



# The BOOK OF NATURE II

*Advent 2018*

***And this our life, exempt from public haunt,  
Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,  
Sermons in stones, and good in everything. (15-17)***

**--William Shakespeare, As You Like It**

Susquehanna Corps de Michael's Michaelmas message focused on the possibility of a direct and unmediated connection between humanity and the kingdoms of Nature. Known for centuries as the *Book of Nature*, we find in William Shakespeare's *As You Like It* a fond reminder of an age when human beings turned to treasures of Nature to discover meaning in their lives. "Sermons in stones and books in brooks" denotes a hidden language spoken to the soul on the path towards an inner awakening that can discern the secret of one's destiny.

Does today's increasing fixation on digital devices and electronic media enhance or alienate one from the *Book of Nature*, the outer world, one's fellow human beings, and self-knowledge? In the midst of the digital age many readers found a simple video of a brook overflowing her banks to be both refreshing and healing. We received many favorable comments and feedback on the delightful sounds and rhythms of the Lenkerbrook video sent with our Michaelmas message. The distinctive murmurs were due in part to record breaking rainfall in Hershey and the Susquehanna Valley during the month of July 2018. Indeed, the 'Summer of Flash Floods' frequently overflowed the Lenkerbrook and Loganbrook at Stonehaven Farms (Founded 1737) as well as additional waterways in the Northeast USA.

One week prior to Thanksgiving a crippling snowfall brought gridlock to much of the Capital Region. A normal 20 minute commute was extended to four hours or more! When all the snow had settled, Hershey received a record breaking snowfall for November 15<sup>th</sup>. As the snow melted, more rain followed on Thanksgiving weekend, until Stonehaven brooks soon overflowed their banks again...but this time in the mood and gesture of Fall.

As we approach Advent, Corps de Michael is very pleased to send a second edition of the *Book of Nature*: the Lenkerbrook overflowing her banks on Thanksgiving weekend. If one compares the Thanksgiving video to the one sent at Michaelmas, one notices that the Michaelmas edition ends with a fresh plowed field near the edge of the Lenkerbrook. In the Thanksgiving edition please note that the field is now springing with fresh green grass. The fresh grass is in stark contrast to the fading Fall landscape.

The fresh sprouting grass can signify an inner Michaelic awakening as outer Nature recedes. This Michaelic awakening is a triumphant hallmark of group, branch, and Corps de Michael

community life. Additionally, the fresh green grass signifies an 'Organic Renaissance' currently underway at Stonehaven Farms (Founded 1737). Just over two months ago, we ushered in the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of a far-sighted vision. On September 12<sup>th</sup> 1958, Stonehaven's 100 acres were acquired for the purposes of organic agriculture. As a silent seed, Stonehaven's organic mission was born during the 1950's heyday of DDT and 'TV dinners'—an era when the organic movement was barely in its infancy. It would be several decades until organic food production would enjoy increasing demand and popularity.

To commemorate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the far-sighted vision leading to Stonehaven's 1958 acquisition, our partner organic farmers plowed, harrowed, cultipacked, and planted fresh grasses in the Lenkerbrook Meadow situated between the Widow Logan House and the Lenkerbrook. Sown on a hot Summer's day in late August, the fresh grass in the accompanying video signifies a Stonehaven Farms milestone: the first new field restored to farming through brush removal, plowing, harrowing, and sowing in over 33 years!

This 'Organic Renaissance' will be the theme of the 2018/2019 Christmas and Three Kings' Annual Letter. Until then, please enjoy the attached video. We hope to send additional video chapters from the *Book of Nature* each week of Advent including: 'Lenkerbrook Falls', 'Loganbrook near the Lenkerbrook Confluence', 'Oxbows on the Lenkerbrook', and the 'Road to Stonehaven'. If you did not receive the videos, see below to contact us for a copy. The Fall video is currently posted at our facebook page: **Susquehanna Corps de Michael**.

***Le Corps de Michael et les Michaelites les plus gentils du monde vous souhaitent vous souhaitent une joyeuse journée d'Actions de Grâce ainsi qu'un bon Avènement de la période de Noël,***

*(Le Corps de Michael and the Sweetest Michaelites on Earth wish you a Happy Thanksgiving and Advent Season),*

## **Le Corps de Michael**

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***This is the impulse of Michael...The great Book of Nature will be opened again. Humanity will read once more in the Book of Nature. In reality, everyone who is in the anthroposophical movement should feel that one can only understand one's karma when he or she knows that one is personally called to read once more, spiritually, in the Book of Nature—to find the spiritual background of the Book of Nature, God having given His Revelation for the intervening time.***

**--Rudolf Steiner, Karmic Relationships, Volume III, Lecture VIII**

