

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 43: Giving Heart Forces

Verse 43 relates to the Ego member of the Human Being, to Condition 4, "Balance the truths you stand for in your soul with an open heart for the needs of the outer world." This last week of January, the depths of winter, we are in the "Ego" quarter of the year and we sense that the ego's penetration with new spirit birth since Christmas is feeling strengthened for an important task.

Perhaps we wonder what is the mystery contained in the opening phrase of the verse, "the depths of winter." There must be a living sense, a great germinating force, now lying asleep, that shall waken with the warmth of Spring to come. Must the human being now in this season's chill take on a role counter to this sleeping being?

Directly, in line two of the verse, "True nature of the Spirit waxes warm," we feel the love of Christ growing in strength within our souls. This with our Ego warmth of new heart forces we are to use creatively, livingly for the outside world.

In winterlichen Tiefen

Erwärmt des Geistes wahres Sein;

Es gibt dem Weltenschein

Durch Herzenskräfte
Daseinsmächte;

Der Weltenkälte trotzt erstarkend

Das Seelenfeuer im Menscheninnern

original German by Rudolf Steiner



Anne Stockton

Within the depths of winter

True nature of the Spirit waxes warm;

It grants to cosmic sheen

Through force of heart, the weight of
presence;

Defying cosmic cold the flame of soul

In core of Man is growing strong.

tr. by Daisy Aldan.

We know that since the beginning of Advent, our hearts prepared for and at Christmas experienced a new spirit birth. The Holy Nights brought us deeper warmth of heart and closer connection to our higher self and to the Divine.

Now further on our path of inner development, warmth of heart has developed new heart forces which clearly we are to stream in love to the outside world. We are to know that through the Christ forces in us we can extend to the world, its surface sheen, what is lacking—that is, reality, the weight of presence, beingness—variously described in Line 4.

Yet, understanding how we may do this may seem rather a mystery.



The true being of the spirit
Makes warmth in winter's depth,
And gives the world of appearance
The power to be through strength of
heart;

Defying the world's cold,
The fire burns brighter in the human soul.

tr. by John Thomson



David Newbatt

We know that cold lacks movement and there are surely different layers of "cold" in the world. We've often been told that a problem of the world is that it lacks human warmth; and some human relationships may also be missing warmth. Can we find ways to bring warmth to these different

coldnesses? With a higher kind of "seeing," through the love of Christ living in our hearts, we may offer the world an awareness, a caring attentiveness, such as to bring the quality of "beingness," the "weight of presence", to mere unwarm "appearance".

Surely, the warmer our hearts, and the more continuously we renew this warmth through uniting with the Christ, the more we shall be able to stream the "power of being" to the world's lack of warmth. Through our creative power we may bring into existence what has been potential only.

Finally, we "hear" within the last lines of the verse that: —The flame of soul, now defying the physical cold of winter—as well as the sometimes chill of relationships—is ready for this wintry season. —In "core of Man" the ego's strengthened fire takes up its task.

In muffled winter depths'

True essence of the Spirit waxes
warm;

Bestows upon the world's fair glory
Through forces of the heart the power
to exist.

Within man's core the soul's own fire,
Defying worldly cold, is rising higher.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack



Liane Collost d'Herbois

Within the depths of winter

True spirit life grows ever warmer;

It gives the world appearance
Through heart's force, power of
being;

The fire within my human soul
Defies with growing strength
world's cold.

tr. by John F. Gardner

Perhaps, beyond our wintry responsibility, we see in Verse 43 a furthering of our task. Understanding that human beings, designed to become the tenth hierarchy, had their beginning in the warmth of Saturn, we know well that warmth is integral to creative power. As recognized already, the warm forces that we send forth now are not primarily for ourselves, but for the world, and that "true reality" with its inner warmth of freedom is not apparent in world "appearance", world "surface shine" —we must help bring it forth with our inner creative power streaming warmth.

Freedom, that which is not yet completed in world evolution, not yet created, must be brought with living, loving warmth to all in our world. As great forward task of the embryonic tenth hierarchy this seems also to reside in Verse 43.

Something else closely connected to the verse, Karl König points out given that this week commemorates Paul's conversion at Damascus when Christ appeared to Saul, is that from this point onwards mankind as a whole will be passing through the Damascus experience —with ever-growing significance.

Corresponding Calendar of the Soul Verses 10 and 43

Translated by John F. Gardner, Verse 10, leading up to St John's Day proclaims that one day we will know that during this summer time the "sensing" of us by a "Godly Being" was like a 'conception' for the future birth of our Spirit Child within.

Zu sommerlichen Höhen
Erhebt der Sonne leuchtend Wesen sich;
Es nimmt mein menschlich Fühlen
In seine Raumesweiten mit.
Erahnend regt im Innern sich
Empfindung, dumpf mir kündend,
Erkennen wirst du einst:
Dich fühlte jetzt ein Gotteswesen

To summer's lofty heights
The Sun uplifts his radiant Being;
He bears my human feeling
Abroad into His spacious realm.
Awareness striving in my heart
Bespeaks its dim perception:
The time will come when you will know
A god's own Being felt you now.

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