

Michaelmas: A time of Hope and New Initiatives

Laurie Clark

“The heart that prepares itself for the light will be able to act individually and originally, to try new beginnings from nothing. Rudolf Steiner taught that Michael needs “inwardly brave human beings as ‘co-workers’, human beings who receive the ‘word of love’ of the cosmic will effectively into their own souls’ ‘lofty goals’- and who do not adapt to situations. The trust in the power of truth and courage to bring to realization what has been recognized to be right must be maintained or newly developed. We need this festival of hope and expectation more than ever”

Peter Selg

The Archangel Michael is known in many different cultures and faiths. The name Michael in Hebrew means: Who is like God?” He is mentioned three times in the book of Daniel, he is also recognized in the Koran and in the New Testament. Michael is known as the protector and leader against the forces of evil.

The Archangel Michael is a spiritual figure; in artistic renderings, he is often standing on a dragon-like figure with a sword and shield in hand. He does not slay the dragon, but keeps it control underfoot. The higher self of the human being reminds the lower self (the dragon) to live a moral life and arouse the eternal self.

Michael’s countenance is full of sunlight, his gaze is positive and his sword is made of cosmic meteoric iron. Meteoric Iron has homeopathic qualities that invigorate and enliven our blood, reviving our will forces. We can inwardly picture that the shooting stars that come from Michael’s sword falling to earth are the meteoric iron that are spiritual seeds and awaken our higher selves, giving us renewed direction for our lives.

With the tremendous challenges that Covid has brought, this festival is of great importance. Michael gives us the courage to meet the trials of our time and the confidence to look towards the future without apprehension and the will to persevere. This heavenly figure of Michael encourages us to act with courage and imbue all that we do thoughtfully with great care. As the sunlight decreases and the nights grow long, our hearts can hold an inner light; standing in equanimity in the face of the trials that await us.

How can we bring the essence of Michaelmas to the children in our care, especially during this pandemic? The children have experienced disruption in their lives and though little children are very resilient, they have encountered trauma. Stories of bravery that portray how one can call on their own inner power, overcoming the dark forces and fear in order to help others and bring goodness to the people on the earth can be told. A theme of protection can be a very helpful motif during this time. Making a shield that the children can sand and polish, decorated with the heavenly stars could be a potent way to bring the image of protection. A shield is something that protects us from danger and the heavenly stars represent the spiritual light that always accompanies us on our earth journey.

Michaelmas is a festival that encourages the human being to find strength, courage, the will to accomplish the deeds that await us, and most importantly to do this with love. The seeds in the human heart are ripening, carrying hope and new forces of will into the future.