



## **Archangel Michael's work in our world**

An address for the Michaelmas Cosmic Mass

18<sup>th</sup> September 2005 ● Rev Grace

*When the days drew near for him to be received up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make ready for him; but the people would not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to bid fire come down from heaven and consume them?" But he turned and rebuked them. And they went on to another village.*

*Luke 9:51-56*

Luke, the clairvoyant priest and doctor who worked at St Paul's side, is not usually associated in the Bible with the Archangel Michael and the cutting and creative work he does on behalf of Christ in evolution.

But for me some understandings of the passage I have just read are very Michaelic in their nature. To explain, I have to take you to one of this year's highlights for me, which has been the small group meetings that the Deacons have held in the lead up to each of the Festivals.

Much good work has been done in these small groups, where a few people have gathered over a meal and shared memories of festivals past, and their thoughts and experiences of what is emerging at this year's festival time for them, and how these festivals might grow in importance in the years to come.

These festival meals have then been followed up in a full meeting of all the deacons with their pastor, Rev. Trish, prior to each festival. It's been great preparation work and I think the whole Melbourne Centre is benefiting from it in all sorts of ways.

One thing that came home strongly from the last Deacons' meeting was a reminder of Michael's association with the colour orange. The colours of Michaelmas are purple and orange, but, when you think about it, over the years we have tended to focus on the purple, rather than on the orange. So perhaps its time to recognize and contemplate the fact Archangel Michael works in and through the colour orange as well, and what that means for us.

For me when I think of Michael one word stands out. And that is courage. He exemplifies courage, whether he's seen as the warrior in Revelation or the books of Daniel or Jude, or as St George of St George and the Dragon in Anglo Saxon mythology. He works in us to awaken the gift of courage in our hearts. And orange is the colour of courage, will-filled courage, which combines the red of the emotional levels and the yellow of clear thinking.

It was Archangel Michael who prodded involution forward so the Christ could be born fully into the physical world in the body of Jesus and eventually permeate every cell of that being's physical body as well as his astral and etheric levels. And now Michael brings to our world the circumstances that prod evolution forwards. And that means he prods us. It can only mean us. He prods us so we can become like Christ.

Michael's work on behalf of Christ presents us squarely with circumstances that we probably would not face given a choice, circumstances in every day life that force us to develop the Michaelic qualities of heart courage, creative thinking and selfless love.

There is nothing soft or fluffy about Michael. He is always pictured with a sword. He cuts truth from falsehood; he cuts out weakness and he cuts away worn out patterns of behaviour and thinking; he cuts away outmoded relationships and blood ties.

Thinking about the colour orange brought to mind some things Mario said about influences this colour can have when it is strongly present in a person's aura. He had quite a bit to say in *The New Clairvoyance* and in some of the spiritual readings I have had access to over the years. And I'm going to quote a little from both sources.

In discussing the characteristics of the aura in *The New Clairvoyance*, Mario refers to orange, which of course is the colour of the Sun, as depicting the unification of the body with the mind through the merging of the red – the physical and emotional energy – with the yellow of mental activity.

He says the colour depicts the creative, preserving and regenerative forces of nature, and its tones symbolize the bridge between matter and the higher faculties of the soul. It's the colour of imagination and the ability to think in terms of images. It's a colour, he says, which is enhanced by finding one's purpose in life and striving to fulfil it.

In one of the spiritual readings I referred to, Mario says:

*Orange will lead you into funny areas, incidentally. The reason that it does this is because it is so associated with the blood stream, and so associated with the nerve system. And both of these have an enormous influence upon the soul levels.*

*So that the orange will lead you into what I call pressurised chambers, but to translate this into the realities of life, where you have to undergo the rigours or pressure ... both personally, professionally, in terms of your children, in terms of your environment.*

*Orange will do this, with one specific purpose ... and one purpose alone...that is, to make you individualistic. Orange has the character of making you feel separate, apart from the total human race, as if there is something separating you, thereby feeling peculiar at times.*

*But of all the colours, orange is the best. It is the most wholesome colour.*

It is this sense of orange and how it works through forcing us to go through the experience of "pressurised chambers" where I think we can see the orange of Michael at work in our world right now – at work within individuals, within all structures based on heredity and tribal consciousness and even now breaking down some of the barriers between nation states.

From occult teachings we know that Michael is the guardian of cosmic intelligence. His intentions are aligned with the intentions of Christ. In many ways it is Michael, then, who brings the external circumstances to manifestation in our lives that force us continually to make choices. This or that? Christ or the comfort of the known? Christ or my relationship? Christ or my bank account? Christ, and new life or ..... No doubt you can fill in the blanks yourself only too well!

These pressurized chambers of choice – when the choice we makes moves us forward towards new life – change our astrals, affect our etheric levels, and enable to I Am to reveal itself just a tiny bit more.

Let's return to the passage from Luke where Jesus has set his face towards Jerusalem, and where, as he and his followers travel the road, he is brought face to face with three would-be followers.

### **Luke 9:57-58**

*As they were going along the road, a man said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man has nowhere to lay his head."*

Have you ever puzzled over that extraordinary response? Put yourself in this man's shoes; he thinks he's committing himself to an action that will change his whole life, and what does he receive in return? A confusing statement about foxes, birds and no place to stay!

What sort of response would he have been expecting? For I am sure his ego would have been expecting one .... Perhaps he expected Jesus to say, "Yes, follow me; you are indeed worthy to be my disciple." But Jesus' response tells us he could see very clearly what the man's real intention was. He could see the thinking behind the man's emotional statement of commitment.

*Foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests.* This is the sort of thinking that always has a retreat option, the sort of thinking based on habit patterns and safety options that are followed instinctively. If Archangel Michael presents this fox with a pressurised chamber, then the old thinking patterns take it straight back into the safety of what it knows already – its hole. Our thinking may take creative flight, like the birds of the air, but where does it lead? Out of habit, straight back to the nest, or the safety of what has already been built and is known.

But if you want to follow Christ – if you choose to follow Christ – and remember, it was this man who said he would be a follower, not the Christ who called him – then your intention and your thinking cannot be coloured by what is of the old.

Spiritual, Christ-filled thinking is not built on the old. It is free of habit patterns and safety retreats. It cannot be formed on the basis of known logic. It does not arise in response to the senses, but is alive to spirit. It has nowhere to lay its head, because it cannot rest in the old.

### **Luke 9:59-60**

And then, in the second man, Jesus must have recognized something special, for he called him to be a follower.

*To another he said. "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." But he said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."*

Here we see a man caught in another Michaelic pressurised chamber. Can I follow my heart when it is called by Christ or do I first need to do my duty to my family? Can I do both? Can I find a balance between this call of family ties and conscience and the call of Christ in my heart and soul?

First the thinking. Now the emotions. Jesus says leave old emotional problems behind. Go back and that which is old will reclaim you. Let the dead bury the dead. Let those who choose to stay in their emotional stagnation deal with ties from the past which no longer have any life in them.

Your task, Jesus says to this man, is to move forward and to proclaim what you already know of the kingdom of God. Go out and bring Christ to others through your voice, your words and through the example that your beingness proclaims.

There's a deeper level at work, here too, I think. And it speaks about the change from group and family consciousness and blood ties to a consciousness where we are drawn to each other through like-mindedness, like purpose and the vibrations of certain colours. One of the ways Archangel Michael is particularly active at the moment is to break down the stream of heredity and time memory that have governed us for centuries.

In Old Testament times we needed to be governed by the Mysteries of Heredity, so that through keeping the blood pure, astral, etheric and physical bodies could be developed strong and pure enough to contain the Christ in incarnation. But those mysteries were fulfilled with the birth of Jesus.

Since then, at certain times, Archangel Gabriel has used and reinforced a new stream of heredity, if you like, in order to move evolution along. And we can think here of the role family and blood ties have played in the development of organized societies, and in the previous cycle of economic development led by family dynasties in Britain and Europe.

But that time is past. In this period of the world's history, Michael works hard to break down those old ties. Let the dead bury the dead. The old external law of Moses that says honour your mother and your father is being replaced by the new inner law of love ... love thy neighbour as thyself. The first belongs to time – in the stream of time, if you like, where love follows down the generations and belongs within the tribe. The new law is not time-bound, but is just beginning to give us new experiences of space and time. Now the relationships that take precedence are soul to soul, not bound by generations.

#### **Luke 9:61-62**

And now to the last man; here again he puts *himself* forward to follow Christ – and he too puts conditions on it.

*Another said, "I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home." Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."*

I **will** follow you – I will use my will for your purposes, Lord – but just let me do it my way. Well, the Christ won't have that. Archangel Michael's pressurised chambers test the will continually. You say you want to follow me – but here, have this test. Or that. And that.... Are you still strong enough to hold fast to what you will? The egotistical will colludes with the thinking and the feeling to argue for safety.

But as Jesus says, once you've said to the will: This is it – then you can't look back, whatever tests Michael throws at you.

It's a powerful image, this one of the man with his hand on the plough. I remember when I was a small child we attended for some time the local Anglican Church and my father, who was a vestryman, organized a service called The Blessing of the Plough. It was along the lines of the old harvest festivals in England.

And I remember that this rusty old, hand-pushed, single furrow plough used to be brought into the Church at the beginning of the service. And I remember wondering how on earth one man could push this implement deep enough into the hard earth to turn over furrows of soil, one furrow at a time. And I used to wonder how on earth anyone could plough a straight line with such an awkward implement.

Well, I guess the answers are simple. Pushing the plough requires great effort of will, while cutting a straight furrow means picking out a point in the distance up ahead and aiming for it, without wavering. A backward glance will mean you lose the line of sight, and so plough a crooked row, which of course makes sowing the seed and harvesting the crop that much harder.

This is the picture Jesus presents to this man; use you will and work towards purpose, no matter what.

So, in these three vignettes, I think we can clearly see Archangel Michael at work, presenting difficult choices – pressurised chambers – so that clear spiritualised thinking develops, clarifying the emotions and developing the will. Yellow for thinking, red for the emotions, and, of course, Michaelic orange for the will.

Courage, creativity and Christ. The fruits of working with, not against, Michael.

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