

COMETS – FIERY SWORD CONNECTION: A KRUSEDOL CLUE

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A half length image of St. Michael the Archangel holding a fiery sword above his head can be spotted during the initial frames of the Aleksandar Petrovic 1967 cult movie *Skupljaci perja* (Internet Movie Database). It turns out that the mural painting resides in the monastery of Krusedol in Frushka gora, Srem District of Serbia. The fresco is positioned on the west wall, just on the right side as one steps into the inner narthex of the church. The interior was covered with murals around 1750 by the painter Jov Vasiljevic and his fellows.

The first attempt to date the Bible with a transient event like a comet was done by Gunnar Norling (1953) who proposed a probable link between the mentioning an angel with a fiery sword and the appearance of the Halley's comet. Based on the iconographic material from the Bulgarian and Italian Renaissance Nedialkov & Enikova (2016 and references therein) reviewed all the astronomical, historical and ethnographical evidences that such a connection does really exist. In this report we address the possible connection between the depiction of the Archangel Michael with a fiery sword in the narthex of the Krusedol monastery and the passages of two bright comets in 1737 and 1744 (Hasegawa 1980).

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References

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