

Michaelmas Address 2020

Andrew Linnell, 23Sep2020

To set the tone for this Michaelmas address, I am going to read a short poem by Nietzsche called *Ecco Homo*.

*Yes, I know where from I hail!
Ever-hungry like the flame
I glow and consume myself.
Light becomes all I can catch,
Coal all that I leave behind:
There's no doubt, a flame I am!*

We are at the autumnal equinox, with fires in our forests, and we are about to enter the Season of Micha'el.

In fitting with this season, I'd like to begin with a question: Who is like God?

This question is a cosmic word similar to the Delphic inscription: Know Yourself, the Riddle of Mankind.

It might sound odd, but the name of the archangel for the autumn is "Who is like God?" You know this question as the name Mee-Kai-EL, or Michael, or perhaps Mikey. Mi-Cha-EL is one of four archangels who have ruled, in sequence, each of the four seasons. Plus, he is one of seven archangels who have ruled in sequence each of the seven periods that comprise the time of transit for the sun to pass through a zodiac sign. This passage takes 2160 years or about 310 years per archangel. During these 310 years, each operates as a time spirit. The actual time spirits are the next higher level known as the Archai. The Archai, archangels, and the angels comprise the Third Heavenly Hierarchy.

Eventually, every being of the hierarchies will graduate to its next level when it has finished its divine purpose and goal. Since the 15th Century, spiritual beings have been advancing when ready. Today, this is the case with Micha'el who began his turn as a time spirit in 1879. When his turn as time spirit concludes in about 2200, he will not return to the level of archangel but will remain as an archai.

Ah! Here we have another riddle! Who will take Michael's place in the rank of archangel? Who takes his place as the seasonal archangel? And who takes his place as the time spirit? With a new archangel in each of these positions, how will that affect life as we've known it?

Each archangel has a gesture. Micha'el is known to be taciturn. He 'speaks' through his countenance offering approval, or not, for deeds. His approval comes with support but there are no pre-approvals. He will not impact our free will.

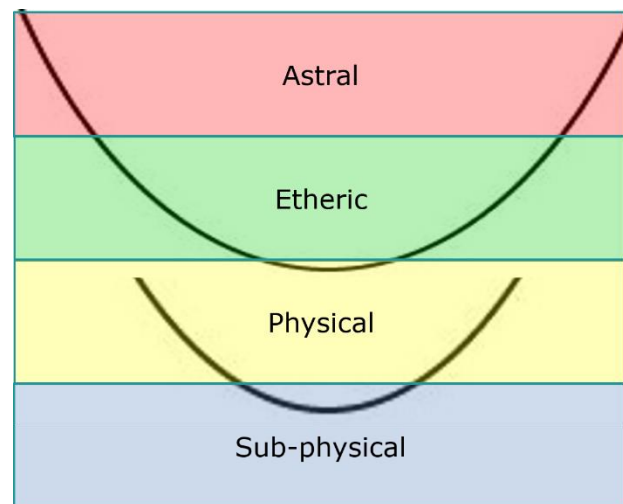
After Micha'el has advanced, who will fight the dragon? Today, Micha'el can stand upon the dragon, the Ahrimanic. Who will stand upon the dragon after 2200?

To help us answer such riddles, let's look a bit closer at ancient as well as relatively recent changes in the spiritual world.

First, I am going to show you a diagram. The original plan for humanity was to follow the top curve. But, because of the successful temptation by Lucifer, our evolutionary path was altered to the lower curve. This is known as the Fall of Man. At the end of his life when he

could no longer offer lectures, Rudolf Steiner wrote letters to the members. These pithy letters describe the mission of Micha'el and of Anthroposophy. In the letter *Michael's Task in the Sphere of Ahriman*, he

describes how mankind will need to successfully navigate our dangerous path through Ahriman's realm.



During our evolution, we have had, direct access to a myriad of spiritual beings but as we evolved towards freedom, our access has changed from direct to inspirational access, to imaginative access, to an experience of gods at certain times in their temple to no longer any experiences.

Then, in 1250, the spiritual world closed its doors to all people including initiates.¹ Humanity could only experience, through their physical senses, the wrought works of the Gods. Former initiates had to rely on their memories, their etheric bodies, for their work during these times.

Before these doors closed in 1250, preparations were being made.

Around 869, a meeting in the spirit occurred. Present were the recently deceased Haroun al Raschid and his wise Counselor who presided over the world's cultural center of 9th century, Baghdad. Also present were the Knights of King Arthur who had carried the stream of the pre-Christian Cosmic Christ into Europe. In addition, Aristotle and Alexander were present. All were initiates. The intention was to agree and coordinate what to do in their next incarnations to bring forth a new spiritual impulse. But an agreement was not to be reached. One path would lead to Averröes, Francis Bacon, and Amos Comenius.

The other path convened a spiritual conference that completed just before 1250. Platonists from the School of Chartres such as Bernardus Sylvestris and Alanus ab Insulis had just passed through the gate of death. They met with the Aristotelians who were about to incarnate, individuals who would be Thomas Aquinas, Meister Eckhart, and Agrippa of Nettesheim. Eckhart's words speak for this transition, "God has died so that I also die away toward the world and become a god." They forged a strategy for the end of the 20th century that intended for both groups, the Platonists and the Aristotelians, to overlap their incarnations and to collaborate for the next stage of Christianity.

Counter to this, in 1208, the Albigensian Crusade began. This 20-year military campaign initiated by Pope Innocent III was the genocide of the Cathars in southern France. Its unspeakable cruelty was committed by a mercenary army against Christians who never had an army out of a belief in love and non-violence. But they were deemed to be heretics thereby justifying their genocide. Rosicrucianism may have had its roots here with the Cathars. In 1234, the Dominican monks were asked to become the Inquisitors in order to root out all

¹ Spiritual Guidance of Mankind, lecture 2, GA 15,
https://wn.rsarchive.org/Books/GA015/English/ASGB1921/GA015_c02.html

remaining Cathars and their sympathizers. Oddly, Thomas Aquinas and Albertus Magnus were Dominicans.

Philip became King of France in 1285 and ruled over the extermination of the Knights Templar from 1307 to 1313. He died, as predicted by the Templar Jacques de Molay, a year later in 1314. This cruelty coincided with the time when Dante was writing the *Divine Comedy*.

In 1258, the world's cultural center, Baghdad, was sacked and its remarkable centers of learning such as Gondhishapur were destroyed by a Christian army – Mongols from the East under Halugu. They were Nestorian Christians!² Incidentally, the Mongol Empire mandated religious tolerance. Some of its armies converted to Islam, some to Nestorian Christianity, some remained pagan. As an aside, the Founding Fathers of America were inspired by this concept of religious tolerance from Genghis Khan and wrote into the American constitution the concept of the separation of Church and State.³

I have mentioned the great change that began in the 15th Century. Archangels had, until then, been the administrators of the human blood. They now began to teach the angels to take over this job so that they could move on to administer the system of nerves and senses. At that time, “the Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones were carrying over the Cosmic Intelligence into that member of man's organization which we call the system of nerves and senses, the head-organization”⁴ for the archangels to administer.

After the pre-1250 spiritual conference, Micha'el called for a school to prepare for his turn as the Time Spirit. This Micha'el School, from the 15th to the 18th century, worked at the level of Inspiration and Imagination. The goals for the coming centuries were set.

² Nestorius (386-450) The First Council of Ephesus in 431 condemned him for heresy for not accepting the view that Mary gave birth to Christ and was therefore the Mother of God. He claimed that Christ entered the body of Jesus at the baptism. Theodosius II sent him into exile in Upper Egypt, where he lived on until 450. The Council of Chalcedon in 451 fully anathematize him. But the Church of the East never accepted his condemnation. That led later to western Christians giving the name Nestorian Church to the Church of the East where his teachings were deemed Orthodox and in line with its own teachings of the Cosmic Christ.

³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Religion_in_the_Mongol_Empire

⁴ *Karmic Relationships*, volume 3, 28Jul1924, GA 237

Then, from 1841 to 1879 a great battle took place in the spiritual world and a class of angels were cast down into human consciousness. The victory belonged to Micha'el and his forces. The losers, one might quip, were us, the humans, who now had to deal with these laggard angels.

To balance this, starting in 1880, a new set of beings got access to human consciousness – namely the Vulcan beings. They were last here during the Atlantean Epoch and it was their Oracle that was then betrayed. This led to new forms of black magic that caused the divine beings to destroy Atlantis with the Deluge.

With these laggard angels, who had previously been used to block access to the spiritual world, now removed, Kali Yuga could be brought to an end in 1899. 33 years later, the Appearance of Christ in the Etheric could begin.

Then, in 1998, the third cycle of 666 could happen. An influence from Sorat, Christ's adversary from the Sun, brought a new impulse to human beings. Some years from now, we will likely be able to distinguish that impulse.

Many confuse Sorat and Ahriman. They are not the same. It would be incorrect to think of 1998 as a possible birth date for the body that will house Ahriman's incarnation. But Sorat's impulse will certainly make things easier for Ahriman.

What can be said to be responsible for our current situation of mounting fears? We have 5G. AI. Deep State. Climate change. Global warming. Fires in the West and in Australia. Hurricanes in the Atlantic. Pandemics affecting human contact. People dividing into camps, especially political camps. Nationalism. Racism. Genderism. Exploitation. Greed. Fears. Fears and more Fears. And it will only get worse! Let me read a short passage from Steiner's lecture Technology and Art:

“Everybody is obliged to undergo the battle; in its effects it is experienced by everybody. There would be no greater fallacy than to say: We must rebel against what technical science has brought to us in modern life, we must protect ourselves from Ahriman, we must withdraw from this modern life. In a certain respect such an attitude would be an indication of spiritual cowardice. The real remedy lies, not in allowing the forces of the soul to weaken and to withdraw from modern life, but in so strengthening these forces that its pandemonium can be endured. World-karma demands a courageous attitude to modern life, and

that is why genuine Spiritual Science calls at the very outset for effort, really strenuous effort on the part of the human soul.”⁵

We ask, why is this happening? Perhaps seeing current events through the eyes of Micha’el will help. “Micha’el sees the great events in the Earth's history taking place”⁶ those of the past and those of the future.

Long ago, when the spiritual world was concerned with its own battles and needs, it was Micha’el who brought their attention to a group of poor beings who were, so to speak, huddled in a corner – humanity! He could foresee that it would be us who would take the human stage of Earth. It was he, the Chief Steward of the Cosmic Intelligence, who took on the loving concern for us.

What is this Cosmic Intelligence? We can begin to grasp this when we come to realize that between death and a new birth, we are without physical and etheric body. These are replaced by angels and archangels as we sojourn the cosmic realms. This starry structure serves as our blueprint for our coming life, incorporating cosmic intelligence within us.

During our evolution, Micha’el let this Cosmic Intelligence slip away from him so as to endow humanity with this potential. “Micha’el foresaw how man, in progressing more and more towards his own individual use of intelligence, must meet with these Ahrimanic beings, and how by uniting with them he might then succumb to them.”⁷ He knew the danger of doing this because he knew Ahriman would be there to take this intelligence into his own realm where he could modify it to be materialistic, for example, into Artificial Intelligence.

Much of the Cosmic Intelligence has already fallen into Ahriman’s Realm. And Micha’el cannot go down into Ahriman’s Realm to retrieve it. But we can! In fact, only humanity can go there and return. We are his special forces. Armed only with our Free Will and motivated by our love, we can take this cosmic intelligence into ourselves so that we can carry it back to its rightful realm.

⁵ *Technology and Art: Their Bearing on Modern Culture*, lecture, Dornach, 28Dec1914, GA 275

⁶ *The Experiences of Michael in the Course of His Cosmic Mission*, Letter to Members, GA 26

⁷ *The Experiences of Michael in the Course of His Cosmic Mission*, Letter to Members, GA 26

But by the time we free this captive intelligence and return it to Micha'el, he will no longer be an archangel! He will be an Archai making our task to return it that much more difficult.

You might ask, how does Micha'el expect you or me to go up against Ahriman alone? I mean, not only is Ahriman far more intelligent than I am, but his angelic hordes, that Micha'el pushed out of the heavens, are now running rampant in our consciousness. On top of that, you and I have an Ahrimanic double hiding out in our body constantly urging us to act like an animal or a machine. Doesn't it seem like the deck is stacked against us? For us to enter Ahriman's realm, well is it not a bit like being cannon-fodder?

Recall, those Vulcan beings I mentioned. They have a score to settle. You see, back in Atlantean times, none of the oracles were betrayed except for one, theirs. It led to the black magic that eventually caused the destruction of Atlantis. They want to redeem this. Plus, these Vulcans have their own evolution to complete and the conditions now on Earth are just what they need to finish up. But they can only do this with our cooperation.

What? Our cooperation? Aren't we already busy enough? Now we're being asked to listen to and work with a bunch of strangers? Doesn't it appear that Michael's expectations are a bit extreme?

Maybe we can just ignore these Vulcans and let them fend for themselves? Anticipating this, Steiner remarked that if we ignore these nasty Vulcans, they will cause "strife after strife", "upheaval after upheaval!" My goodness, can't we just be left alone to enjoy life? [pause] OK, if we must, how do we even communicate with these Vulcan brats, err beings? Steiner does tell us that with the development of spiritual science and its practices, communication with them will come naturally – and it must come – and soon! [Did you do your Rose-Cross meditation today?]

Yes, Micha'el sees all of this. He has confidence in us. Not one of the other archangels are as confident in us as is Micha'el.

Recall that his season is the autumn, a season of the Will. Not only the harvest happens in the autumn, so do Wars and popular Sports. Lethargy from summer's heat has come to an end. Now, in the autumn, comes the riddle of sphinx which

is, "What goes in the morning on four legs, two at midday, and three in the evening? Oedipus guessed the answer, Man! What does this riddle mean? Micha'el foresees that we have entered the evening or autumn of our evolution. We reached our physical peak about 450 BCE, during the Greek/Roman Post-Atlantean Cultural Age. Micha'el sees that the Earth too is in its autumn reaching its evolutionary peak during the middle of the Atlantean Epoch. We are in the second half of Earth evolution, in decline. In one lecture Steiner called it involution as we prepare to make our seed for Jupiter, the next planetary condition.

What does this mean? It means that the earth is decaying, even matter is decaying. And humanity's physical existence is also in decline. Our physical bodies will be withering. By the year 5700, sexual procreation will end. Oh my! How will things continue? Steiner gave the answer in the lecture cycle, *The Fall of the Spirits of Darkness* but it is a grim picture. He said that from 5700, actually quite a bit before then, until the War of All Against All in roughly 8000, humanity will need to rely on these fallen angels who, with the help of the Vulcan beings, will find ways for us to build bodies so that we can still be physically present on Earth. Even the elemental beings of birth and death will be guiding and assisting. Yet all this will lead to our destruction, our necessary physical destruction.

Some will say, oh, never mind. It's OK, because by then we'll procreate through the larynx. Micha'el rolls his eyes. What kind of moral state must the human attain in order to be endowed with such an ability? Such a godly skill will not be ours until the second half of the Venus Planetary condition. Before then, we will need to perfect our ability to call forth the animal and before that the plant. Our morality and will must become fully aligned with God's before such a talent is bestowed up us.

Micha'el sees all of this and how from the Philadelphia Post-Atlantean Cultural Age, that is, the 6th PACA, a small group of individuals from around the world will carry human life and culture over to the Sixth Epoch. During the time before the War of All Against All, human beings will find their way into an existence where their lowest bodily member is no longer the physical, but their etheric. Let me repeat that in other words, by 5700 many people will have a relationship to the physical that can be compared to your current relationship to your automobile.

Such people will have their etheric body as their lowest member. And who is leading the way by showing us? Christ in the Etheric! And that is the direction where Micha'el points.

Remember that Ahrimanic double who joins us in our physical body before birth and leaves just before death? What will happen to it when we no longer go through birth? Micha'el foresees this too. The double will claim victory by winning for itself the physical realm. As they claim victory, we will retreat to the etheric where our evolution will continue. The double, however, will not be able to sustain an upright physical body. The Second Fall will occur. As we fell from Eden, the double will Fall. A new body will emerge for these Ahrimanic beings – it will look like a spider. But its life forces will be, at most, halfway between the Mineral and the Plant Kingdoms. We, from that point on, will evolve separately. Most of us, that is, because a portion of humanity who cannot overcome materialism, will, out of their own free will, elect to go with these spidery beings into what is called the Eighth Sphere.

This raises many riddles. For example, can any of these humans be saved? What is our future with our Ahrimanic double? After all, we will have been with our double for some 26,000 years! What are we to learn or gain from our dealings with our double and with Ahriman? Who will be on the human stage of Jupiter? What role will we humans have in preparing the body of these Jupiter-humans? If you follow the path of evolution from Old Saturn to Sun to Moon to Earth, you see a continual densification. Will conditions on Jupiter be even more dense? As their angels, will a time come on Jupiter when we will need to be able to incarnate into their bodies to help guide them as our angels did for us earlier in Earthly evolution? Does this require of us to know about sub-nature? If yes, then these words of Steiner from his last letter ring loudly in our Age, "As yet, in the course hitherto taken by the Technical Age, Man has not found the way to readjust his human relation rightly to this new civilization of Ahriman. Man must find [3 things] the *strength*, the inner faculty of *knowledge*, and *discernment* for his human being not to be overwhelmed by Ahriman in the Civilization of Technics. Sub-Nature must be understood in this, its character of under Nature. It will only be so understood if Man rises at least as high in spiritual knowledge of that super-Nature which lies outside the earthly sphere, as he descends in technical science below it into Sub-Nature." This implies going in BOTH directions

– a broadening of consciousness. Steiner calls it spiritual cowardice to avoid this. Later in this last letter, he confirms this broadening, “This makes it necessary for Man, in living inner experience, to come to a Spirit-Knowledge in which he rises as high above, into Super-Nature, as he does down below Nature with his sub-nature, technical occupations. He thereby creates within him the power, not to ‘go under.’”

Micha’el foresees all of this. His gaze is not accusatory but positive and active. His cosmic iron sword points to our way on. “Micha’el is a spirit filled with strength and he can only make use of thoroughly brave humans, humans full of inner courage.”⁸

Cosmic warmth [building now in the Consciousness Soul] must be ‘breathed out’ by all of us into our observation of the external world. Not only must we understand the world objectively in the manner of a spiritual scientist, but we must enter into this understanding with our life of feeling, to wrest the world from Ahriman's clutches, filling it with the Christ forces working from *within* ourselves.

“Cleverness has been furnished to us in abundance by the last few centuries; but what we need today is warmth of soul, Gemüt. What everyone must find in his Gemüt is the match wherewith to light the fire for anthroposophy.

Anthroposophy is in truth warm and ardent. He who finds this anthroposophy cold and intellectual and matter-of-fact, just lacks the means of kindling it so it may pervade him with its fire. And just as only a little match is needed to ignite a bonfire, so anthroposophy, too, needs only a little match. But this will enkindle the force of Micha’el in Man.”⁹ One might ask, “are the fires of the West trying to tell us something about our times and the call for our inner fire?”

We are the special forces of Micha’el. But Ahriman will be victorious in what he wanted: the physical realm. His minions, the Ahrimanic double will take over the physical body just as we rise up to where our etheric body will henceforth be the lowest member of our constitution. And as these doubles gleefully take on the physical body, there will be the Second Fall. The Exusiai gave upright form to our body. The Ahrimanic double has no such moral spine for uprightness. They will fall

⁸ *Karmic Relationships*, volume 3, 3Aug1924, GA 237

⁹ *Michaelmas & the Soul Forces of Man*, lecture 2, 28Sep1923, GA 223

to become spidery beings covering the corpse of the earth. We too will be victorious for we shall wrest from Ahriman what we'll need for our future as co-creators. By going so low into the sub-physical, we will rise higher than originally expected.

From the gaze of Micha'el, we too can see this future for which we need now to prepare. As our past has been mysteries of thinking so our future will be mysteries of willing. Those who graduate from this school will have come to the point of being able to co-create the next planetary condition called Jupiter.

I would like to close with a verse:

Spirit Triumphant!

Flame through the impotence of faltering, fainthearted souls.

Burn up egoism, kindle compassion, so that selflessness, the life stream of

Humanity, may flow as the wellspring of Spiritual Rebirth.

Thank you for your attention to this. Do we have time for questions?