

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

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

Verse 7 also has within it the "**Physical**," which is 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, repeating themselves in spiral form throughout the 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.*

Verse 7, now starting the **second** set of 7 verses, also relates to Rudolf Steiner's description of **Step 2 of the Buddha's Eight-fold Path** -"**Right Judgement**" -achieved through well-founded and thorough consideration of every act, and "without which, I do not act."

Verse 7 is one of the so-called "**Corner Verses**," 7, 20, 33, and 46, corresponding to the middle of each quarter of the year. Each contains a kind of 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 —being so "Luciferically" attracted to it that it "threatens to fly away." (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.



Roland Tiller

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.

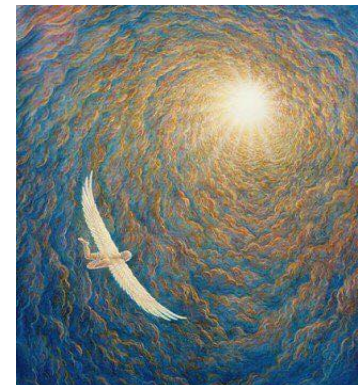
tr. by Dennis Klocek.



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



In Line 3, in its deepest meaning "Ahnen" has no English equivalent, but even if we cannot quite define it we may think of it as *connecting-threads to the thoughts of the gods*: a kind of higher sensing, even a pre-knowing, a prescience, or intuition. Perhaps it can come to us as a kind of semi-conscious "knowing feeling". And, 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 manifestation of God, we feel a loving gratitude. One can even seem to soar right through into this glory, to reach an inner sense of intimacy

with all this beauty. But Steiner tells us that it takes a higher force of knowing to *understand* the truths and events of the spiritual world than it takes to know the physical world. This guiding insight, *Ahnung* (as noun), is not fully conscious in most of us; yet still it is a higher step *beyond* thinking.

We may feel it as an intuitive wisdom, a gift that somehow rightfully belongs to us, but also which we need to protect and lovingly heed, for we need a higher sensing now to “carry” for clear thinking, its power, which the verse warns can so easily be lost in the allure of nature’s shine.

Always, too, is the danger of 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 for above all I am devoted to myself.” In contrast, the “I” devoted to Christ is interested in others —in doing tasks in the world that nourish it, make it better. Passivity or failure to understand can cause people to follow their egoistic double.

We 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 a model we can strive to follow.

During the spring and coming summer months —Lucifer’s beauteous realm —when my thinking Self “threatens to flee”, *Ahnung* is that kind of higher sensing that in the verse we entreat! What is it that we want *Ahnung* to do? Does Line 4 then suggest the further idea that *Ahnung*’s “rightful place” is to help us keep on the “right” path —not to give in to Lucifer, nor to Ahrimanic detachment? But rather to help us rightfully develop a more deeply caring interest in others and for the world?

As much as we may wish for a greater *Ahnung* consciousness now, that higher soul force which by extending far beyond the thinking of the physical world is capable of leading us “out” to our higher self and also safely back in again, *Ahnung* is a soul force that happily we can continually develop.

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, Ahrimanic study of the non-human world. He tells us that this “morality of usefulness” will never bring humanity to the heights of its existence. The only thing that will help us achieve this future state is a morality that shapes us through *supersensory* powers at work in our souls.

Steiner viewed this morality of usefulness as the source of today’s great problems. (See *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 look to *spiritual science* and the *supersensible* power of *Ahnung* !

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