



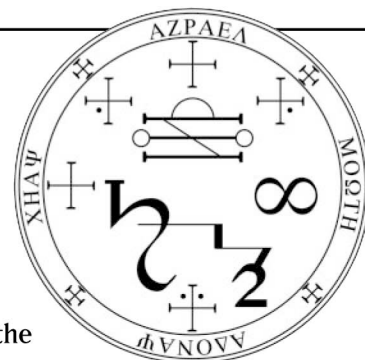
The Archangel Series

Azrael | The Comfort of God

Azrael, the Angel of Death, who is "Forever writing and erasing in a great book. What he writes is the birth of a man. What he erases is their death." Azrael does not decide who lives or dies, in fact he is unaware of a person's death until a leaf falls from the great tree beneath God's throne. A person's name is on the leaf and Azrael knows he must sever that soul within 40 days. Sometimes the soul is reluctant to leave, therefore Azrael entices them with an apple from the great tree.

According to my research (which although it was vast, is not foolproof), here are the translations of what I believe to be the Hebrew words on the seal:

| | | |
|--------|--------|-------------------------|
| AZPAEA | AZRAEL | Means: "Whom God Helps" |
| MOΩTH | MOWTH | Death |
| AΔONAY | ADONAY | "The Lord" |
| XHAY | CHAY | Birth |



Azrael is by no means an angel of fear or violence. In fact, he is the first celestial we meet upon death. He guides us to heave, and is very gentle and comforting.

About The Series

Based on a combination of Christian, Judaic & Islamic legends & history, I was inspired to render these mysterious creatures in their more mysterious and dramatic light. All too often angels are depicted as "cute" or "docile", and I wanted a view of the warriors, the secret-keepers, the guides and messengers. Of course, this does fall under my basic love of archetypes, but my methodology reflected my thoughts to some degree, in that I wanted to capture the timeless conundrum of the angel concept. The particular class of Archangels seemed the best route for this thought, as most people are familiar with the big names, Michael and Gabriel. Along with Raphael, these are the only three angels mentioned by names in the Bible. I ended up with two distinct lists of what were classified as Archangels, one was a group of seven angels who stood before God, the second, a list of 15 (with several of the same names), was more divided by their jobs and personalities. I decided a series of seven would be quicker, though I better conceptualized the bigger list. Therefore I decided to produce the series in two phases, the first is the standard list of seven Archangels. Phase II will be the "complete" list of all 15 (the remaining eight).

The medium for these pieces, which I decided on almost as soon as I started considering the project, is somewhat peculiar. They are rendered as fairly detailed pencil drawings, scanned & altered in Photoshop (mostly just the glow effect), then I add the Angelic Seal and other touches in the background and print it in dull brown ink on parchment paper. The result is a nice "ancient-scroll" impression which is very appropriate. The seals and "signatures" are used in elements of the image, as well as Celestial Angelic Script translations of their names and representations. The seals are recreated in a vector-graphics program and the words are produced "Symbol" font, which is essentially Greek.

Below is an outline of the series, as planned, based on the research and my interpretations. Enjoy!

PHASE I

| <u>Piece (title)</u> | <u>Essence (job)</u> | <u>Chakras/planets/colors/elements</u> |
|--|------------------------------|---|
| Michael; <i>The Right Hand of God</i> | Soldier / Messenger | throat chakra/solar/blue/fire / General of the Armies |
| Gabriel; <i>The Wrath of God</i> | Destroyer / Messenger | Base of Spine/moon/water / Extinguisher of nations |
| Raphael; <i>The Breath of God</i> | Healer | 3rd Eye/Mercury/green/wind / Pilgrim's staff |
| Azrael; <i>The Comfort of God</i> | Death (comfort) | Book of Life & Death / (gigantic) |
| Metatron; <i>The Voice of God</i> | The Voice of God (messenger) | Uranus/fire / Burning Bush / Pillar of smoke/fire |
| Uriel; <i>The Gift of God</i> | Winds of Change/Gift of Love | Solar Plexis/Venus/violet/air / Fiery Sword |
| Camael; <i>The Judgement of God</i> | Divine Justice (war) | Heart Chakra/Mars / Red tunic & Green armor |

PHASE II

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| Jophiel; <i>The Beauty of God</i> | Artists / Beauty | Crown Chakra/yellow / Illumination / Inspiration |
| Israfel; <i>The Chorus of God</i> | Entertainers (song) | Regeneration / Weeps for the Damned |
| Raziel; <i>The Mind of God</i> | Intellect (mysteries) | Neptune |
| Cassiel; <i>The Tears of God</i> | Solitudes (tears) / temperence | Saturn & Pluto/maroon / loves dragons |
| Zadkiel; <i>The Mercy of God</i> | Mercy & Freedom | Seat of the Soul/violet / Usually holding a dagger |
| Haniel; <i>The Love of God</i> | Love & Harmony | Venus/green / Carries a lantern / androgynous |
| Raguel; <i>The Eye of God</i> | Account (Vengeance) | earth / Wreaks justice on the Celestial (angels) |
| Sandalphon; <i>The Path of God</i> | Clarity (Guidance) | black / Was the prophet Elias / Twin of Metatron |