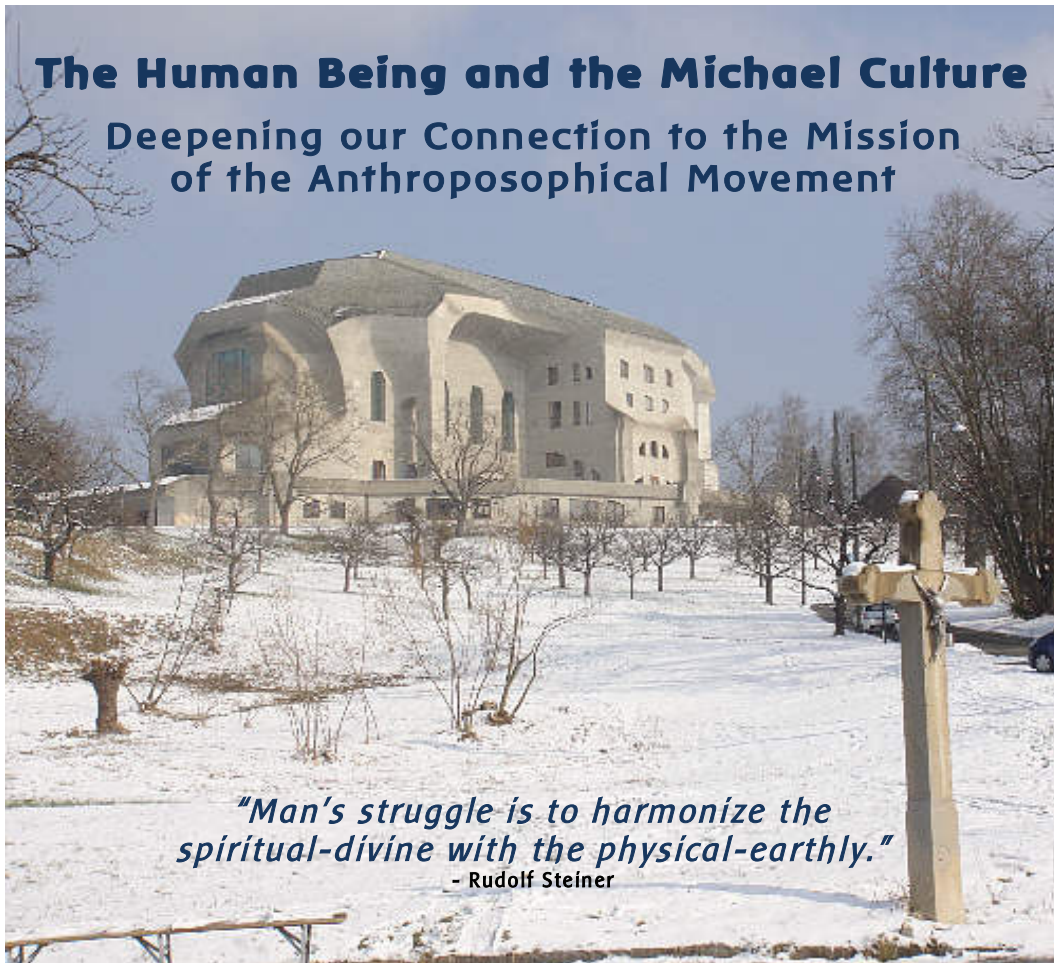


The Human Being and the Michael Culture

**Deepening our Connection to the Mission
of the Anthroposophical Movement**



*"Man's struggle is to harmonize the
spiritual-divine with the physical-earthly."*

- Rudolf Steiner

***A gathering of the Anthroposophical Society, Greater Washington DC Branch;
looking towards the 100th Anniversary of the "Christmas Conference, 1923/24"***

**Saturday, January 2, 2016 from 2:30-4:30 PM
Washington Waldorf School
4800 Sangamore Road, Bethesda, MD 20816**

Across the globe, fear, hatred and doubt are preying upon the human soul. Can we in the Branch look to the MICHAEL CULTURE for soul/spiritual healing and health, for a healing pathway in which both human freedom and the so-called necessity of nature are transformed and brought into balance? Will you join us? There is a necessity here of working interactively to explore the "light-soul-process", a Christ Spirit-imbued process.

As our lodestar we have selected Rudolf Steiner's "The Ancient Yoga Culture and the New Yoga Will," (Dornach, Nov 30, 1919) Lecture VI from *The Mission of the Archangel Michael*. To develop a basic understanding of the esoteric background of this work, we ask that you study the lecture in advance, AND that you bring your text with you so that each one of us can participate actively in discovering the Michaelic path forward. (The lecture is available at rsarchive.org). Our time together will be interwoven with music, Mystery Drama readings and the awareness that our vibrant Branch activity could serve toward the protection of our earth. (See attached Astrid Schmitt-Stegmann's article from "Anthroposophy Worldwide".)

If WE are sufficiently serious in our striving together on that afternoon WE COULD also arrive at a deeper understanding of the spiritual guidance living within the 4th panel of the Foundation Stone Meditation where "light" lives in abundance. *Will this happen for us?*

Light refreshments

Donations appreciated

■ FEATURE

*Michaelic world connection***Creating a stream of light**

Michaelic self-knowledge arises from active, courageous work and from connecting with the world. The place for this to happen is the branch life. Thoughts arising there are sent consciously to the various regions of the world, forming a human web that constitutes a balance to the internet as an expression of fallen light.

The 'I knows itself – in the light of Michaelic world affirmation and world connection' is the theme of the year for the Anthroposophical Society 2015/16. It is a continuation of last year's theme and focuses once again on the essential Michaelic quality of self-knowledge, the quality that seeks the Self in the courageous and active engagement with the world.

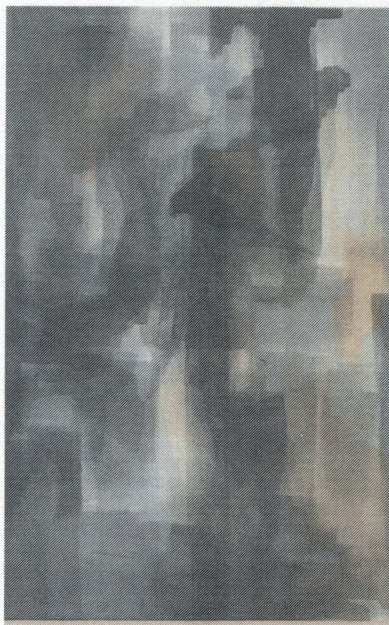
In our Fifth Post-Atlantean epoch, and particularly in recent years, we are called upon to develop strong inner forces of courage, for we find ourselves confronted by an increase of destructive impulses. In our present time, we are even experiencing a glorification of destruction and killing in the garment of religious fervor.

We must realize that by having to confront these forces, we are going through a process of individualization necessary in this consciousness-soul epoch. For, this epoch is one of crisis but also of initiation. Crises open us to change, to seek for meaning, and loosen what has become rigid and fixed in us. The mission of the destructive forces is to awaken us to the good, to the truly human!

Crises awaken individuality

Another picture may arise before us: that of a great part of humanity on the move, a massive displacement of many people, a reshuffling and mixing is taking place. In the face of this, we will need the capacities that we have developed by practicing the 'Six Basic Exercises'. We will need equanimity, positivity, open-mindedness, and most certainly we need to seek and affirm the higher Self in each human being.

In the lecture cycle, *The Connection between the Living and the Dead*, Steiner speaks of the challenges that will manifest in this consciousness soul age (GA 168, Zurich, 10.10.16). Interpersonal difficulties will arise with war and fighting down to the most common level. The consciousness soul can make each one of us a hermit, closing us off more and more. It will be an ever greater challenge to get to know one another. The greater reason for this outer



Shining light of thought: "Punkthaltung" by Nehara Frydender

confrontation and interpersonal struggle is to develop increased inner transparency, to begin to raise into our consciousness the after effect of our previous incarnation, and to heighten our awareness of who we really are, and how we are connected to one another.

With this insight, new social capacities will come about. These will strengthen our oversensitive egos that are so easily offended, irritated, even exasperated at the behaviors that we meet. The inner strengthening will help us gain more flexibility to recognize other people and leave them free.

Streams of light arising from branch-work

In the branch-work we can practice these new forms of social interaction between self and group already because we have something that connects us, interests us and enlivens us: our active spiritual work together. This common work can help us overcome what separates us and encourage us to

change what we can change: ourselves.

What can be done? If the branches world-wide would decide to work in a common consciousness with the Goetheanum and with the suggested materials, an inner picture may form itself. We may see a light shine forth from the thoughts, a spiritual light from the common will-imbued working in each Branch. We may see this light perhaps beginning in the Northwest of America, streaming down from the branch-work in Alaska, to that of Vancouver uniting with it and continuing its way down the West coast and across the United States. Sources of light will become active, creating a spiritual light stream. The thinking used in our study of Anthroposophy has the power of will in it. We can, therefore, envision this light of thought streaming down further to Seattle where another group is working on the suggested theme, then on to Portland, to Eugene, to Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, San Diego etc. A stream of light will flow from North to South, from place to place, all across America and from there on to Europe and Asia etc.

Creating a world wide web for the Gods

A stream of light, created through our common will-imbued, thought-imbued activity in the branches. And we may then realize that we would create together a world wide web of a totally different kind! This would be a world wide web of active spiritual thought-light as an offering to the gods, an offering to Michael, a human deed meant to create a balance to the world wide web of Ahrimanic nature, consisting of fallen light, of electricity. A strong up-building, healing power could arise from such a conscious working. The branch work may then be recognized as a world-wide active offering to the spiritual world.

This light streaming outwards and upwards from humans to the gods, can be experienced as the 'reverse ritual', while at the same time, it will be community building. With such an engaged working, we will stand indeed by Michael's side.

Working in this way with spiritual beings can awaken an immense inner gratitude and enthusiasm for this treasured gift – Anthroposophy. Working steadily together will gradually make it possible to move beyond a felt spiritual reality to a direct seeing of it. | Astrid Schmitt-Stegmann, Fair Oaks (CA/USA)