

CoS Appendix 15 Summer, Autumn and "Fruit Verses"

It is noteworthy that in the *Calendar of the Soul* the references to the word "fruit" in various forms (fruchtend, Früchte and willensfrucht) take place in summer and autumn, with a separate one in the spring, announcing the theme as it were. Moreover the summer series begins with verse 16 and ends up with verse 24, its symmetrical verse around the warning autumn verse 20. The transformation of the summer verses revolves around the verse 20, which sets the challenge of the right relationship between a strengthened Self and the macrocosm. Only in a correct relationship with the cosmos can the Self find its place in the soul.

The prelude

Verse 2 (first week after Easter) sets the stage for all that is to follow.

Out in the sense-world's glory
The power of thought gives up
its separate being,
And spirit worlds discover
Again their human offspring,
Who germinates in them
But in itself must find
The fruit of soul.

Ins Äussre des Sinnesalls
Verliert Gedankenmacht ihr Eigensein;
Es finden Geisteswelten
Den Menschensprossen wieder,
Der Seinen Keim in ihnen,
Doch seine Seelenfrucht
In sich muss finden.

What is announced in verse 2 is the challenge that meets the human being through the whole arc of spring and summer. On one hand the power of clear thinking wanes in the rising of the sphere of cosmic life and the pull of the senses. That we "germinate" in spirit worlds is no guarantee of automatic results. We can no longer lose ourselves in the spheres of light and warmth in the movement of ecstasy of pre-Christian times. To find our way in the natural movement of expansion we need a new soul compass, so to speak. This is what is offered to us in verses 7 and 8, where it is once more reiterated that thinking can no longer offer us the strength we need because it has become dream-like. It is the faculty of boding/intuition that will rise and take its place.

We arrive then in the second part of the summer, when everything that has been offered in the macrocosmic expansion starts to mature in the soul, starts to produce the "fruit(s) of soul" which were hinted at in verse 2.

The Summer

The verses that precede 16 (especially 11 to 15) are verses of surrender to the forces of the cosmos, to the power that acts in the soul throughout the summer. Verse 15 is the epitome of surrender. The human soul becomes a sort of cocoon entrusted to "spirit within outer glory" to accomplish what "in its narrow bounds my I is powerless to give itself." This is the backdrop to the "fruit verses" in question.

After surrendering to the forces of the cosmos the soul follows a maturation similar to that of flower into fruit of outer Nature. What has been entrusted and received through surrender starts to mature inwardly through a receptive and reverential attitude of soul. In trusting the future maturation of its fruits (16) the soul makes room to cosmic Word that speaks in depths of soul (17). The act of surrender is now transformed in one of taking up our soul in a desire to sculpt and mold it as a receptacle, as it were, to make it worthy of the new presence (18). The whole movement is concluded with a retrospective look at the summer (19). The crux of the matter resides in a metamorphosis. What has been bestowed to the soul from the cosmos can only ripen if the soul turns with reverence to the wider world and finds a balance with it. What was done from without has now to be accomplished consciously from within.

In verse 21 the soul rejoices in seeing the fruits come to maturation. It is filled with the light of expectation and anticipation for the future of what it calls a "strange power", a Self that is still alien. The macrocosmos/microcosmos relationship is reiterated once more with confidence in verse 22. The light from world-wide spaces is contrasted in the metamorphosed light of soul; the self of Man announced in its ripening from the Self of worlds.

Verse 23 is one of pralaya as it were. Everything that gave us external certainty has faded. All power now resides in the soul through the tenuous promise of a summer within. Now comes a fruit no longer promised (as in verse 22) but generated from the depths of soul (24): Self-engendered will, which together with self-cognition sets the Michaelic tone for the triumphant assertion of the Self of verses 25 to 27. What is announced as possible future fruit in verse 16 has emerged as the first concrete fruit in verse 24 ("creates the fruit").

Verse 16 (July 21-27)

To bear in inward keeping spirit bounty
Is stern command of my prophetic feeling,
That ripened gifts divine

Maturing in the depths of soul
To selfhood bring their fruits.

Zu bergen Geistgeschenk im Innern,
Gebietet strenge mir mein Ahnen,
Dass reifend Gottesgaben
In Seelengründen fruchtend
Der Selbstheit Früchte bringen.

Verse 21 (August 25-31)

I feel strange power, bearing fruit
And gaining strength to give myself to me.
I sense the seed maturing
And expectation, light-filled, weaving
Within me on my selfhood's power.

Ich fühle fruchtend fremde Macht
Sich stärkend mir mich selbst verleihn,
Den Keim empfind ich reifend
Und Ahnung lichtvoll weben
Im Innern an der Selbstheit Macht.

Verse 22 (September 1-7)

The light from world-wide spaces
Works on within with living power;
Transformed to light of soul
It shines into the spirit depths
To bring to birth the fruits
Whereby out of the self of worlds
The human self in course of time shall ripen

Das Licht aus Weltenweiten,
Im Innern lebt es kräftig fort:
Es wird zum Seelenlichte
Und leuchtet in die Geistestiefen,
Um Früchte zu entbinden,
Die Menschenselbst aus Weltenselbst
Im Zeitenlaufe reifen lassen.

Verse 24 (September 15-21)

Unceasingly itself creating
Soul life becomes aware of self;
The cosmic spirit, striving on,
Renews itself by self-cognition,
And from the darkness of the soul
Creates the fruit of self-engendered will.

Sich selbst erschaffend stets,
Wird Seelensein sich selbst gewahr;
Der Weltengeist, er strebet fort
In Selbsterkenntnis neu belebt
Und schafft aus Seelenfinsternis
Des Selbstsinns Willensfrucht.

The Autumn

It remains for us to look at verses 30 and 38 in relation to the summer series. So let us first see what happens between weeks 24 and 30. Verses 24 to 26 announce an intensification of the will: "self-engendered will" (24), "carry wakefully" (25) and "will's fiery energy" (26). It is the will that initiates the transformation of the quality of our thinking and this is expressed in the following verses. "The radiance of my thought" (28) turns into "spark of thinking into flame" (29) and manifests in "ripened fruits of thinking" (30), a process of maturation. What is most striking in this last verse is how summer and winter appear in parallel with warmth and light, feeling and thought. As feeling supports thinking and a "conscious self-assurance" so are summer's forces gathered for the coming winter. The last two lines underline the end of a process of maturation of the fruits of the summer: "The winter will arouse in me the summer of the soul." Note that here we are left with something pointing to the future.

Verse 32 actualizes the fruit as a luminous force and presence. The verse is all will—as witnessed by the succession of the terms force, strength and power—but also thinking, as insight. A new grounding and certainty has taken hold of the Self.

Especially after verse 33 the soul takes on the task of communing with the macrocosm and seeks to assume a co-creator role. This ushers in the reality of the cosmic Self and of cosmic Word. Co-creation can only take place when the human being is willing to sacrifice herself (36) so that cosmic Word can "transfigure all life" (37). And what comes from the will and from our thinking all through the autumn time now finds a place in the heart (37 and 38). Verses 30, of the ripened fruits of thinking and 32, of force bearing fruit, are brought to a higher level in verse 38.

At the turning point between autumn and winter of Christmas time (38) we hear the wondrous expression "heavenly fruit of hope." A further maturation has taken place at various levels. The Self has taken root in our inner resolve and presence in the world as a gift of cosmic Word.

The union of light and warmth of the preceding verse becomes joy in the heart. The personal goal of the beginning of the autumn unites with a

universal goal. The fruit of thinking that brings the summer in my soul is now the fruit of hope which reaches out "into worlds afar."

Verse 30 (October 27 – November 2)

There flourish in the sunlight of my soul
The **ripened fruits** of thinking;
To conscious self-assurance
The flow of feeling is transformed.
I can perceive now joyfully
The autumn's spirit-waking:
The winter will arouse in me
The summer of the soul.

Es spriessen mir im Seelensonnenlicht
Des Denkens **reife Früchte**,
In Selbstbewusstseins Sicherheit
Verwandelt alles Fühlen sich.
Empfinden kann ich freudevoll
Des Herbstes Geisterwachen:
Der Winter wird in mir
Den Seelensommer wecken.

Verse 32

I feel my own force, bearing **fruit**
And gaining strength to give me to the world.
My inmost being I feel charged with power
To turn with clearer insight
Toward the weaving of life's destiny.

Ich fühle **fruchtend** eigne Kraft
Sich stärkend mich der Welt verleihn;
Mein Eigenwesen fühl ich kraftend
Zur Klarheit sich zu wenden
Im Lebensschicksalsweben.

Verse 38 (Christmas)

The spirit child within my soul
I feel freed of enchantment.
In heart-high gladness has
The holy cosmic Word engendered
The heavenly fruit of hope,
Which grows rejoicing into worlds afar
Out of my being's godly roots.

Ich fühle wie entzaubert
Das Geisteskind im Seelenschoss;

Es hat in Herzenshelligkeit
Gezeugt das Heilige Weltenwort
Der Hoffnung Himmelsfrucht,
Die jubelnd wächst in Weltenfernen
Aus meines Wesens Gottesgrund.