

Question: Why Celebrate the Seasonal Festivals at a Biodynamic Farm?

Dear Friends, in this invitation I wish to draw attention to the importance of attending festival celebrations at *Cottonwood Farm*. Doing so aids our soul development and the continuation of a biodynamic initiative in our valley.

I would like to begin by thanking you, **Dear Friends**, for your prayers, your good will, and your participation in previous festivals at Cottonwood Farm. This time of the year commemorates everything to do with **selfless self-consciousness and doing the good**. A year ago many of us pulled together to celebrate the **Michaelmas** season plus publically launch an anthroposophical initiative -**Cottonwood Farm**.

Since then, perhaps you have thought about your contributions. I have. But, I am uncertain if we grasp the magnitude of festival participation at an emerging biodynamic farm. Karl Konig the founding father of *Camphill* therapeutic communities was conscious of the tie between festival celebrations, biodynamic agriculture practices, and the human being. I am wondering if we too are awake to the multi-dimensional value of applying biodynamic preparation to the trunk of a newly planted fruit tree. This asks for a question: What is occurring for us and for the elemental kingdom when we help turn manure over and over again in the process of making Barrel Compost -an activity that occurred during our St. Johns festival? Do we recognize the connection between our soul development, the Cosmic Christ, and our participation in the yearly festival calendar at a biodynamic farm? For example, do we know that the biodynamic preparations have the potential of liberating elemental beings from ill-willed Forces in our world, which in turn, influence our wellbeing? In the season of **Michaelmas** it is appropriate to ask ourselves if we comprehend what is associated with festival gatherings located on biodynamic farms. Whether we observe or carry out actions, such as stirring a biodynamic preparation, our souls are influenced by intentional activities designed to realign nature and the human being with the Cosmic Christ.

Over the years, preparing for and uniting with the Christ in the etheric realm has been a frequent theme at our gatherings. About this possibility, Emil Bock, a Christian Community priest, asked Rudolf Steiner how we could **best prepare our souls** to meet the Christ. Surely this question resonates within many of us. Didn't we ask it in June when Yeshayahu Ben Aharon visited? To Emil Bock's query Rudolf Steiner replied, "***Through the meditative experience of the cycle of the year.***"

Why is this so? Simply stated, it is because the Cosmic Christ is active in the elemental processes which unfold

around us in the Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter. Rudolf Steiner went on to say, "*When we achieve our awareness of nature through spiritual science, we realize it is a great privilege to be in the spiritual reality of nature. And that it is a privilege . . . especially when we recall just how many people today because of their environment cannot be near the creations of the nature beings. And when we contemplate nature with a gaze clarified through spiritual science, the highest moral aspirations are connected to that which we sense in nature. It is paradoxical yet true that the city dwellers, who must lose knowledge of what oats, rye, or barley grains look like, will also unfortunately become separated, in their hearts, from the deepest moral source of our existence.*"

Wow! As usual, if I choose to listen, the words given by Rudolf Steiner can inspire and direct my course of action. **Dear Friends** please contemplate this quote placing it within the context of your inner development, your wish to unite with the Christ in the etheric. Don't stop there though, also relate it to the ever increasing pathologies that plague our soul lives which none of us is immune to. Additionally, consider the quote in connection with the mission of Cottonwood –*to create a sanctuary dedicated to healing the earth and human beings.*

Let us briefly focus on key ideas highlighted in the above quotations -nature and the etheric Christ. Nature is composed of the elemental kingdom consisting of Gnomes (earth), Undines (water), Sylphs (air), and Pyraustas (fire). The elemental beings make up the ether body of the earth where the Cosmic Christ now resides. Ill-willed forces hold the elemental beings hostage. And, one of our tasks is the freeing-up of the elemental beings. This can happen when we prepare and apply biodynamic preparations. Astonishing! The forces within the preparations unite the Gnomes, Undines, Sylphs, and Pyraustas with the Cosmic Christ. Moreover, and in so doing, the doorway towards healing the wounded alienated human soul is opened.

How can this be? What do the elemental beings have to do with my thought life, my emotional body, and my behaviors? The relationship between these kingdoms and principles is simply astounding. I recall reading that comprehension of the four elements –earth, water, air, and fire- is a key to the world and human nature. The four elements manifest in four levels of elemental beings, which comprise human nature: the physical body or the earth element; an etheric body or water, an astral body or air; and the ego or fire element. The bond between elemental beings and us humans is visible in our threefold soul forces. The kingdoms of nature inform and influence our attitudes, our feelings, and our actions according to the presence of beneficence or malevolence **within their** being. In other words, if nature beings unite with the Cosmic Christ they carry qualities of divine life, light and love. If alienated, they convey the nature and course of ill-will which will manifest in the human as bodily and soul diseases.

The association does not stop with a four-fold connection. Through the four elements the bond is linked with the zodiac or the twelve aspects of the Sophia-Christ evident in the earth, water, air and fire zodiac signs. And, when we comprehend the twelve aspects of the Sophia-Christ twelve virtues become clear, which are opposed by twelve vices. Both virtues and vices are visible in our thought, emotional, and will life.

ELEMENTS:	EARTH	WATER	AIR	FIRE
ELEMENTAL BEINGS	GNOMES	UNDINES	SYLPHS	PYRAUSTAS
4-FOLD HUMAN NATURE:	PHYSICAL BODY	ETHERIC BODY	ASTRAL BODY	EGO
ZODIAC:	EARTH SIGNS	WATER SIGNS	AIR SIGNS	FIRE SIGNS

The elements manifest in the kingdom of the four elemental beings, which encompass the etheric world where the Cosmic Christ dwells. Through our four-fold human constitution we are united with the realm of nature and the etheric Christ. Karl Konig comprehended and acted upon this bond in a way that is visible to us in the Camphill community life. A pathway towards divine wisdom and love has been prepared for us "*through the meditative experience of the cycle of the year.*"

The mission of **Cottonwood Farm** has been humbly stated as the *wish to heal the earth and human beings*, and in so doing, move both towards the reconnection with the Cosmic Christ in the etheric realm. On the eve of **Michaelmas**, I am drawn towards expressing an explanation, appreciation, and hope for the continuation of your support in the realization of **LOVE** in our corner of the world.

With Warm Regard,
 Roberta Nelson, PhD.