth of heart,
Sense revelations coming.

tr. by John F. Gardner



The verse tells us that the soul is specifically eager for this striving because of a premonition that something beyond mere feeling, something called "warmth of heart" is needed to receive these new revelations, which we sense will be *something important coming to our consciousness*. This "ahnend,"

or premonition, is like an inner sense of something powerful to come, a healing, or understanding of some kind. The higher ego experience at Whitsun, Verse 8, is perhaps being already dimly sensed.

Soul "feeling" has been further transformed by Christmas, perhaps especially through a deep experiencing of the Holy Nights, and we are prepared now to meet the coming Spirit in a changed manner. When with Christ power, feeling and willing are balanced in the heart, loving deeds arise. Thus, as balance to the season's pervading darkness, the soul's warm eagerness to discover senses' revelations is deeply powered by its desire to gift its understandings of a coming spiritual warmth and light to the world—surely to be reflected in personal deeds of kindness and generosity.

Understanding through the senses with warmth of heart has not to do with thinking as we normally view brain activity, but to do with a "seeing" with the heart, a kind of higher seeing, whereby we are aided by imagination, inspiration, intuition, the etheric Christ forces. We read that the light of Christ is to the Sun's light as daylight is to night. Thus, it is the power of the "light" of the etheric Christ that enables us to feel, act and know through "warmth of heart."

Still, we recognize that warmth of heart must involve the will. The soul in Verse 42 thus expresses its desire as "a mighty urge". A willed thinking takes place in meditation—in the heart.

In this the shrouding gloom of winter
The soul feels ardently impelled
To manifest its innate strength,
To guide itself to realms of darkness,
Anticipating thus through warmth of
heart
The sense-world's revelation.

tr. by Ruth and Hans Pusch



from Ninetta Sombart

It is, within this winter gloom,
The strong endeavor of the soul
To manifest her innate power;
To lead it into darknesses
And feel a premonition
Through warmth of heart, of
senses' revelation.

tr. Daisy Aldan

We think of "the seed meditation," for example, whereby it is the power of Christ that enables us in our hearts to *experience* etheric growth. Through such meditations, many given in *Knowledge of Higher Worlds*, we awaken to *life* in the sense world; which reveals ourselves to us, the *knowing* that we are *part of the Cosmic I*. That which is manifest, the sense world, reveals the *unmanifest*, the spirit.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 11 and 42

Translated by Daisy Aldan, Verse 11, at Summer Solstice we can have an encounter of the dark though we stand in the light; at Winter Solstice, we must know the light, though we stand in the dark.

Es ist in dieser Sonnenstunde
An dir, die weise Kunde zu erkennen:
An Weltenschönheit hingegeben
In dir dich fühlend zu durchleben:
Verlieren kann das Menschen-Ich
Und finden sich im Welten-Ich.

It is your task in this Sun-hour
The Tidings, wisdom-filled, to recognize:
Surrendered now to cosmic beauty,
To feel yourself in self, experience this:
The human "I" can lose itself
And find itself in cosmic "I".

Through meditating the Calendar, we reach a level of higher consciousness each year.