

**ACCESSING THE
BOOK OF FORM
THROUGH THE THOUGHTS
OF MICHAEL AND THE
FORCES OF MARY**



Enzo Nastati

September 2005

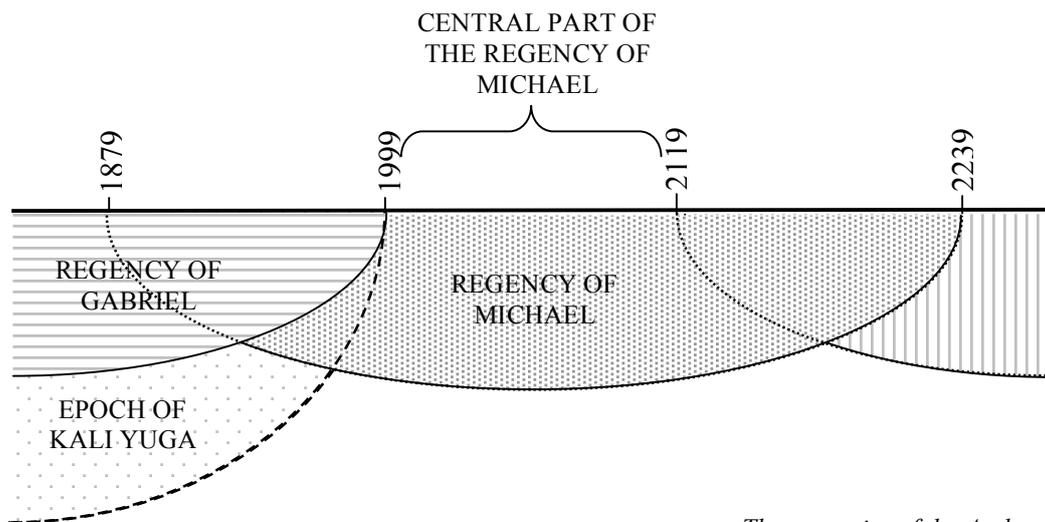
ACCESSING THE BOOK OF FORMS THROUGH THE THOUGHTS OF MICHAEL AND THE FORCES OF MARY

In previous publications we have compared the old and the current path of initiation. This comparison reveals that the old path starts from knowledge of what is within the candidate for initiation, and from here leads to what is divine in the world. "Man! Know thyself and you will know God and the whole world". This path leads from the inside to the outside. The new path takes its momentum from Nature, from exact and objective observation of nature around us to find the divine in all things. This can be summarized in the phrase, "Man! Discover Nature", an exhortation that is handed to humans from the Archai Michael, a high spiritual entity who is the ruler of our age and doorkeeper to the Sun - which is to say the guardian of all the authentic paths of initiation.

Discovering or knowing Nature means to know the lower kingdoms, which spiritually represent what Man has "discarded" like ballast in the process of descending to the Earth, so that we could become Man as we are today. This is a form of sacrifice by the lower realms which have waived their right to achieve self-consciousness in freedom so that we could do it. Therefore, the conscious Man has a responsibility to contribute to the evolution of the earth, plants and animals.¹ Since they are part of man that has been temporarily "ousted," one can understand how this process corresponds to another way to "know thyself". This is the safest path of modern initiation. As we have often mentioned, there are other faster routes but certainly less secure. Like 'fast fixes' they are also the least durable.

The Archai Michael

On the path of initiation, as we have emphasised, a key step is the encounter with the Archai Michael. Normally Michael (whose name means "Countenance of Christ") is known and invoked as an Archangel (a Spirit of Peoples), but in the nineteenth century he developed to the rank of the Archai (Spirits of Time).



The regencies of the Archangels

¹ See «Occult Science» by Dr Rudolf Steiner

About every 360 years a new spiritual entity takes on the guidance of humanity. Michael had his last period of regency around 200 BC, when he was the Archangel of the Jewish people², to prepare the Jewish people so that Jesus could be born amongst them. Shortly before the birth of Jesus the regency of the Archangel Gabriel began. In 1879 Michael assumed the regency of our present times. This regency will last 360 years so Michael will bring his own impulse (free and conscious activity) in our time.

If one divides his regency into three thirds of 120 years, the first third still echoes and integrates the momentum of the Archangel who ruled the previous era, while the last third will prepare for the impetus for the succeeding regent. Therefore, only the central third fully reveals the regency's central impulse. In the case of Michael, this central part started in 1999 (1879 plus 120 years) and will end in 2119. Therefore, in this period we will experience the fullest Michaelic support.

We have already said that Michael is the "Guardian of the solar door." He is actually the Archai of the Sun, and the Sun is the sphere relevant to our Higher Self (Spirit Self) - the first of our spiritual parts to develop on the spiritual journey of initiation. As one passes beyond normal ego consciousness, away from our egoity, to our spiritual part, the Higher Self, we progress via Michael, who governs all genuine paths of initiation. We are not referring only to the Christian path, but to all those paths that follow the essence of the Christic impulse even if they call it by other names. Bear in mind that the Powers, or Spirits of Form, reveal their influence on the world through earthly forms. So reaching the level of the Sun implies overcoming all forms such as religious forms, and in achieving this we connect with the impulse of Michael.

Let us briefly recall that until a few decades ago, at the end of Mass³, the Invocation of the Archangel Michael was recited as protection from the forces of evil.

Michael is a unique entity. On his own evolutionary path he united himself completely with Christ like no other member of the hierarchies has done. In the realm of Archangels many have lost faith in Man and the human project. Only Christ and Michael still have full confidence in our salvation. Because of this Michael, the bringer of free and conscious action, received the complete power and authority to defeat the luciferic-Ahrimanic dragon directly from Christ and to help in the conquest of freedom and love.

Forces of Michael

Michael has three forces, three "weapons", with which to subdue Evil. These are the sword (ie the spiritual Word, the Logos), the Spear (which symbolizes the spinal column, the I, the awakening of spiritual strength) and the scales whose dishes are Lucifer and Ahriman - the two forces of evil. Lucifer guides the extreme flight into the spirit at the cost of the earthly. Ahriman promotes the materialism that denies the very existence of the



² The Hebrews lost their link with their Archangel as they refused the christic impulse, and their diaspora is a visible consequence of this spiritual event.

³ This is translated from Italian, and Italy is predominantly a Catholic country.

spirit. Michael guides us from falling prey to either of these. Our challenge is to maintain an upright balance, like the gnomon of the Scales.

The Sword of Michael, with the edge of its blade which divides good from evil, is an invitation to discernment, especially the discernment of spirits. The Sword of Michael allows us to recognize the spiritual laws and to express ourselves through them. The message of the Spear of Michael is that our ego, permeated by spiritual forces, is our essence. The scales reminds us to keep us in balance without falling to either side, otherwise we will have to face the karma that accrues from our mistakes.

In the light of the last statement we can identify Michael as the bearer of karma, just as Christ is the Lord.

1879

Around 1840 Michael was promoted to the rank of Archai, and this change was manifest at the beginning of his rule in 1879. The forces that oppose evolution, knowing the deep christic impulse of which Michael is the bearer, acted immediately to counter any possible influences. The years 1848-49 were a time of profound revolutions. Even today, in Italian, the word "quarantotto"⁴ is used to show a situation of chaos and disorder. At this time mesmerism spread as did the practice of séances, which is an abuse of power by those people who wanted to make the spiritual world manifest in what is physical-material. Marx's Manifesto, written on the basis of scientific atheism, was also a product of these years, and anaesthesia was first introduced, a practice that prevents one from feeling pain during an abnormal release (without angelic protection) from the human body, leaving the person at the mercy of spiritual entities including the Asura.

This huge pre-emptive strike was entirely designed to destroy Michael and the new Christic impetus of which he was the herald, to prevent him from bringing humanity (some now being ready as it was early in the era of the development of the Consciousness Soul) to be alert to the encounter with Christ on the etheric plane. With the encounter with Christ on the physical plane (the event of Golgotha), mankind was given the strength, in full consciousness, to come to the Father's house, to the sphere of the zodiac, and to counter the impulses forces of Lucifer Ahriman as they act more powerfully. With the advent of Christ on the etheric plane every man receives strength to climb beyond the Zodiac, to the Milky Way. Moving from anthroposophical terminology to esoterically Christian terminology, we can say that until 1900 humanity could enter the sphere of the Holy Trinity (which runs from the Moon to the zodiac). Since 1909 the doors to reach the Most Holy Trinity have been opened, whose nearest manifestation - the Holy Spirit - emanates from the Milky Way. Given that the higher the premium the harder the trial, the forces of evil have asserted themselves with even greater force. In addition to Lucifer and Ahriman, now the Asura are focussed upon humanity, the third and most powerful forces of evil, almost unknown to our tradition. The purpose of the Asura is not to waylay the spirit of Man as Lucifer wishes, or even to kill us as Ahriman would, but to prevent spiritual evolution itself. The Asura express themselves through gratuitous violence, for the pleasure of seeing others suffer, and are a force that attacks the ego of man. They manifest themselves through the atomic bombs (destroying the etheric-vital plane to prevent an encounter with Christ), GMOs (which represents a weakening of the principle of the ego), torture, virtual reality, and terror. The aim is to deprive man of his ego.

⁴ This translates literally as 48 in English.

Michael and the Dragon

Michael fights with his three weapons against all three forces of evil, of which the dragon is a synthesis in traditional iconography – a symbol of negative entities within us. Green is the colour of the manifestation of Lucifer, but he is really red, and the throat of the dragon is red, while the hardness of the green scales is Ahriman. The simultaneous presence in the dragon of luciferic and ahrimanic aspects means that it also encompasses the third force of evil. The dragon, in the Apocalypse of John (Revelations 12:3), wants to devour the child that is born of the Woman Clothed with the Sun (Mary who gives birth to Jesus, the Higher Self within us).



*Michael defeats the Dragon
Maestro Eybe*

The anniversary of St. Michael

Why is St Michael celebrated on September 29th? Why is there resonance with the forces of Michael at this part of the year? For us this is an important question, because it allows us to pass from knowledge and study to direct experience. As we understand from the Rosicrucian path of initiation, study is just the first of seven steps. It is not the ultimate end and goal. It serves to train our minds, and to learn to change our mental attitudes, and thus to be able to think the thoughts of God. What we have studied, however, must become experience as we practice what we have learned.

The festival of 29th September occurs when the Sun transits in front of the constellation of the Virgin, of whom Michael is like a protective knight. Mary, the heavenly Sophia, brings us the strength to think God's thoughts, and Michael gives us the content of these thoughts. Thus was born Anthroposophy as Sofia gave herself to Man.

Michael's relationship with humanity

Michael came close to humanity relatively recently. We can identify Michael in Melchizedek, the Priest-King who gave Abraham the Mysteries of the Bread and Wine⁵ in the very place where later would be built the house in which the Last Supper would take place during which Jesus renewed these same Mysteries.

Michael did not act in humanity continuously. His first appearance as "Michael" and not through a human, occurred around 470, in the peninsula of Gargano, Puglia, in a cave. The second time he appeared in France, in Brittany, at Mont Saint Michel and his third appearance was in Piedmont, near Turin, where the Sacra di San Michele now stands. These three places are exactly aligned, and the Sacra di San Michele is exactly in the middle. This straight line is the Sword Michael extends over Europe.

Since then, as by radiation, devotion to Michael has spread through Europe, inspiring the Neoplatonist School of Chartres. Now that Michael is the Guardian of the Solar Gate, humankind can cross the threshold of the Sun and the encounter the living Christ on the etheric plane.



⁵ Genesis 14:18-20

The School of Michael

From 1879 Michael began again to act directly in the fate of humanity to help us defeat the three forces of evil and meet Christ individually. He has prepared the souls for this before they were born, through instruction. The so-called "school of Michael" acted in the spiritual world for four centuries, from 1400 to 1800 or so, preparing souls before their descent. Today the school of Michael is on Earth, and is nothing but the study of the Book of Forms, the Book of Life and the Book of Consciousness. Michael, in the past and today, is preparing souls for the spiritual experiences they will face in this earthly life, and since he knows the karma for which every soul is destined, he gives us the appropriate tools - the suitable spiritual faculties - to address it. As is the case this time and as it was two thousand years ago when the regency of Michael preceded the descent of Christ to Earth, every time Christ will appear in the future will be preceded by Michael, who is a forerunner.

To every act from the spiritual world there is a corresponding one from the obstructive forces of evil. As the school of Michael prepares his "soldiers," the forces of evil prepare their soldiers in another school, giving them the means to hinder spiritual evolution.

The fight in heaven

Since 1879 the power of Lucifer and Ahriman over man is finished. Michael, in the first act of his regency, purified the heavens, freeing them from Ahriman and all his troops who crashed to Earth, specifically to the human head. This is an image of the spiritual operation achieved by Michael, and must certainly not be seen as a punishment to man, but as an exhortation: just as Michael cleared the heavens of Ahriman, so Man (in and for whom the Spiritual world can not act on a whim, since man is free even to choose evil) is called to fight and defeat Ahriman within himself. Ahriman, the Prince of Darkness, has lodged in the most closed and dead part of us, the head, bringing the dead materialistic thought of intellectualism.

The coming of Christ in the etheric

Two thousand years ago, we know from the Gospels that Christ descended on Jesus of Nazareth, who at the time was about thirty. Why did Christ not go down first? We can hypothesise that Jesus was born without sin, an uncorrupted soul that already embodied the parts of the great initiates of humanity (Zarathustra, Buddha and Moses), but still Jesus had to work for thirty years more to make himself suitable to become the vessel for a high spiritual entity such as the Christ. Ten is the number of completion, so Jesus takes ten years to complete the purification of the physical body, ten for the etheric body, and ten for the astral body. After these thirty years Christ descended upon him at the Baptism in the Jordan, and began his three years of public life.

As often happens with the deep spiritual realities, they keep their steady rhythms, to keep in step on all planes simultaneously. The fresh impulse to prepare the new coming of Christ began in 1879, so we can compare it to the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. Thirty years after 1879, in 1909, this preparation can be considered complete and the "public life" can begin. From 1909 the manifestation of Christ on the etheric plane could be witnessed. The door opened to the etheric Christ for Europe - the heart centre of the world. After three years, in 1912, Rudolf Steiner wrote the *Calendar of the Soul* via direct inspiration from the etheric Christ. This is a tool that helps the human soul to relate with Christ on the etheric plane, as the Gospels of two

thousand years ago help Man to connect with the Christ-event that took place on the physical plane.

We can identify other moments in the life of this new "Jesus" born on the etheric plane: in 1900 he *came of age*, so to speak, as if he were twenty-one. In humans twenty-one is when the I incarnates. Some decades ago in Italy it was only at twenty-one that one *came of age*, a sign that this was known in the popular consciousness. In 1900 the I of this being 'Jesus' became incarnate, and on 29 September 1900 Rudolf Steiner held his first Anthroposophical lecture, the science of Michael. Anthroposophy is a manifestation of divine Wisdom, the Sophia, for modern Man, just as Sofia once joined Man under the name of Philosophy. Anthroposophy is knowledge for individuals as members of the human race, as spiritual entities evolving as part of a whole. This is the modern message of Sofia, and Michael is the first "son" of Sofia, its champion and defender. In this context Anthroposophy can clearly be said to be Michaelic. Since 1900, through Anthroposophy, the School of Michael entered the public domain of the world. It is no longer a closed and private mystery school. The time is ripe for spiritual truths to be shouted from the rooftops, and this is how the voice of Michael is manifest in the world. If Sofia gives us the strength of spiritual thoughts, the substance of these same thoughts we received from Michael.

Therefore, it is appropriate to explore verse 26 of the Calendar of the Soul by Rudolf Steiner, the verse that introduces us into the atmosphere of Michael.

**Natur, mütterliches dein Sein,
Ich trage es in meinem Willenswesen,
Und meines Willens Feuermacht,
Stählet Sie meines Geistes Triebe,
Dass sie gebären Selbstgefühl,
Zu tragen mich in mir.^{6 7}**

In all this where is Michael? Where in these verses are the dragon and the sword of which we have spoken? Calmly analyzing this small verse we see that, as for the other verses of the Calendar of the Soul, we can find much that is not readily available at first sight.

**O Mother Nature, thee I bear within me as the substance of my will
Natur, mütterliches dein Sein, Ich trage es in meinem Willenswesen,
Natura, il tuo Essere materno Io lo porto nel mio essere di volontà**

First, we note that the maternal being of Nature is under consideration, not the simple manifestation of Nature as we know it. This aspect relates to our will-being of which our activity is the expression. But who is this being? How is she nourished?

⁶ "Natura, il tuo Essere materno Io lo porto nel mio essere di volontà; E la virtù di fuoco della mia volontà Tempra gli impulsi del mio Spirito, Affinché facciano nascere il sentimento del sé, Per portare me entro me stesso." Italian version from *Albero della Vita*.

⁷ "O Nature, your maternal life, I bear within the essence of my will. And my will's fiery energy Shall steel my spirit striving, That sense of self springs forth from it To hold me in myself." Ruth and Hans Pusch translation.

"O Mother Nature, thee I bear within me as the substance of my will, my fiery will that tempers as to steel the promptings of my spirit, till they be mine, and I bear abroad Myself in me." Owen Barfield

Mark Moodie Publications

Telephone - UK: 0207 1934697 Email: mark@moodie.biz

This is a taster of one of our publications that was originally downloaded from <http://www.moodie.biz>

Please visit us now and again to see if there are more available.

Thanks

Mark