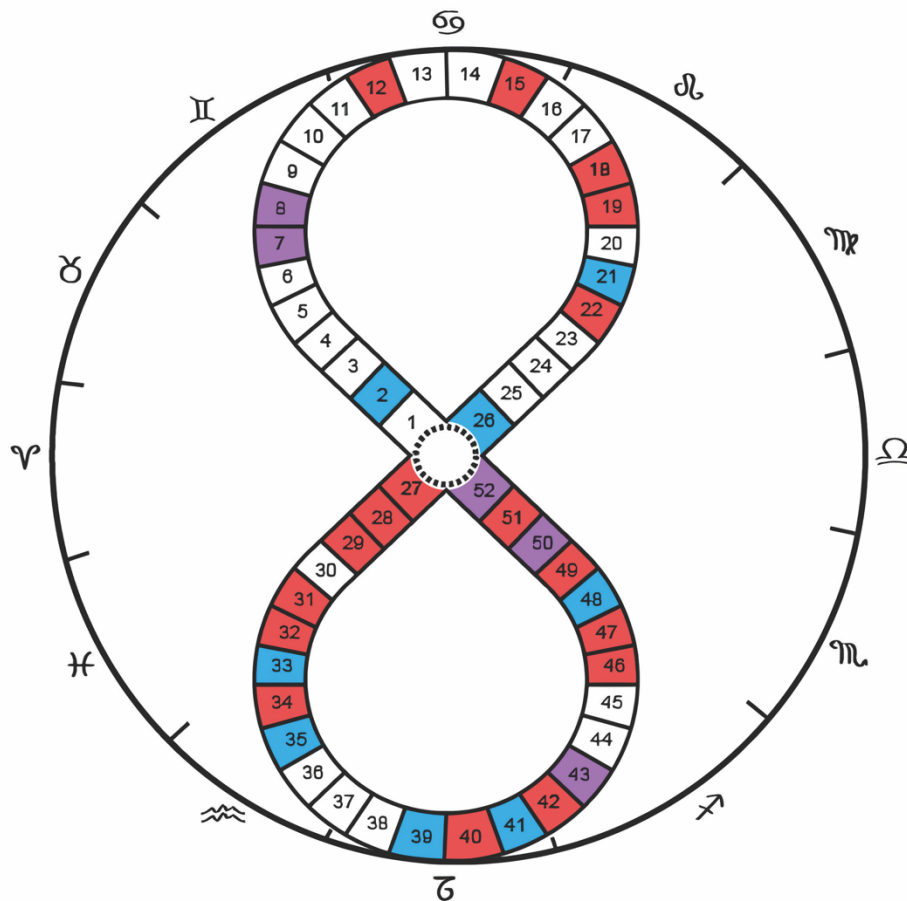


Appendix 17 Force and Power Verses In the Calendar of the Soul

Two words with overlapping meaning are found in the round of the year's Calendar in almost greatest frequency than all other ones, except such common ones as spirit and soul. These are "kraft" (most often translated as force/strength/power) and "macht" (most often translated as power, sometimes as might). In the translations their meanings are very closely related, e.g., kraft, most often translated as force or strength, also appears as power.

General Patterns



The two German words figure in thirty verses and the two together in five of them. In the yearly distribution of the year they are scattered throughout spring and summer and concentrated during fall and winter. Their meanings are also more varied from Easter to Michaelmas, more pointed from Michaelmas to Easter.

In the figure above you can see "force verses" in red, in which the word "kraft" or composites of it appear; "power verses" in blue with the word "macht" or composites of it; and purple verses for verses in which the two appear side by side. In parenthesis in the verses below appear the words kraft and macht or their derivatives.

As we proceed I will start the round of the year from verse 7 rather than verse 2, which is the logical conclusion of verses 46 to 52 which precede it. The spring summer series starts then with both kraft and macht in verses 7 and 8 (Whitsun). It ends on the kraft verse 22 (September 1-7), preceded by verse 21 with emphasis on macht. All verses in between use the word kraft. The fall series starts with a macht verse at Michaelmas and ends with a kraft/macht verse of Holy Week and a macht verse in the week after Easter.

From Ascension to the End of Summer: Receiving Strength, Building Strength

Verse 7 (May 19-25)

My self is threatening to fly forth,
Lured strongly by the world's enticing light.
Come forth, prophetic feeling,
Take up with strength (kräftig) your rightful task:
Replace in me the power of thought (Denkens Macht)
Which in the senses' glory
Would gladly lose itself.

In the week after Ascension force denotes strength or vigor. Power only refers to what is waning, the faculty of thinking. In essence this and the next verse denote a transfer of initiative from one source, thinking, to another. An established power wanes, a new force emerges which we must generate from within: the power of boding/intuition.

Verse 8 (May 26 – June 1)

The senses' might (Sinne Macht) grows strong
United with the gods' creative work;
It presses down my power of thinking (Denkens Kraft)
Into a dreamlike dullness.
When godly being
Desires union with my soul,
Must human thinking
In quiet dream-life rest content.

As we are moving toward the descent of the spirit at Whitsun, power is expressed in an external form, the senses' power to be stimulated from without, and force and power of thinking merge. Denkens Macht in the

previous verse becomes Denkens Kraft, which seems to reiterate the proximity of the two words. In essence we are asked to trust in the presence and help of the "gods' creative work" when our thinking wanes.

Verse 12 (Saint John)

The radiant beauty of the world
Compels my inmost soul to free
God-given powers (Götterkräfte) of my nature
That they may soar into the cosmos,
To take wing from myself
And trustingly to seek myself
In cosmic light and cosmic warmth.

Here again something of power is in us which we do not have to generate since it is God-given. And the word trust appears explicitly. The soul must give itself to the beauty of the world, to cosmic light and cosmic warmth. In the gesture of Saint John it must get out of the way in order to become a vessel. The lower bends down in reverence to the higher as we are entering the height of summer, the growing influence of cosmic warmth and the presence of cosmic Word.

Verse 15 (July 14-20)

I feel enchanted weaving
Of spirit within outer glory.
In dullness of the senses
It has enwrapt my being
In order to bestow the strength (Kraft)
Which in its narrow bounds my I
Is powerless (ohnmächtig) to give itself.

To what has been given to me from the origin is added what comes through the summer's proximity of the gods. It is the enchanted weaving that bestows strength upon me. Once more the power is what I receive by entrusting myself and recognizing my limitations. Not only do I know to be constrained by my "narrow bounds", but I recognize that I don't have the strength to affect change. I seek help.

Verse 18 (August 4-10)

Can I expand my soul
That it unites itself
With cosmic Word received as seed?
I sense that I must find the strength (Kraft)
To fashion worthily my soul
As fitting raiment for the spirit.

Verse 18 is a turning point which asks us to generate the inner strength to become a receptacle for cosmic Word. The waiting and the apparent

helplessness has given rise to true strength. I can initiate active work on my soul's becoming.

Verse 19 (August 11-17)

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 (Eigenkräfte)
Shall be awakened from within
And growing, give me to myself.

The goal of the strengthening is here announced for the first time: that of the emerging selfhood forces. Memory, anchored in an effort of the will, can initiate the change by distilling the essence of our summer experience.

Verse 21 (August 25-31)

I feel strange power (Macht), 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 (Macht).

Verse 21 responds to 18 and 19. Through our exertion of will emerges the seed of a power that we still do not recognize fully but we trust and accompany with wonder. We know it will emerge as selfhood's power.

Verse 22 (September 1-7)

The light from world-wide spaces
Works on within with living power (lebt es kräftig);
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

The power we now recognize is our own, working upon our etheric body and our will (depths of spirit). The Self is maturing and now we know that it will connect us to the Self of worlds. The revelations of selfhood's power will cover the arc from Michaelmas to Easter.

What is most impressive of the fall and winter series is how much they are concentrated, similar in this to the quality of the will that emerges at Michaelmas. The theme goes uninterrupted from 26 to 29, from 31 to 35, from 39 to 43 and from 45 to 52. We will look at the whole as four series.

Early Autumn: Selfhood Power and the Rise of Thinking

Verse 26 (Michaelmas)

O Nature, your maternal life
I bear within the essence of my will.
And my will's fiery energy (Feuermacht)
Shall steel my spirit striving,
That sense of self springs forth from it
To hold me in myself.

At the fall transition of Michaelmas all that was bestowed from without in summer becomes inner force. The process of inner maturation has come to a turning point. The promise of the summer within of verse 23 has now become a transformation in the will devoted to the unfolding and active grasping of the Self.

Verse 27 (October 6-12)

When to my being's depths I penetrate,
There stirs expectant longing
That self-observing, I may find myself
As gift of summer sun, a seed
That warming lives in autumn mood
As germinating force (Kräftetrieb)of soul.

The fiery determination of Michaelmas is now present in the Self. The summer of the soul will ripen this seed.

Verse 28 (October 13-19)

I can, in newly quickened inner life,
Sense wide horizons in myself.
The force (krafterfüllt) and radiance of my thought —
Coming from soul's sun power —
Can solve the mysteries of life,
And grant fulfillment now to wishes
Whose wings have long been lamed by hope.

For the first time the will has passed the baton to the power of thinking. In effect it is a Sun-illuminated thinking wholly permeated by the determination that forges our Michaelic sword.

Verse 29 (October 20-26)

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

The infinitive forms denote a call to action and resolve. The verse recognizes an objective source of strength through which we can connect to the strength in us. Wisdom and strength generate insight that will carry us into the winter.

Although not mentioning force or power, verse 30 is one of strong determination and inner certainty. Such a strength is perceivable in the quality of joy that accompanies it: "I can perceive now joyfully the autumn's spirit-waking."

Middle Autumn: Self and cosmic Self

This interval of verses revolves around the warning verse 33. Before that the verses indicate the preparation that will be necessary. After that new powers emerge in the last two verses (34-35).

Verse 31 (November 3-9)

The light from spirit depths
Strives to ray outwards, sun-imbued;
Transformed to forceful will of life (Lebenswillenskraft)
It shines into the senses' dullness
To bring to birth the powers (Kräfte)
Whereby creative forces (Schaffensmächte), soul-impelled,
Shall ripen into human deeds.

Here we find a verse turned with energy toward the world. Light transforms into forceful will of life, urging us to human deeds. Verse 22 is brought to a higher stage in 31; light of soul is now forceful will of life. Notice that they are both "light verses" of Cross 5.

Verse 32 (November 10-16)

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

This crescendo seems aimed at preparing the soul for a new turning point. The verse echoes verse 29. What is expressed in "give me to the world" is followed by the verse that manifests this imperative.

Verse 33 (November 17-23)

I feel at last the world's reality
Which, lacking the communion of my soul,
Would in itself be frosty, empty life,
And showing itself powerless (ohne Macht)
To recreate itself in souls,
Would in itself find only death.

The strength we have developed is what Nature needs in order to overcome its powerlessness. The striving of the preceding verses shows we are now fully connected with the needs of the world.

Verse 34 (November 24-30)

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 (Weltenkräfte)
Into the outer actions of my life
And growing, mould me into true existence.

As we turn to the Advent season the forces we now make our own, or unite with, are qualitatively different. They are cosmic forces. This is a shift from the simple desire to act and produce human deeds (31). If we want to avert the danger indicated in verse 33 we need to grow in such a way as to be able to become co-creators.

Verse 35 (December 1-7)

Can I know life's reality
So that it's found again
Within my soul's creative urge?
I feel that I am granted power (Macht)
To make my self, as humble part,
At home within the cosmic self.

True inner power comes from an act of humility. If we want to draw from higher forces we need to surrender to what is higher than us and higher in us, the cosmic Self, the Christ, from Whom we can draw cosmic forces in our will.

Verses 36 to 38 form a coherent transition, that of cosmic Word, present in all three verses, a power taking hold of our being—acting through us in the world. It beckons us to become beacons of hope (38) and prepares to exhibit new strength.

Early Winter: Strength of Heart

Apart from verse 39 thinking is no longer mentioned because it momentarily makes room for something greater.

Verse 39 (December 29 – January 4)

Surrendering to spirit revelation
I gain the light of cosmic being;
The power of thinking (Gedankenkraft), growing clearer,
Gains strength to give myself to me,
And quickening there frees itself
From thinker's energy (Denkermacht) my sense of self.

At the time of the Holy Nights thinking, strengthened through and through by the will can deliver on the promise of verse 35 (cosmic Self). It opens us to an understanding of the higher Self to which we can now turn in yearning (sense of Self). Not surprisingly, we enter a new quality in the following verses. Transformed thinking, united with an intimation of our eternal Self, opens the gates of the heart (verses 40 to 43).

Verse 40: Midwinter (January 5-11)

And when I live in spirit depths
And dwell within my soul's foundations,
There streams from love-worlds of the heart,
To fill the vain delusion of the self,
The fiery power (Feuerkraft) of the cosmic Word.

As we enter the week of epiphany a new quality enters the soul, that of fire and warmth, which give cosmic Word an individual stamp. Cosmic Word, which takes hold of our heart, cleanses the residual dross of the lower ego.

Verse 41 (January 12-18)

The soul's creative might (Schaffensmacht)
Strives outward from the heart's own core
To kindle and inflame god-given powers (Götterkräfte)
In human life to right activity;
The soul thus shapes itself
In human loving and in human working.

Permeated with new warmth and the cleansing power of cosmic Word the soul can face the dark and cold of winter with new confidence. It can find its place in the human world, which is over-emphasized in "human life," "human loving" and "human working."

Verse 42 (January 19-25)

In this the shrouding gloom of winter
The soul feels ardently impelled
To manifest its innate strength (Kraft),
To guide itself to realms of darkness,
Anticipating thus
Through warmth of heart the sense-world's
revelation.

Midway through the sequence of verses the soul is called to develop courage, the faculty of the heart (from the Latin *cor*). From the fountain spring of joy we can look into the future with hope.

Verse 43 (January 26 – February 1)

In winter's depths is kindled
True spirit life with glowing warmth;

It gives to world appearance,
Through forces of the heart (Herzenskräfte), the power to be
(Daseinsmächte).
Grown strong, the human soul defies
With inner fire the coldness of the world.

The verse repeats the theme of verse 42 and takes it further. Not only does the soul take courage; it can now take an active role in the world's becoming, answering the call and challenge of verse 33. The verse is like an affirmative echo to the question of verse 35, "life's reality", or in other translations "to be" (In German it is "sein" both times). Only now it affirms all being, not just our own. The desire to co-create has now become a reality.

Once more we cross a qualitative threshold before moving on to verses 46 to 52, the one that is called "spirit birth" which anchors us in the reality of the Spirit Self (verses 44-45). Not only do the two verses affirm the spirit birth, they both place it in relation to the new phase in soul and Nature; the processes of external growth and the call these exert on "the senses' dull attractions (or appeal)."

Late Winter to Spring: Strength We Give, Strength We Receive

Verse 46 (February 16-22)
The world is threatening to stun
The inborn forces (Kraft) of my soul;
Now, memory, come forth
From spirit depths, enkindling light;
Invigorate my inward sight
Which only by the strength of will (Willenskräfte)
Is able to sustain itself.

The new series begins with another warning verse, in which the soul now starts to turn inward, in a sense protecting itself, which constitutes a complete reversal from the preceding verses. New challenges call on the rising of the soul force of memory, itself requiring strong exertion of the will. It takes its place alongside thinking.

Verse 47 (February 23 – March 1)
There will arise out of the world's great womb,
Quickening the senses' life, the joy of growth.
Now may it find my strength of thought (Denkens Kraft)
Well armed by powers divine (Gotteskräfte)
Which strongly (kräftig) live within my being.

The verse reaffirms the power of thinking, now strengthened by memory. It also underlines that power is offered from the divine within.

Verse 48 (March 2-8)

Within the light that out of world-wide heights
Would stream with power (machtvoll) toward the soul,
May certainty of cosmic thinking
Arise to solve the soul's enigmas —
And focusing its mighty rays,
Awaken love in human hearts.

Thinking achieves, we could say, its ultimate transformation. It is a thinking of the heart through which human loving of verse 41 can now become fully objective love. Wisdom and love unite in the heart through cosmic thinking.

Verse 49 (March 9-15)

I feel the force (Kraft) 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.

Verses 49 and 50 are intimately interconnected. Having transformed thinking into cosmic thinking we can now recognize the two sides of the coin, as it were. Thinking is a metamorphosed power of growth, which is present outside the human being in the cosmic formative forces. It is these that thinking can finally fully recognize.

Verse 50 (March 16-22)

Thus to the human ego speaks
In mighty (machtvoll) revelation,
Unfolding its inherent powers (Kräfte,
The joy of growth throughout the world:
I carry into you my life
From its enchanted bondage
And so attain my truest goal.

Through cosmic thinking we gain access to the mighty revelation of the forces acting in Nature. This is an echo and an answer to the challenge of verse 33. The whole of Nature and the cosmos rejoice in human co-creation.

Verse 51 (March 23-29)

Into our inner being
The riches of the senses pour.
The Cosmic Spirit finds itself
Reflected in the human eye,
Which ever must renew its strength (Kraft)
From out that spirit source.

As soon as a stage is reached, so is it challenged. As thinking attains the pinnacle of its power, so is it called to sacrifice itself as the time of Easter draws near. What seems a loss is what will lead us to transformation and resurrection.

Verse 52 (March 30- April 5)

When from the depths of soul
The spirit turns to the life of worlds
And beauty wells from wide expanses,
Then out of heaven's distances
Streams life-strength (Lebens Kraft) into human bodies,
Uniting by its mighty (machtvoll) energy
The spirit's being with our human life.

The sacrifice is immediately repaid. Thinking is what has connected us to its counterpart, the formative forces that work into the world of Nature from the periphery. It is these forces that strengthen us in body, meaning in our etheric, even as thinking is diminished. The physical/etheric is strengthened and thinking has led us to our resurrection. It connects us to the sphere of cosmic life as the Easter mystery draws to completion.

We can now turn to verse 2 of the second week after Easter, which concludes the winter/early spring series.

Verse 2 (April 14-20)

Out in the sense-world's glory
The power of thought (Gedankenmacht) 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.

Here the word macht appears only in its negative connotation, as in loss of power. The power of thought fades away, while through it we have been nourished by cosmic life and have reached a deeper understanding of and connection with the Mystery of Golgotha. The latter is possible because of the former.

The space between Ascension and the end of summer awakens what the calendar calls Selfhood power. In the fuller sense we could say that all of fall and winter consecrate the spiritual meaning and depth of force and power, which become the possibility for human beings to co-create, to start becoming the tenth hierarchy.