

# *Archangel Michael's Russian Warriors*

*Mart Atanassov*

Against the background of the conflict in Ukraine today, the following statement by Rudolf Steiner seems particularly significant:

And so we see the spirit of Michael and in his retinue a certain number of Russian souls, fighting for the purity of the spiritual horizon! We see them in fierce battle with the souls coming from the West and bringing strongly imprinted fantastic images into the spiritual world.

This is what Rudolf Steiner said in one of his lectures from the beginning of the First World War, included in the cycle "Central Europe between East and West". In its wholeness, that we comment further, it reads as follows:

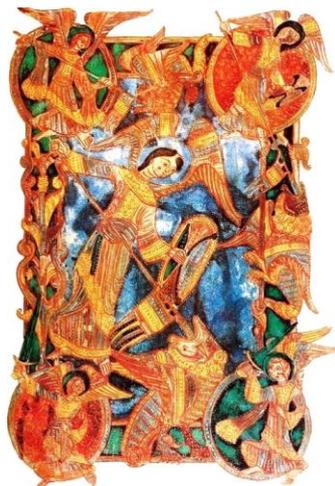
Now, as I have often explained, we are facing the great event of the coming time: the appearance of Christ in a very special way. I do not need to discuss this today. However, since the last third of the 19th century, the spirit we call the Spirit of Michael, the champion of the Sun-Spirit, has preceded him as a fighter for the appropriate preparation of humanity for the Christ-Event. Now everything depends on the spiritual world making appropriate preparations for this event which is to befall humanity spiritually. But this can only be done by working in the spiritual world, as it were, on the pure formation of the future ethereal Christ, who is to appear to man as an ethereal form.

For this to happen, however, it is necessary that he who goes before the Sun-Spirit, Michael, fight the battle until the end in the spiritual world. For this battle he needs the help of the souls who have just been drawn up through their bodies into the spiritual world,

bringing up into the spiritual world little in the way of sharply imprinted fantasy images. *And so we see the spirit of Michael and in his retinue a number of Russian souls fighting for the purity of the spiritual horizon. We see them in a fierce battle with the souls who have come from the West, who bring up sharply imprinted fantasy images into the spiritual world. These images must be dispersed, dissolved.*

We have seen the preparation of this battle between East and West since the last third of the 19th century, a fierce battle which is intended to serve the progress of humanity, and which consists in the fact that spiritually the European East is fighting against the European West, that *spiritual Russia is waging a fierce spiritual battle against spiritual France.*

This, my dear friends, is one of the most shocking events of the present time, to see how, to the same extent that the physical alliance between West and East is taking place here below in the field of the great deception, the fierce battle of the European East, Russia, against the European West, France, is taking place above in the spiritual world.<sup>1</sup>



*St. Michael and his hosts, 11th century*

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<sup>1</sup>GA 174 A, lecture of December 3, 1914

Several things become clear from this message by Rudolf Steiner:

- The fact that behind the scenes of the world's physical events there is a second, spiritual plane, which often appears in contradiction to their essence and against which they can appear illusory. Such is the specific case of the alliance between Russia and France during the First World War. The latter generally represents the West, to which the East or Russia is in reality an opponent. Only part of this West is envisaged by Steiner - namely France, which in its spiritual aspect is particularly affected by the cultural decline of Europe.
- The remarkable fact of the appearance of this second, spiritual plane of the Archangel of the New Time - Michael, who is at war with the spiritual West on the side of the spiritual East (in geographical terms – Russia). He uses the powers of the latter to achieve his goals - namely, the creation of conditions for the perception of the looming Second Coming of Christ. Potentially, it is most difficult to achieve (see below) precisely in the "French" areas and easiest in the "Russian", which is why Michael seeks a balance between the two that would benefit everyone.
- The existence of a supersensible Russian brotherhood of souls who are part of Michael's army. With their help, he achieves the above-mentioned goal. They are the ones who must dissolve the "fantasy images" strongly imprinted in the spiritual world (see below), as R. Steiner says, brought there by the souls of French origin. They contaminate the ether in which the image of Christ must appear, or in other words, it is a battle for the mass vision of the Ethereal Christ, which a large part of the European population, in the person of the French, unconsciously resists. Down on Earth, it is reflected as a parallel and coincidental event at this stage with the First World War, however, prepared

for decades - since the "last third of the 19th century". Steiner has in mind (see also below) the Battle in Heaven, which had ended at that time, of Archangel Michael with Ahriman's army of materialistic, "western" human and demonic spirits, which by descending to Earth gave a strong impetus to the western materialistic, above all scientific and technical culture.

The latter event appears preparatory to that in which the Russian supersensible Host of Michael meets into Heaven the souls of the materialists, whose "fantasy images" it must dissolve in order for Christ to be seen. This means that it was also involved in the Battle of Heaven from 1841 to 1879, which led to the overthrow of the Ahrimanic spirits and the incarnation of their associated human souls, inclined to develop the "fantastic", materialistic worldview. Of course, they are not only French. As a result, they are reborn on Earth and, dying, then carry the consequences of it to Heaven, where they are accepted by those who "brought them down" - the Russian brotherhood of Michael. It is there that the Battle must be "brought to an end" in the name of all mankind, to whom the appearance of the Christ is yet to come.



*St. Michael's hosts, detail from a Renaissance painting*

This is a Second Battle in Heaven, or, as Steiner later says, "as it were, a Battle in Heaven." The First Battle leads to the physical embodiment of the "French" souls, and the Second one is occupied with their spiritual disembodiment!

### **The ethereal disembodiment of the "French" souls**

The question of the "fantasy images strongly imprinted in the spiritual world" of people in general by French culture is left largely unexplained by Steiner in this lecture. He is more specific in his lecture delivered soon after, on February 14, 1915, included in the same "East - West" series of lectures. It becomes clear from it that it is actually about the dissolution of the etheric bodies of the "French" souls, originating from the decadent, as it turns out, Western French culture from the beginning of the 20th century. It is they who are very condensed to the point of insolubility in the surrounding ether, unlike those of the Russians. According to Steiner, they leave bodies that belonged to a culture that has "ripened and to a certain extent overripe, given many experiences to the Earth, to the etheric body. The peculiarity of this French folk culture - not the culture of individuals - lies in how the etheric body itself is processed, how it is permeated with forces and force influences, and therefore very individualized it passes the gate of death and remains so in the spiritual world. These ethereal bodies dissolve slowly and remain for a long time as spectra. The person, who belongs to the French nation, insofar as he belongs to it, has in his ideas a very definite opinion about himself, about his place in life. However, this is nothing but a reflection of the energetically working forces of the etheric body. The etheric body is plastically well formed and as such passes into the spiritual world.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup>GA 174 C, the lecture of February 14, 1915



*St. Michael and his hosts, Wyvern Liber Floridus, 15th*

The situation with the etheric body of a normal Russian is completely different. It is more elastic and more easily soluble in the etheric world, so that the soul associated with it is less inclined to cling to it after death:

While the etheric body of the Frenchman, resulting from a more developed culture, keeps the French soul, so to speak, connected to its etheric body for a long time, the soul of the Russian man is only briefly connected to his etheric body. To this soul from the East, the fate of its etheric body is of less importance. However, these etheric bodies exert a very definite, profoundly significant influence on what takes place in the time between death and rebirth, as it were, behind the scenes of our contemporaneity. The fate of the Russian soul is quite different from the fate of the French soul.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid

Steiner then repeats what was said in the lecture above - namely, that since the last third of the 19th century, an active Spirit of the Age is Archangel Michael, who in some degree prepares the appearance of Christ in the ether. Therefore, he enters into the Battle referred to above, rendered somewhat differently here:

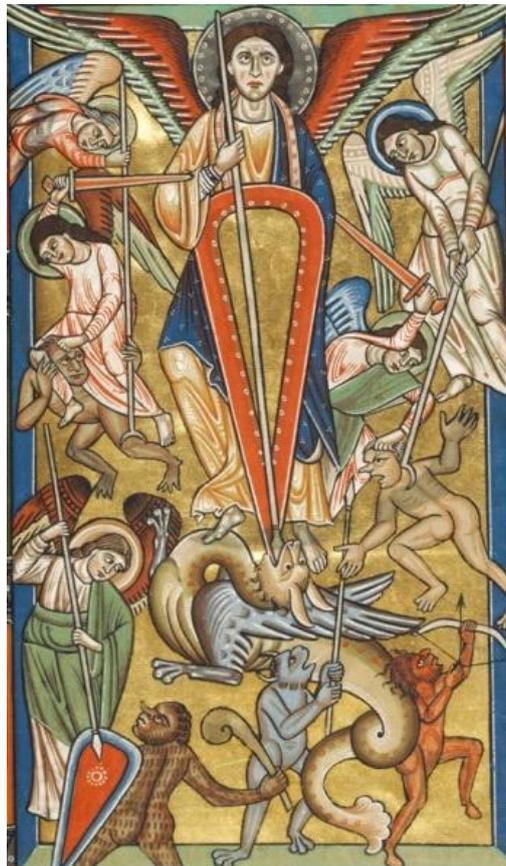
The condensed etheric bodies which are around us in the elementary world are a hindrance to the time which must come when the etheric form assumed by Christ must become clearly visible. Closer to the pure perception of the etheric form are those souls who, after death, are less connected with their etheric body. From this the following becomes clear: We see how part of Michael's work is aimed at dissolving the Western European cultivated, condensed etheric bodies, and we see how in this struggle Michael uses the Eastern European souls. Thus, we see Michael, accompanied by a *host of Eastern European souls*, contending with the Western European etheric bodies and their effects on souls after death. Behind the scenes of modernity there is a stubborn struggle; this struggle takes place in the spiritual world. It is like a Battle in Heaven. It takes place between France and Russia in the spiritual world - a real struggle between the West and the East. And this battle is real, and what we have on the physical plane is external maya, it is the distorted reality.<sup>4</sup>

Thus, people in Russia can potentially most easily come to see Christ in the ether, if it develops in an external, mass plan. The Russian warriors of Archangel Michael are fighting for the latter, as becomes clear again here. They are trying to make the new etheric clear vision international, not only Russian, but they are meeting *international resistance*. Logically, this state of affairs continued after the end of World War I until the beginning of the Advent itself in 1933, and apparently throughout the rest of the 20th century in the form of World

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

War II and the subsequent Cold War. They strengthen the East-West conflict and better shape the two adversaries on a secular level in the face of, above all, the USA and the USSR. In a military sense, this is the confrontation between NATO and the Eastern European countries of the Warsaw Pact. Thus, not only France is the spiritual enemy of Russia and the East in general, but also the USA and Great Britain, representing the West as a whole. The Russian souls in question from the host of Archangel Michael must also fight with their representatives who pollute the "spiritual horizon" of Christ, just as they do with the "French" . All of them have experienced materialism on Earth, and then try to carry it back to Heaven in the form of their solidified etheric bodies, where they come under the "blows" of Archangel Michael's Russian warriors. Their withdrawal and dissolution into the world ether is a kind of further "disembodying" or disetherization.



*St. Michael and his hosts, manuscript, Renaissance*

## **The two hosts of Michael**

Such seems to be the action of the Michael's first of all Russian army, depicted in the paintings of the old masters of the Renaissance (see above). They show Archangel Michael and his helpers in Heaven, who, according to Steiner, are human and superhuman beings. They first won the Battle in Heaven in November 1879, bringing down their enemies on Earth, *then remained in Heaven* to take part in the next Second Battle in Heaven, as it is most properly called - that of the Spiritual Horizon of Christ. Therefore, they cannot be expected to incarnate on Earth during this time, as is the case with the other, "earthly" Michael's division - that of Rudolf Steiner (1861 - 1925) and Ita Wegmann (1876 - 1943). The two descended to Earth just before the end of the first Battle of Heaven without waiting for its end, which occurred in November 1879. So did many other leading souls of their order such as Maria Steiner (1867 – 1948), Elisabeth Vreede (born July 16, 1879, just four months before the end of the Battle of Heaven – 1943), Edith Marion (1872 – 1924), Helmut von Moltke (1848 – 1916), Eliza von Moltke (1859 - 1932) and others. Using Rudolf Steiner's terminology, we can define it as Aristotelian or Western, and the other one as "Platonic" or Eastern.

## **The continuation, or the third consecutive "East-West" conflict in Ukraine**

In the lectures examined, Steiner emphasizes exclusively the French cultural-ethereal danger, but in reality in the 20th century from the West, not only French ethereal bodies hardened by materialism, but also Anglo-Americans from the (proper) West entered the ethereal world after their death. This question was omitted by Steiner, who in the same lecture of December 3, 1914, only hinted that the spiritual conflict was also between the Anglo-American and Russian worlds, saying that "in reality the astral essence of England, together with

Turkey, is at war against Russia". It comes to the fore again today in the *third consecutive conflict between East and West, this time playing out in Ukraine*. It is barely hidden behind the Ukrainian army and people, who, without being aware of it, are fighting in the name of Anglo-American interests. In reality, however, the old unrelenting enemies collide again - the materialistic and apparently increasingly unwilling to change, Western Anglo-American world in the face of the USA and Great Britain, which leads by the nose its already completely vassal "middle" world - Middle Europe, as well as most of Eastern Europe within the European Union. This shows the deepening of the materialistic ether contagion that has been spreading for 150 years, caused not only by "spiritual France", but also by almost all of spiritual Europe. Perhaps it (continues to) hinder the mass, as it really should be, perception of the Christ already active in the etheric world, which explains the absence of information about his (mass) perception. Such thickening or hardening of the etheric region occupying the space between the Earth and the Moon, obstructing His vision, however, is suicidal for mankind.

The rage that characterizes today's non-remedial conflict is actually a rage directed against the supersensible Russian warriors of Archangel Michael's brotherhood of over 150 years ago, fighting in the name of Christ and humanity in general. Directed against them in reality is the rage of the Anglo-American, including the occult establishment that confuses their heavenly host with what is the Russian state today.

After all, Steiner's equation between Russia, the East, Archangel Michael and his army of Russian warriors is remarkable. As it turns out, it is engaged in a battle to improve the possibilities of perceiving the approaching Second Coming of Christ, prepared "as early as the last third of the 19th century", meaning that it is the same that won the victory of Archangel Michael in the Battle of Heaven vs. Materialism (Ahriman) held between 1841 to 1879. This Battle is a pre-history of the one that the "East" had with the "West" during the First World

War, and compared to it, that of the "Eastern" Ukrainian front today is "post-history" which we have to read till the end.