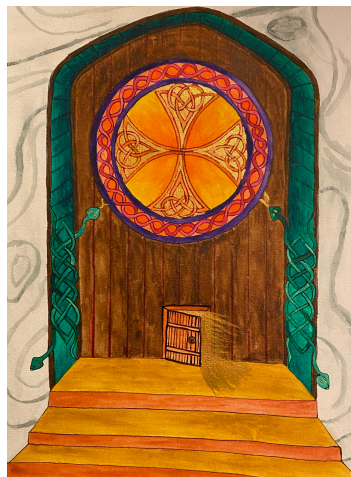


# SPIRIT-LED EDUCATION FOR A SPIRIT-LED LIFE

A Course by Colleagues of Developing the Self  
Developing the World



LESSON 7

## Renewing Festivals

By Lisa Romero

**LESSON EXTRACT**



**EduCareDo**  
International Research and Learning Centre  
based on the work of Rudolf Steiner

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*"Aquarius," painting by Laura Summer*

*Festivals are multilayered rhythmical gatherings that can bring all members of a community together to connect with and engage with the most important events of human life. In the esoteric schooling these events lead us through the growth and development of ourselves, our inner world, and in turn the outer world. It is in this sense that festivals were and still can be, a representation in the outer world of the initiation journey of the individual soul. The initiation path results in developing three major inner development capacities. One is the development of inner senses, another is the overcoming of the errors and diversions of the outer senses, and the third is overcoming the personal desires, preferences, and conditioning of the individual soul.*

*When considering how festivals help sow the seeds that are behind these three initiation capacities by relating to the depths of the soul, we can understand how they are foundations for inner development and are instilled through the various festival gatherings as seeds that may come to grow should the individual's efforts shine upon them in future times. It is through the festivals that the most spiritual aspect of the human being is seeded. For this reason the festivals used to be held and administered by the holy ones of the community.*

*It is my understanding that festivals, like so many other rites and rituals, now belong to the community members to hold and strengthen, because we are at the stage where we each have the capacity to find the "holy aspect" of our own being. And in fact, in this striving and presentation, the children are even more encouraged to see awakening, a life of the spirit that is for all and not only the chosen few.*

*Through these festivals being held by the community, even if this is just your small family community, the forms must be more alive and awakened through the needs of that community. I recognise that we, as community members, carry the bridge between the spiritual cosmic happenings and the place in which we live. However, the festivals are not just to be made up according to the preferences of people but enlivened through the wisdom and understanding of the importance in the health and wellbeing of the community. Community members who are awakening the three steps towards initiation in themselves, as all can today, are able to hold the festival for others. Although children participate in various ways, they are not holding and carrying the wisdom of the festival, but receiving it.*

This lesson will offer insights and understanding as well as practical support, to deepen one's connection to festival forms, experiences, and wisdom that already exists or needs to be strengthened or come into being.

The rhythm of spiritual festivals supports our human soul journey through the course of the year in the life of the earth and the cosmos, and our soul's experience of being a citizen of these wider worlds. Bringing meaningful festivals to the growing child helps develop health-giving soul rhythms that give certainty, hope, continuation, and community celebration. These celebrations can become deeply warming soul memories that support the inner resilience of the child, but they are also pointers and symbols to the ongoing growth and inner development that their soul will take hold of once the body itself has fully grown.

## **LESSON EXTRACT**

**Enrol to read more**

**<https://www.educaredo.org/spirit-led-education>**

## Diary Sheet

Name:

Date:

1. What rhythms connect the child to the physical health and which rhythms connect the child to their spiritual health?
2. In which ways can you bring greater reverence to spiritual rhythms in the life of education?
3. In which areas of rhythm does the child/children in your care need to be supported in?