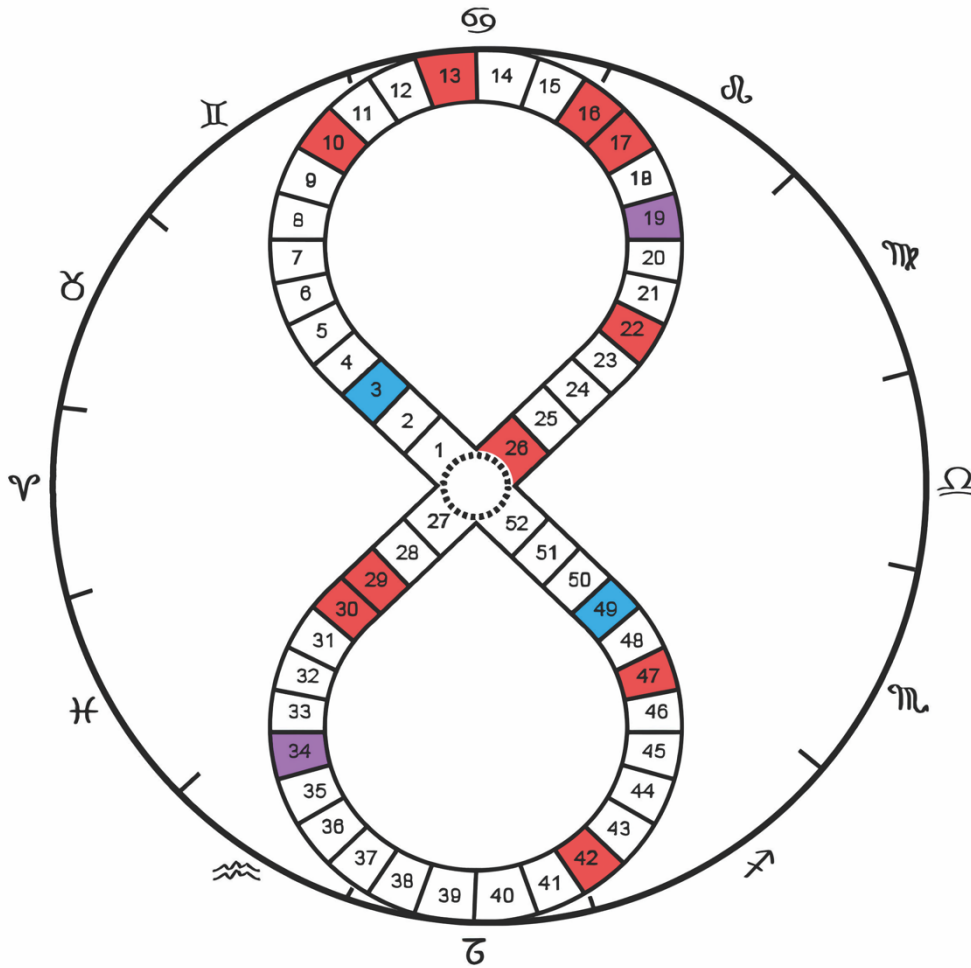


Appendix 19

Recollection and Anticipation in the Calendar of the Soul

At various times in the Calendar of the Soul we are asked to either look back and/or cherish what we have received, or anticipate and foster something that we know will only acquire form and depth in the future.



The image above shows in red the verses turned toward the future with anticipation and the verses in blue look back to the past. In between are some verses, in purple, where the two movements hold in balance, as it were. Some observations. It is remarkable that the two purple verses are found symmetrically around the threshold verses 20 and 33 (Cross 7). Speaking of the faculties of soul that look to either past or future we have on one hand the obvious memory, on the other the less obvious faculty of boding/intuition and they ascend respectively in verses 46 and 7, both once

more part of cross 7, around which are situated the two pure recollection verses (49 and 3 in blue). Thus our attention is called to the threshold verses of cross 7 as in so many instances in the architecture of correspondences of the Calendar of the Soul.

Winter into Spring

Verse 46

The world is threatening to stun
The inborn forces of my soul;
Now, memory, come forth
From spirit depths, enkindling light;
Invigorate my inward sight
Which only by the strength of will
Is able to sustain itself.

Verse 47 immediately after reminds us that our thinking projects us still into the future and works hand in hand with memory for the coming months.

There will arise out of the world's great womb,
Quickening the senses' life, the joy of growth.

Verses 49 and 3 are renewed calls to memory in the intervening time before the next threshold verse (7). The end of winter brings a challenge, the approaching spring another one. In verse 49 follows a recollection of our own winter journey, now that spring is approaching.

I feel the force of cosmic life:
Thus speaks my clarity of thought,
Recalling its own spirit growth
Through nights of cosmic darkness,
And to the new approach of cosmic day
It turns its inward rays of hope.

What is personal memory in 49 leads us to cosmic memory in verse 3, where the human being becomes "mindful of its primal state," meaning his original cosmic state of innocence. This is the verse that fully reconnects us to the cosmic life of the Edenic state from which we have been estranged at the time of the Fall. The recognition of the deed of Golgotha is what draws us near once more.

Spring to Summer

In arriving at threshold verse 7 a change takes place. The soul is definitely projected outward, which also corresponds to the movement of expansion that takes place after Ascension.

Come forth, prophetic feeling [boding/intuition],

Take up with strength your rightful task:
Replace in me the power of thought

Boding is that faculty that anticipates what comes toward the soul and tries to offer an inner response to a call or challenge before this challenge materializes. It asks us to be prepared and anticipate. For the next weeks (10 to 17) the theme of anticipation revolves entirely around the presence of cosmic Word in the soul, and the soul's fathoming of this presence. Verse 10 introduces the theme:

Within my inner being stirs
Presentiment which heralds dimly,
You shall in future know:
A godly being now has touched you.

Verse 13 reiterates that something will be met in the future if we keep seeking:

In spirit sources seek expectantly
To find your spirit kinship.

In verse 16 a new element is added. The soul that has striven to subdue the lower ego has now glimmers of the possible transformation of the Self.

That ripened gifts divine
Maturing in the depths of soul
May bring their fruits of selfhood

The denouement of the theme of the divine presence takes place in verse 17 where it acquires a name, cosmic Word, and speaks in the soul, announcing again something to come:

Imbue your spirit depths
With my wide world horizons
To find in future time myself in you.

Before coming to the next threshold verse, this projection into the future is still present, but tempered by a movement of recollection. We are encouraged in verse 19 to:

In secret to encompass now
With memory what I've newly got
Shall be my striving's further aim:
Thus, ever strengthening, selfhood's forces
Shall be awakened from within
And growing, give me to myself.

Here the two movements of past and future are present but with a projection toward the future. Memory itself becomes an effort we carry forward into the future, and through this selfhood forces will be awakened.

Between threshold verses 20 and 33 the soul is completely projected forward, no longer in relation to something external as cosmic Word, but to what responds from within, the emerging selfhood power. But we need to start one step before. In verse 19 the theme is announced, the development of selfhood's forces. In verse 22 we are called to shine our inner light into spirit depths so that:

out of the self of worlds
The human self in course of time shall ripen

Summer into Winter

We can notice in passing that the light that shone inwardly is now called to shine outwardly in verse 25, "shining spread my inner light into the dark of space and time." Now comes the important Michaelmas verse of complete dedication to the Self, one in which the striving reaches further awareness:

And my will's fiery energy
Shall steel my spirit striving,
That sense of self springs forth from it
To hold me in myself.

The Michaelmas verse is projected into the future of the awakening of the sense of Self. A little time after this the anticipation of verse 29 is present in the simple mention of "my winter hope" referring to the alliance of the light of thinking and the spirit's fount of strength.

To fan the spark of thinking into flame
By my own strong endeavor,
To read life's inner meaning
Out of the cosmic spirit's fount of strength:
This is my summer heritage,
My autumn solace, and my winter hope.

Verse 33 has called the soul to the awareness of the need for the human being to pour his awareness and dedication to the world's reality. The series spanning from end of summer to beginning of autumn ends as it started, with both a look backward and a look forward. Verse 34 reconsecrates the old that I have acquired and made my own and strengthens it by what I look forward to.

In secret inwardly to feel
How all that I've preserved of old
Is quickened by new-risen sense of self:

This shall, awakening, pour forth cosmic forces
Into the outer actions of my life
And growing, mould me into true existence.

Not much intervenes in the period spanning from late spring to early winter, except for verse 42. In the depth of winter the soul that has answered the call of verse 33 can both experience the darkness and weight of winter and celebrate the coming of spring through the awareness of the Nature forces already at work in the Earth. Having strengthened the light and power of thinking and united it with inner courage the soul can anticipate "through warmth of heart the sense-world's revelation" (42).