

- I once asked Michael how he dealt with being critical– with his own critical nature. [!] He said, “Usually I can feel a kind of pressure– a critical thought forming before it actually enters my brain, at which point I push it away by an act of the will.
- I also heard him say more than once, “When trying to figure out your own level of consciousness, consider where you think you might be on the Path, then subtract one level... maybe two.” Which brings to mind this quote from Rays and Initiations, *“It is intensity of purpose which will change you from the plodding fairly satisfactory aspirant into the disciple whose heart and mind are aflame. Perhaps, however, you prefer to go forward steadily, with no group effort, making your work for me and for the group an ordered part of the daily life, which you can adjust pretty much as you like, and in which the life of the spirit receives its reasonable share, in which the service aspect is not neglected, and your life presentation is neatly balanced and carried forward without much real strain. When this is the case, it may be your personality choice or your soul decision for a specific life, but it means that you are not the disciple, with everything subordinated to the life of discipleship.”* This is actually, I have to admit, a pretty good description of my approach.
- Michael, on the other hand, exemplified the quote-unquote *“disciple whose heart and mind are aflame.”* We all know that he could talk the talk, what with his encyclopedic knowledge of the blue books and his uniquely winning basso voice. But I think the real reason that his teachings were so compelling, was because... [!] he also walked the walk– he lived what he taught, and he showed us how to do this through his speech and actions, without losing his vulnerability or his sense of humor.
- Almost 50 years ago, when I first moved to New Mexico, I was lucky enough to fall in with a group of aspirants led by a spiritual teacher– we called him guru in those days– who taught that group of twenty-somethings some of the basic tenets of the ancient wisdom. 30 plus years later I met Michael, who set an example of discipleship that will inspire me for the rest of my life.
- I very much look forward to working with you all in the coming years