

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 7: A Luciferic Corner Verse

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This "**Spirit Man**" or "Spirit Human Being" verse connects to **Condition 7**, "I unite all previous six conditions in my living". That is, understand life as these conditions demand; and know that in the fullness of my being, my future divine form is Spirit Human Being.

Verse 7 also has within it the "Physical," connected to Condition 1: "Strive to lead a healthy life, physically and spiritually." Note: Among the many rhythms in the Calendar of the Soul are the sets of 7, which repeat themselves in spiral form through each year. Because each quarter of the year contains 13 weeks, in every 2 sets of 7 verses, the middle 7th serves both to end a set and start the next set.

This now starting **second** set of 7 verses relates to **Step 2 of the Eight-fold Path** –"**Right Judgement**" –achieved through well-founded and thorough consideration of every act, and "without which, I do not act."

The four "Corner Verses": 7, 20, 33, 46, correspond to the middle of each quarter in the year, and may be seen containing a warning for the Soul—something to which it must wake up.

In Verse 7, the developing Higher Self must not be overwhelmed by the beautiful splendour of Spring glory—must not be so attracted that it "threatens to fly away" in a Luciferic allure. (Lines 1 and 2.)

Mein Selbst, es drohet zu entfliehen,
Vom Weltenlichte mächtig angezogen.

Nun trete du mein Ahnen
In deine Rechte kräftig ein,
Ersetze mir des Denkens Macht,
Das in der Sinne Schein
Sich selbst verlieren will.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.

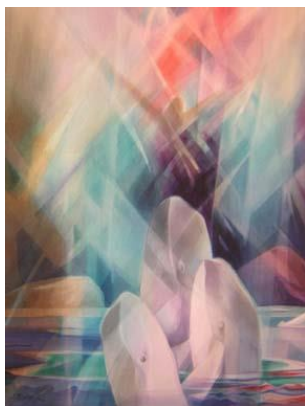


A Waldorf Painting

My self threatens to escape
lured by the power of cosmic light.

Enter here my divining heart
assume your rightful place.
Restore in me the strength of
thinking
which in the shimmering sense world
is now inclining to lose itself.

tr. by Dennis Klocek.



Leszek Forczek

My Self now threatens to escape
Attracted forcefully by cosmic light.

Now, you, my boding, enter
With force into your rightful realm;
Restore for me the power of thought,
Which in the senses' shine
So wills to lose itself.

tr. by Daisy Alden



David Newbatt

In Line 3, in its deepest meaning "Ahnen" has no English equivalent, but we may think of it as *connecting-threads to the thoughts of the gods*: a kind of prescience, or intuition, a heart knowing—even that we cannot quite define it. It can come to us as a new kind of knowing thought. Coming from the heavens, not the earth, —it brings a refreshingness that restores our inner life.

When we see the beautiful glory of Spring, such a wondrous gift from God, we feel a loving great gratitude. One can seem to go right through this glory, to reach an inner sense of intimacy with the

spiritual world. As Steiner tells us, it takes a higher force of knowing, *ahnen*, to understand the truths and events of the spiritual world than to know the physical world spread around us.

And so we may feel *Ahnen* as a loving, intuitive wisdom, a gift that somehow rightfully belongs to us, and also which we need to protect and lovingly heed lest we lose it now in summer, in Lucifer's realm, to mere sensual thinking and feeling.

There is always a danger in following the shining attraction of the Luciferic "I", the false "I" of our double—the sense of "I'm okay and whatever I do is ok. —I must be devoted to myself." Whereas we feel the shining "I" of Christ is devoted to others—to doing tasks in the world that nourish it, make it better. Through passivity or failure to understand, we are apt to choose our double.

We can remember how Christ overcame Lucifer's tempting in the Desert. This is an everlasting gift to us. Perhaps we haven't always the strength to recognize the gift. It's something we can constantly work on.

As much as we may wish for greater consciousness of this higher, subtle soul force, which extends far beyond the thinking in the sense world and thus is capable of leading us "out" to our higher self and also safely back in again, it is a soul force yet to be far more developed in most people.

During these summer months—Lucifer's realm—when the power of winter thinking "So wills to lose itself", it is clarity of thinking that we must strongly endeavour to retain. It is a balance in our thinking that we especially seek now to keep—neither giving in to Lucifer, nor retaining too much Ahriman. The balance, the clarity and love in Christ thinking, is our goal.

My Self! It threatens to flee—
Intensely attracted by cosmic light.

My Intuition! Come in now with
confidence!

Take your rightful place!

Replenish the power of my Thinking,
which craves to lose itself
in the glorious illusions of the senses.

tr. by Tom Mellett



My Self is like to fly away,
Drawn mightily into the cosmic light.
Now, heart's divining, lend your
strength!
That helps me hold to what is right,
Transform for me the power of thought
That fain would lose itself
In sense world's fair appearance.

tr. by John F. Gardner

A concept that may be helpful in considering the warning in Verse 7 is what Steiner called the "morality of usefulness", which is what so concerns materialistic, Ahrmanistic study of the non-human world. "This morality of usefulness" will never bring humanity to the heights of its existence. The only thing that will help us achieve this grandeur is a morality that "shapes us through supersensory powers at work in our souls."

Steiner viewed this morality of usefulness as the source of our great problems today. (Rudolf Steiner, *Shakespeare, Becoming Human*, Lecture 1, p. 45, Dornach, February 1, 1920, Rudolf Steiner Press, 2016.)

On page 50, Steiner speaks of Goethe's fifteenth century Faust "finding himself to be so dissatisfied with the intellectual knowledge he possesses that he turns back to what he remembers of the realm of magic. . ."—but today we can say, we have *spiritual science* and *Ahnen* to turn to!

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