



In this 9th Verse lies secreted much of the mystery of Self.

As we took in a higher thinking in the Whitsun Verse 8, we now may feel a longing, even hear an inner prescient call, to experience with higher understanding the season's expanding light and to merge into a greater meaning of life than our separate selves provide.

Warmly may we receive spirit vision.

Rudolf Steiner's Calendar of the Soul Verse 9: To Find Yourself, First Lose Yourself

Eloise Krivosheia

"Astral" Verse 9 relates to Condition 3, "Thoughts and feelings are as important for the world as are actions." It's possible to find a connection between the Calendar verses and the first Chapter in the *Gospel According to Luke*. In Chapter 1:34, we read that when Mary was told by the Angel that she would bear a Son of the Highest, and she asked, "How shall this be seeing I know not a man? Her question was a wanting to know, not a rejecting. Our questions, too, would best carry this real wanting to know.

Now, in the world's warm glory, perhaps we feel a new sort of belonging to all we see, less of a longing to go our own private way. Perhaps we feel love in this beautiful cosmic warmth. We remember that behind cosmic warmth is the sacrifice of the Thrones—the pouring out of their warm will, their essence, to create earth's beginnings. Warmth of love is the true expression of the higher I in each of us.

Vergessend meine Willenseigenheit
Erfüllet Weltenwärme
sommerkündend
Mir Geist und Seelenwesen;
Im Licht mich zu verlieren
Gebietet mir das Geistesschauen,
Und kraftvoll kündet Ahnung mir:
Verliere dich, um dich zu finden.

original German by Rudolf Steiner.



Forgetting now my personal self-will,
The cosmic warmth, the harbinger
of summer,
Fills full my soul and spirit:
To lose myself in light
Entreats my spirit-vision now,
And forcefully foreboding tells me:
To find yourself, first lose yourself.

tr. by Daisy Aldan.

Now, especially in this astral week's "cosmic warmth," nature's generosity, my "I" feels permeated with a sense of well-being, even wanting to be a part of Earth's glorious beauty that is all around. Shall I lose my personal self in all this glory? In the spiritual light of the Sun, in consciousness, I find my higher self.



Forgotten is my own self-will
As cosmic warmth, foretelling
summer,
Fills my being, soul and spirit;
To lose myself within the light
Is spirit vision's bidding,
And strongly heart's divining tells me:
Lose yourself, to find your Self.

tr. by John F. Gardner.



Further, I sense that my spirit vision, a spiritual understanding, is entreating me strongly that to find my higher self, I must first let go my wholly self-willing lower self, my "earthly self". Now Verse 7's asked-for role of Ahnung is strongly felt within, perhaps as a wise heart-communication from higher beings.

A new meaning of self, of who or what I am, lights up within me. Assuredly, this new understanding is my free choice to take up. And I take it up myself, not just gather together teachings I've heard about. It is as an understanding, that flashes up in my soul. And I realize it is possible, even necessary, to lose my lower, selfish concerns, so that a loving of the true and good may enter!

With gratitude, my I takes up this pure light, enclosing it within the peace of my higher, spiritual self. Even at this moment of fullness, I awaken to a change of feeling, dimly beginning. . .and I ask with all sincerity of heart, "What is the spiritual world's will for me?" Am I to know it now, or in a later Season?

I understand that to lose my old self—so as to be able to take on a new self—I must not cover up, or hang on to what I was last year, or before. A jewel with tarnish just waiting for a good polish to reveal its pure beauty underneath may come to mind. Or we remember the beautiful words of Benedictus in *The Portal of Initiation* when he said, "What flourishes for higher life must bloom from death of lower being." We may see this in Nature when we notice below a fading orange blossom there is already a tiny fruit arising.

In ordinary life we mostly know our self-will in the form of prejudices—possibly unacknowledged, or in opinions that can obstruct, even destroy our higher insight. Our higher Self can begin to have awareness that there is often pettiness in our thinking that must be let go, even as soon as it is noticed.

This "I" tries also to see the "jewel", the inner light, in others, too, and to recognize the effort we all try to make—even though we don't always succeed as well as we would like, or even as well as our intentions.

Forgetful of my ego's separate will,
Warmth of the cosmos, summer-
heralding,
Begins to fill my spirit and my soul;
To lose myself in light
Is the behest of spirit vision,
And strongly speaks to me my dawning vision
O lose yourself, so you may find yourself.

tr. by Brigitte Knaack.



Liane Collot d'Herbois

Forgetting all my separateness of will,
The warmth of worlds, the summer's
harbinger,
I feel it flood my spirit and my soul.
To lose myself in light
The gaze of spirit now demands,
And powerfully prophetic boding cries:
'Lose, lose yourself, yourself to find.'

tr. by A.C. Harwood

But what about the strong temptations from Lucifer and Ahriman? The intellect wants to know for its own sake, yet the verse bids us to forget our personal self-will. We gratefully remember that Christ has expanded throughout the cosmos and even the whole Earth. He it is who holds us so that we are not swept aside by Lucifer and Ahriman.

We know, too, that without freedom, we cannot fully love—our actions may be somewhat forced, out of a sense of duty or how we would like others to see us. Instead, we want the impulses for our actions to come out of the true depths of our own inner being—not from egoistic Luciferic beckonings. When our actions come in freedom from pure love and not from duty, tradition or rules, we give thanks to the Highest Sun Being and we actually redeem Lucifer—Lucifer through whose sacrifice we obtained freedom.



Still we may ask just where does 'forgetting our personal self-will to find our higher self' lead? Why are we given this strong command?

Penetrating each of the disciples, Leszek Forczek shows the dove of the Holy Spirit here awakening new understandings in each of them, and Rudolf Steiner conveys that through the Christ Impulse a much higher Spirit than a folk spirit will come, One for all humanity. With this Spirit's helping power, we as individuals can raise ourselves ever more above all that differentiates and separates us from others.

The prophetic caution, 'First lose yourself to find yourself,' thus conveys that when each of us can put aside personal egotism, subjective self, for a higher self attuned to all humanity, then shall a loving bond be felt between each and every soul with the Holy Spirit as universal group soul speaking out of each person. Rudolf Steiner gave a beautiful imagination, "when hearts stream toward wisdom as plants stream toward the sunlight." Then humanity will provide the dwelling-place for a new higher group soul to unite us in universal brotherhood. [lecture June 7, 1908, Hamburg]

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