



PREFACE: Before the Beginning

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Every time someone stops to talk with me about *The Lion of God: Archangel Ari'El ...personal encounters*, I find myself telling them two stories about how the book came to be:

Story #1:

How Matthew Fox chose to write the foreword.

Story #2:

No Angel Wings on the cover.

These two stories are part of this book and long to be included.

This 2023 Revision is for this specific purpose, to include the missing pieces – both stories of the books beginning.

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Story #1 – Please, Ari’El, I do NOT want to publish!

I never wanted to write this book. The information was very personal to me, and I didn’t want anyone to say anything that might diminish the importance of these stories and the realities they report. These moments were so precious to me that I thought they would be much safer with me than out there where everyone else was. I think what I was experiencing was much like watching a child leave home for the first time to take on the world of college, travel, work, own living space. There was this certainty that without me, my child can’t exist or will suffer or will fail.... You know all that goes through the mind when we feel totally out of control.

When I embarked on this journey, I did it with kicking and screaming. Archangel Ari’El asked me several times, over several years, to write our shared stories, create a book for others to read, so they could know the presence, the proximity, and the willingness of the Angels to be an important part of our lives on a regular basis. After years of asking me, and after countless efforts to write down the encounters, I simply could not do it. I didn’t want to. I didn’t want to make my personal life public. Why would I want to do that and make myself vulnerable to ridicule and suspicion. I was a professional academic. I didn’t want to risk my career or my reputation. I didn’t want to be labeled a “New Ager” with no groundedness, lacking reality.

I had encountered books about angels that I thought were right on and I had encountered books about angels that I thought were airy-fairy and lacked a sense of authenticity and groundedness. I was suspicious of those who were writing books not about their experiences but about what they wished their experiences could be. Also, I’ve learned a lot over the years about the differences in the ways the Angels work with each of us. They meet us where we are and help us along. They collaborate with us and want us to succeed in all that is good, wholesome, and holy. They are different from us and sometimes I find it necessary to remind Ari’El that I need to sleep!

There I was with the manuscript in my computer, and an Archangel on my back pushing. He had already dictated the Chapters (see Chapter 10) to make it possible for me to get this done.. He knew exactly where the project stood and pushed for completion.

Reluctantly I decided to send the manuscript to my dear friend and mentor, Matthew Fox, with whom I have worked closely for many years and whose friendship I have cherished for probably more than twenty-five years. When I sent him the manuscript, I suggested that he respond by letting me know I shouldn’t publish this material. I was overwhelmed when he sent it back with an amazing Foreword. I sat and wept. This was all so much to take in. Now there was no question that I had to go forward and satisfy the nuts and bolts the publisher was requesting with a deadline!

Story #2: The Cover Story Struggle

Often there are publisher horror stories. I had my fair share – but this is the one that is unique and worth the telling. As part of our agreement, the publisher had me working with a cover

designer. We shared a phone meeting; he started suggesting ideas about the cover. As I expected, since this is a book about Angel relationships, he wanted to put WINGS on the cover. I swallowed hard and said, "I can't approve wings on the cover."

He asked, "Why not? It's a book about angels, isn't it?"

I answered, "Yes, sir, it is. And I would like you to suggest other art for the cover."

I could tell this was not landing well. Seemed the only idea he had for a book about angels was wings.

We ended our meeting. Nothing about the energies felt promising. I waited. He sent a couple of photos for the cover of sunrises or sunsets, can't really tell which way it's going, can you?

They had no character or pizzazz. It was like he went to a stock photo place of no taste and simply sent sun rises/sunsets without any thought about the character and depth of this book.

I called to speak to him, and he wasn't much interested. I told him how boring the images were. He came back to the Angel Wings on the cover conversation and wanted to know why I didn't want Wings on the cover.

I knew he was a cover designer. There was little chance he read the books that came daily to him for cover designs. I also knew he was going to think he was talking to a looney when I said what I said next.

"Look, two of us wrote this book. I don't have strong feeling about Wings on the cover, but he does. If you want to discuss it, you will need to talk to Archangel Ari'El!"

You can tell how that flew – wings or not!

I decided to cancel anything from this designer who was already prepaid as part of the Publishing agreement. I decided I needed to discuss this in depth with Ari'El and find out what the issue was with the WINGS.

This was and is the only time I have seen him close to upset, heated. Here's what he communicated, "You humans don't have any idea what you are doing. We are not some little cupid, chubby legged and pudgy faced, with tiny snow-white wings. His voice thickened, deepened, crescendoed. We are mighty, strong, profound, six fiery wings that you cannot put on a book cover!"

Whew! I took a breath! I got it! No Wings!

I was desperate to do this without the designer. I had no computer skills in design and no clue. I called a friend, Vicki, who is creative on the computer and asked if she could help me with this. She asked me to get an idea of what I wanted, and she would do what she could. I talked with my nephew who is deeply spiritual, has artistic talent and is uniquely insightful. I explained what happened and asked if he had any suggestions. He did.

Chris offered, "This book is a co-creation between you and Ari'El. How about having both of you represented on the cover?" We talked and worked, the three of us, until we came up with the cover you see today. I was not keen on having my picture on the cover. However, Vicki came up with a way to pull the relationship of the Sacred and the Human together.

She used a photo of me that was taken while walking across Spain. I was standing in front of the Basilica of the Black Madonna in the Mountains at Montserrat north of Barcelona. Vicki literally cut me out of the photo. Then, using a photo I took of a glorious sunset I captured while walking to Fraga, Spain a small town of 15,000 in Huesca, Aragón near Catalon, Vicki put my image in front of the sunset. Then she did the magic. If you don't look for it, you can miss it. Vicki pulled the sunrays down, dragging them over my image, to depict the human/divine collaboration! The Divine reaching all the way to where I stood and the Human standing ready to collaborate in this labor of love.

This missing piece is essential to the story of this book. A study of the cover is a meditation on the union of Divinity and Humanity. It is a reminder of who we are and the reason Ari'El wanted this book written: for all of us to work together, to discover ways we can make life amazing when we collaborate. The cover says it loud and clear.