

Chapter 22
The Malachy Prophecy

The priests of the different religious sects (...) fear the progress of science like the witches fear the dawn of the day, and look angry at the baneful messenger, which announces the deletion of the dupery, on which they live.

--Thomas Jefferson¹

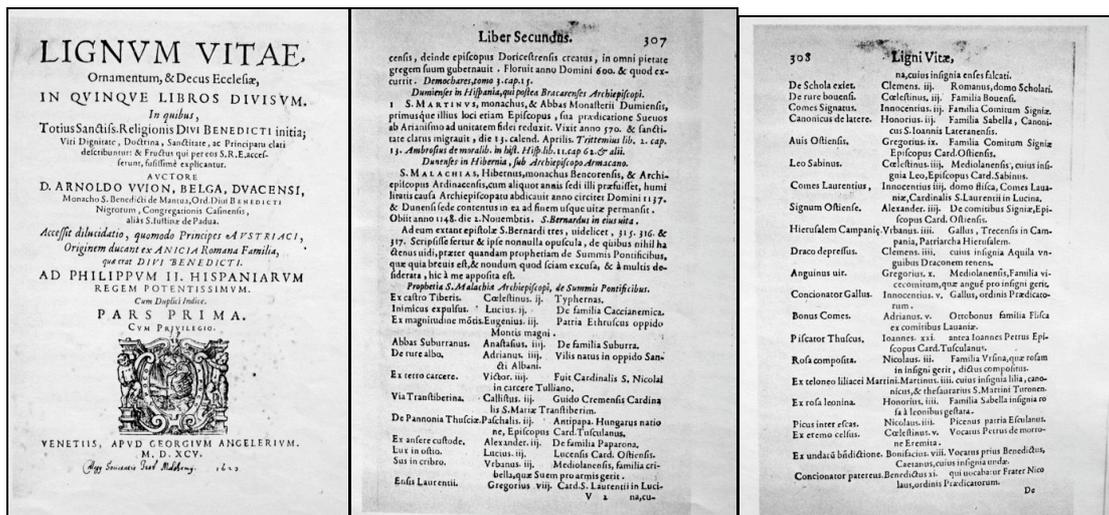
Natural science is a kind of rationalism and religion is the widest spread kind of superstition.

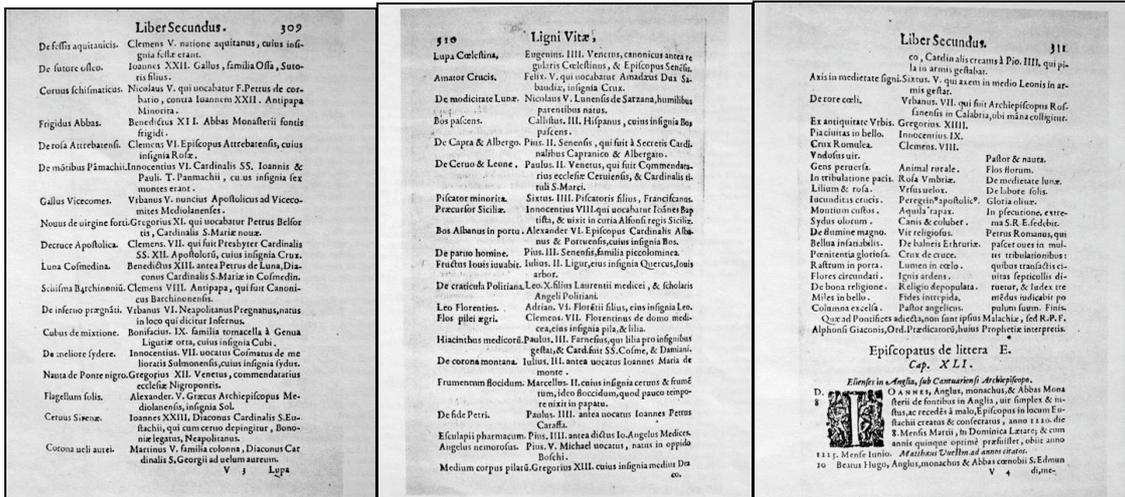
--Jerry Coyne²

If we speak of Christian prophecy, we should not neglect the prophecy of St. Malachy, in which celestial events and timekeeping play a special role.

Malachy in this case is *not* the last prophet of the Old Testament, whose Hebrew name (mal'achi) means *My Messenger* and who is identified in rabbinic tradition with the Pharisee Esra. In our case, it is an Irish bishop of the 12th century, to whom came a prediction of all the popes until the end of time. Malachy, born Maelmhaedhoc Ó Morgair, was a contemporary of Bernhard of Clairvaux, who was closely aligned with the Knights Templar. He died on November 2, 1148 during a journey to Rome and was canonized in 1199.

In 1595, the publisher Giorgio Anglieri in Venice put out a five volume opus titled “LIGNUM VITAE, ornamentum et decus ecclesiae,” featuring biographies of members of the Benedictine order. The editor, Benedictine himself, was Arnold Vvion from Belgia. During the war for independence of the Netherlands around 1580, he found accommodation in the abbey of St. Benedetto at the river Po near Mantua. On pages 307-311 of this opus there is the “Prophetia, S. Malachiae archiescopi de summis pontificibus,” the prediction of the final popes by the holy bishop Malachy.





22.1-6. Lignum Vitae with the Malachy list of Popes until the end of time.

The editor of “LIGNUM VITAE,” Arnold Wvion, calls St. Malachy the author of this list. Such lists with predictions of popes were usual in medieval times before any election of a new pope—perhaps in an attempt to influence the outcome—but never went further than the next-to-be-elected pope. The prophecy of Malachy is an exception that predicts not only the imminent pope, but all the popes who will be elected until the Last Judgment. These omens around the popes seem to have fulfilled more or less exactly since their publishing some 400 years ago, perhaps using hindsight and creative interpretation. During the conclave of the cardinals to select a new pope, these prophecies functioned as an oracle and helped create an atmosphere of theatrical spectacle.

There are exactly 111 slogans for the appropriate popes and anti-popes. The list of the popes starts with Coelestin II (1143-44), 166th pope of the official list given by the Catholic Encyclopedia³.

In Malachy’s text, his assigned slogan (the prophecy, motto, or omen) reads “Ex castro Tiberis.” A remark (adiectum) explains how the slogan was fulfilled. As Wvion, the editor of the “LIGNUM VITAE,” writes at the end, the remarks showing how the popes’ slogans fulfilled themselves come from Alphonsus Giaconus, a well-known church historian and scholar of the catacombs under Gregory XIII, and Poenitentian at S. Maria Maggiore, who died in 1599. For example, with Coelestin the adiectum showing the fulfillment is “Typhernas,” since he was born in Citta de Castellis at the river Tiber.

The first part of the list continues in this way, giving a motto, the pope’s name, and the fulfillment until the 74th pope of the list, which is Urban VII. He has the motto “De Rore Caeli” (Of the Dew of the Heavens), to which was attached a remark, “qui fuit Archiepiscopus Rossanensis in Calabria, ubi mana colligitur” (who was archbishop in Rossano in Calabria where manna was collected). This alludes to manna falling from heaven. Urban died, dew fresh, only 12 days after election. He is also closely aligned with the church of St. Maria Maggiore in Rome, where it is said that a snow miracle occurred.

See below for the pope list of Malachy, including the popes’ mottos, names, fulfillments starting with the 166th Pope Coelestin II (number 1 on the list) until the 229th Pope Urban VII (number 74 of the list). A hint: The mottos, names and remarks, as they show up in the Latin original of Malachy’s list, are bold in the following. The year numbers are from the Catholic Encyclopedia, as well as the popes’ numbers. The anti-popes have no numbers,

though they are registered in the Malachy list. The second number (M) refers to the number of the Malachy prophecy.

| Nr. | M | Motto, omen, slogan | Pope's name (years of papacy) | Fulfillment of the motto (adiecta) |
|-----|----|------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 166 | 1 | Ex castro Tiberis. | Celestine II (1143-44) | Typhernas. |
| 167 | 2 | Inimicus expulsis. | Lucius II (1144-45) | De familia Caccianemica. |
| 168 | 3 | Ex magnitudine motis. | Eugene III (1145-53) | Patria Ethruscus oppido Montis magni. |
| 169 | 4 | Abbas Suburranus. | Anastasius IV (1153-54) | De familia Suburra. |
| 170 | 5 | De rure albo. | Adrian IV (1154-59) | Vilis natus in oppido Sancti Albani. |
| | 6 | Ex terro carcere. | Victor IV (1159-1164) | Fuit Cardinalis S. Nicolai in carcere Tulliano. |
| | 7 | Via Transtiberina. | Callistus III (1168-1178) | Guido Cremensis Cardinalis S. Mariae Transtiberim. |
| | 8 | De Pannonia Thusciae. | Paschalis III (1164-1168) | Antipapa. Hungarus natione Episcopus Card. Tusculanus. |
| 171 | 9 | Ex ansere custode. | Alexander III (1159-81) | De familia Paparona. |
| 172 | 10 | Lux in ostio. | Lucius III (1181-85) | Lucensis Card. Ostiensis. |
| 173 | 11 | Sus in cribro. | Urban III (1185-87) | Mediolanensis, familia cribella, quae Suem pro armis gerit. |
| 174 | 12 | Ensis Laurentii. | Gregory VIII (1187) | Card.S.Laurentii in Lucia, cuna, cuius insigna ensis falcati. |
| 175 | 13 | De schola exiet. | Clement III (1187-91) | Romanus, domo Scholari. |
| 176 | 14 | De rure bouensi. | Celestine III (1191-98) | Famila Bouensi. |
| 177 | 15 | Comes Signatus. | Innocent III (1198-1216) | Familia Comitum Signiae. |
| 178 | 16 | Canonicus de latere. | Honorius III (1216-27) | Familia Sabella, Canonicus S. Ioannis Lateranensis. |
| 179 | 17 | Avis Ostiensis. | Gregory IX (1227-41) | Familia Comitum Signiae Episcopus Card.Ostiensis. |
| 180 | 18 | Leo Sabinus. | Celestine IV (1241) | Mediolanensis, cuius insignia Leo, Episcopus Card. Sabinus. |
| 181 | 19 | Comes Laurentius. | Innocent IV (1243-54) | domo flisca, Comes Lavaniae, Cardinalis S. Laurentii in Lucina. |
| 182 | 20 | Signum Ostiense. | Alexander IV (1254-61) | De comitibus Signiae, Episcopus Card. Ostiensis. |
| 183 | 21 | Hierusalem Campanie. | Urban IV (1261-64) | Gallus, Trecensis in Campania, Patriarcha Hierusalem |
| 184 | 22 | Draco depressus. | Clement IV (1265-68) | cuius insigna Aquila unguibus Draconem renens. |

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|-----|----|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 185 | 23 | Anguinus vir. | Gregory X (1271-76) | Mediolanensis, Familia vicecomitum, quae angue pro insigni gerit. Gallus, ordinis Praedicatorum. Ottobonus familia Flisca ex comitibus Lavaniae. antea Ioannes Petrus Episcopus Card. Tusculanus. Familia Ursina, quae rosam insigni gerit, dictus compositus. cuius insigni lilia, canonicus, &thesaurarius S.Martini Turonen. Familia Sabella insignia rosa a leonibus gestara. Picensis patria Esculanus. Vocatus Petrus de morraine Eremita. Vocatus prius Benedictus, Caetanus, cuius insignia undae. qui vocabatur Frater Nicolaus, ordinis Praedicatorum. natione aquitanus, cuius insignia fessae erant. Gallus, familia ossa, Sutoris filius. qui vocabatur F. Petrus de corbario, contra Ioannem XXII. Anipapa. Abbas Monasterii fontis frigidi. Episcopus Attrebatensis, cuius insignia Rosae. Cardinalis SS.Ioannis &Pauli. T. Panmachii, cuius insignia sex montes erant. nuncius Apostolicus ad Vicecomites Mediolanensis. qui vocabatur Petrus Belfortis, Cardinalis S. Mariae novae. qui fuit Presbyter Cardinalis SS.XII. Apostoloru, cuius insignia |
| 186 | 24 | Concionator Gallus. | Innocent V (1276) | |
| 187 | 25 | Bonus Comes. | Adrian V (1276) | |
| 188 | 26 | Piscator Thuscus. | John XXI (1276-77) | |
| 189 | 27 | Rosa composita. | Nicholas III (1277-80) | |
| 190 | 28 | Ex teloneo liliacei Martini. | Martin IV (1281-85) | |
| 191 | 29 | Ex rosa leonina. | Honorius IV (1285-87) | |
| 192 | 30 | Picus inter escas. | Nicholas IV (1288-92) | |
| 193 | 31 | Ex eremo celsus. | Celestine V (1294) | |
| 194 | 32 | Ex undaru bebedictione. | Boniface VIII (1294-1303) | |
| 195 | 33 | Concionator patereus. | Benedict XI (1303-04) | |
| 196 | 34 | De fessis aquitanicis | Clement V (1305-14) | |
| 197 | 35 | De sutore osseo. | John XXII (1316-34) | |
| | 36 | Corvus schismaticus. | Nicolaus V (1328-1330) | |
| 198 | 37 | Frigidus Abbas | Benedict XII (1334-42) | |
| 199 | 38 | De rosa Attrebatensi. | Clement VI (1342-52) | |
| 200 | 39 | De motibus Pamachii. | Innocent VI (1352-62) | |
| 201 | 40 | Gallus Vicecomes. | Urban V (1362-70) | |
| 202 | 41 | Novus de virgine forti. | Gregory XI (1370-78) | |
| | 42 | Decruce Apostolica. | Clemens VII (1378- 94) | |

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|-----|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| 43 | Luna Cosmedina. | Benedictus XIII (1394-23) | Crux. antea Petrus de luna, Diaconus Cardinalis S.Mariae in Cosmedin. |
| 44 | Schisma Barchinoniu | Clemens VIII (1423- 29) | Antipapa, qui fuit Canonicus Barchinonensis. |
| 203 | 45 De inferno praegnati. | Urban VI (1378-89) | Neapolitanus Pregnanus, natus in loco qui dicitur Infernus. |
| 204 | 46 Cubus de mixtione. | Boniface IX (1389-1404) | famila tomacella a Genua Liguriae orta, cuius insigna Cubi. |
| 205 | 47 De meliore fydere. | Innocent VII (1406-06) | Vocatus Cosmatus de melioratis Suklmonensis, cuius insignia fydu. |
| 206 | 48 Nauta de Ponte nigro. | Gregory XII (1406-15) | Venetus, commentarius ecclesiae Nigropontis. |
| | 49 Flagellum solis. | Alexander V (1409- 10) | Graecus Archiepiscopus Mediolanensis, Insignia Sol. |
| | 50 Cervus Sirenae | Johannes XXIII (1410-15) | Diaconus Cardinalis S. Eustacchii, qui cum cervo depingitur, Boniae legatus, Neapolitanus. |
| 207 | 51 Corona veli aurei. | Martin V (1417-31) | familia colonna, Diaconus Cardinalis S.Georgii ad velum aureum. |
| 208 | 52 Lupa Coelestina. | Eugene IV (1431-47) | Venetus, canonicus antea regularis Coelestinus, &Episcopus Senesis. |
| | 53 Amator Crucis | Felix V (1439- 49) | qui vocabatur Amadaeus Dux Sabaudiae, insignia Crux. |
| 209 | 54 De modicitate Lunae | Nicholas V (1447-55) | Lunensis de Sarzana, humilibus parentibus natus. |
| 210 | 55 Bos pascens. | Callistus III (1445-58) | Hispanus, cuius insignia Bos pascens. |
| 211 | 56 De Capra&Albergo | Pius II (1458-64) | Senesis, qui fuit a Secretis Cardinalibus Caprianico&Albergato |
| 212 | 57 De Cervo&Leone | Paul II (1464-71) | Venetus, qui fuit Commendatarius ecclesiae Cerviensis, &Cardinalis tituli S. Marci. |
| 213 | 58 Piscator minorita. | Sixtus IV (1471-84) | Piscatoris filius, Franciscanus. |
| 214 | 59 Praecursor Siciliae. | Innocent VIII (1484-92) | qui vocabatur Ioanes Baptista, & vixit in curia |

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|-----|----|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| 215 | 60 | Bos Albanus in portu. | Alexander VI (1492-1503) | Alfonsi regis Siciliae. Episcopus Cardinalis Albanus&Portuensis, cuius insigna Bos. |
| 216 | 61 | De parvo homine. | Pius III (1503) | Senesis, familia piccolominea. |
| 217 | 62 | Fructus Iovis iuvabit. | Julius II (1503-13) | Ligur, eius insigna Quercus, Iovis arbor. |
| 218 | 63 | De craticula Politiana | Leo X (1513-21) | filius Laurentii medicei,&scholaris Angeli Politiani. |
| 219 | 64 | Leo Florentius. | Adrian VI (1522-23) | Floretti filius, eius insignia Leo. |
| 220 | 65 | Flos pilei Aegri. | Clement VII (1523-34) | Florentinus de domo medicea, eius insigna pila,& lilia. |
| 221 | 66 | Hiacinthus medicoru. | Paul III (1534-49) | Farnesius, qui lilia pro insignibus gestat, & Card. SS.Cosme,&Damiani. |
| 222 | 67 | De corona montana | Julius III (1550-55) | antea vocatus Ioannes Maria de monte |
| 223 | 68 | Frumentum floccidum. | Marcellus II (1555) | cuius insigna cervus&frumentum, ideo floccidum, quod paucio tempore vixit in papatu. |
| 224 | 69 | De fide Petri. | Paul IV (1555-59) | antea vocatus Ioannes Petrus Caraffa. |
| 225 | 70 | Esculapii pharmacum. | Pius IV (1559-65) | antea dictus Io.Angelus Medices. |
| 226 | 71 | Angelus nemorosus. | Pius V (1566-72) | Michael vocatus, natus in oppido Boschi. |
| 227 | 72 | Medium corpus pilaru. | Gregory XIII (1572-85) | cuius insigna medius Draco, Cardinalis creatus a Pio.III, qui pila in armis gestat. |
| 228 | 73 | Axis medietate signi. | Sixtus V (1585-90) | qui axem in medio Leonis in armis gestat. |
| 229 | 74 | De rore coeli. | Urban VII (1590) | qui fuit Archiepiscopus Rossanensis in Calabria, ubi mana colligitur. |

Urban VII is the last pope to whom Alphonsus Giaconus annexed a remark (adiectum) about his fulfillment. From Gregory XIV (the 230th Pope) onwards, the Malachy list gives only the motto and the pope's name, but no more remarks are made about the fulfillment of the motto. Thus Gregory XIV (1590-1591) has only a motto. In this way the list goes on for three further popes, Gregory XIV, Innocent IX, and Clement VIII:

230 / 75 **Ex antiquitate Urbis** (Of the Antiquity of the City) **Gregory XIV (1590-91)**

230 / 75 **Ex antiquitate Urbis** (Of the Antiquity of the City) **Gregory XIV (1590-91)**

His father was a senator (from the Latin “senex,” ancient) in the old city of Milan. The papacy of Gregory included the war against Henry IV of Novarra and the decision not to allow reforms in belief, but to follow the tradition of the apostles, whose graves were then allegedly found in the Roman catacombs. He was an intimate friend of Philip Neri and tried in vain to make him to a cardinal.

231 / 76 **Pia civitas in bello** (appeasement in the war) **Innocent IX** (1591)

He reigned eight weeks only and tried to achieve “pia civitas” (appeasement in the city) in the ongoing war with Henry of Novarra. He wrote a treatise on Aristotle and refutations of Machiavelli.

232 / 77 **Crux Romulca.** (Roman Cross) **Clement VIII** (1592-1605)

The coat of arms of his family Aldobrandini shows a cross symbol. He had been a cardinal with the title of Saint Pancratius, who was a Roman martyr.

From Clemens VIII onward, the prophecy gives no more names of popes, but there follows a list of 34 further mottos or omens that can be allocated to the following popes. Here also lies the key to the origin and understanding of the purpose of the prophecy: it was a tool to influence the election of the pope after Clemens VIII. The prophecy most probably was created directly before the pontificate of the next pope (Leo XI.⁴ According to Hildebrand Troll, Philipp Neri, a charismatic seer and holy man, could have created the Malachy prophecy. Philipp Neri confessed to his friend Federigo Borromeo: “Sometimes I must say something and do not know not why. God requires it of me.” Philipp Neri was also a close friend to Leo XI and may have secretly controlled the fate of the Vatican, since he was a trusted friend and confessor of all the important popes of his time. The code to understand the Malachy prophecy is thus shown in the omen of the next-to-be-elected pope, “Undosus vir” (wave man). The prophecy probably was created in order to elect the cardinal Baronius, who wore wave lines in his family coat of arms. The election fell, however, on the Medici Leo, because Baronius refused the vote although he had already the majority.

Since the election of Leo XI, this prophecy has been consulted again and again to compare the actual elections with the omens. It has also influenced the election in such a way as to enable it to function as a self-fulfilling prophecy. Pontificates act in ways that correspond with the omens of the Malachy document.

The sensationalism around this prophecy relates to the further 33 allocated omens since 1605, which reach exactly until the recent pope Benedict XVI, who started his papacy in 2005. The prediction seems to be arranged, presumably by calculation, so that after 33 further pontiffs, i.e. after about 400 years, the year 2000 will come and trigger an apocalyptic scenario. Phillip Neri most likely used Malachy, the friend of Bernhard of Clairvoux who was closely aligned to the Knights Templar, as a spokesman. Before his death, Neri gave all his personal papers to the fire, destroying all records.

Most interesting, but also droll and bizarre, is the role the prophecy played at the following conclaves, how compliant many popes were in fulfilling the prophecy, and how fulfillments were attributed to them. With the notion of self-fulfilling prophecies in mind, see now the following list of the remaining omens, which are allocated to the respective popes with comments by the author.

233 / 78 **Undosus vir.** (wave man) -> Leo XI (1605)

As mentioned above, the prophecy was targeted to affect the election in favor of cardinal Baronius, but the election fell upon Alessandro Ottaviano de Medici, Pope Leo XI. His nickname became "Papa Lampo" (flash pope) because his pontificate lasted about one month only. It was said that he passed like a short wave.

234 / 79 **Gens perversa.** (corrupt family) -> Paul V (1605-21)

He came from Borgia and his family and his papacy were accused of nepotism.

235 / 80 **In tribulatione pacis.** (in the disturbance of peace) -> Gregory XV (1621-23)

The Thirty Years' War broke out during his papacy. In a personal letter to Philip III of Spain, he pleaded for peace between Spain and Italy. Because of this intervention, a medal was coined with the inscription "Pacis et religiosus amor." To honor him in his former bishop's church, St. Pietro in Bologna, an inscription was made reading, "Perpetuus pacis auctor suator et propugnator." He canonized Phillip Neri in 1622 and wrote the last papal edict punishing witchcraft and Satanism with death.

236 / 81 **Lilium & rosa.** (Lily and rose) -> Urban VIII (1623-44)

He was born in Firenze, which has a lily as its emblem. Under Urban, Galileo Galilee was sentenced by the Inquisition.

237 / 82 **Iucunditas crucis.** (Joy of the cross) -> Innocent X (1644-55)

His election fell on the day of the Feast of the Cross, September 14.

239 / 84 **Sydus olorum.** (Star of the swans) -> Clemens IX (1667-69)

The swan is said to be a symbol for artists and musicians. Clemens esteemed himself as an artist and wrote libretti for the early opera buffa, *Chi soffre speri* and *Dal male il bene*.

240 / 85 **De flumine magno.** (from a great river) -> Clemens X (1670-76)

He governed Ravenna during an inundation.

241 / 86 **Bellua insatiabilis.** (insatiable beast) -> Innocent XI (1676-89)

He chose a lion for his papal coat of arms.

242 / 87 **Poenitentia gloriosa.** (glorious penitence) -> Alexander VIII (1689-91)

Pietro Ottoboni had the same first name as the apostle Peter, who repented after he had denied his master three times, and the fulfillment of his omen was interpreted in this way.

243 / 88 **Rastrum in porta.** (Rake at the door) -> Innocent XII (1691-1700)

His name was Antonio Pignatelli del Rastrello. The Italian word "Rastrello" means "rake." This is one of the very rare examples after 1600 where a linkage to a pope's name can be found in an omen. He enacted a bull to prevent nepotism.

244 / 89 **Flores circumdati.** (surrounded by flowers) -> Clemens XI (1700-21)

After his death, it came out that he spent one million scuds of his private capital on the poor. To honor him, a medal was coined with the words "Flores circumdati." He decreed the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

245 / 90 **De bona religione.** (of a good religion) -> Innocent XIII (1721-24)

Only a far-fetched parallel is found for his omen: he introduced the feast of Jesus' name to save the only true religion.

246 / 91 **Miles in bello.** (Soldier in war) -> Benedict XIII (1724-30)

His omen's only far-fetched interpretation is that he was Dominican and his order was the spearhead of the Inquisition, called the "domini canes" (dogs of the Lord).

247 / 92 **Columna excelsa.** (Lofty column) -> Clemens XII (1730-40)

Soon after his election, he became blind. Only a few popes built more than he did, which is said to be the meaning of his omen. Structures included the face of St. Giovanni in Lateran, the chapel of his family Corsini in Mantua with columns from the Parthenon, the Palace of Consulta, the ornaments of the Fontana Trevi, the face of S. Giovanni de Fiorentini, and the statue museum at the Capitol.

248 / 93 **Animal rurale.** (Rural animal) -> Benedict XIV (1740-58)

No connection was found for his omen.

249 / 94 **Rosa umbriae.** (Rose of Umbria) -> Clemens XIII (1758-69)

He was a cardinal with the title Santa Maria del Aracoeli. The rose as a symbol of St. Mary and love, and Umbria as the home of St. Francis, are seen as signs for the fulfillment of his omen.

250 / 95 **Ursus velox.** (Swift bear) -> Clemens XIV (1769-74)

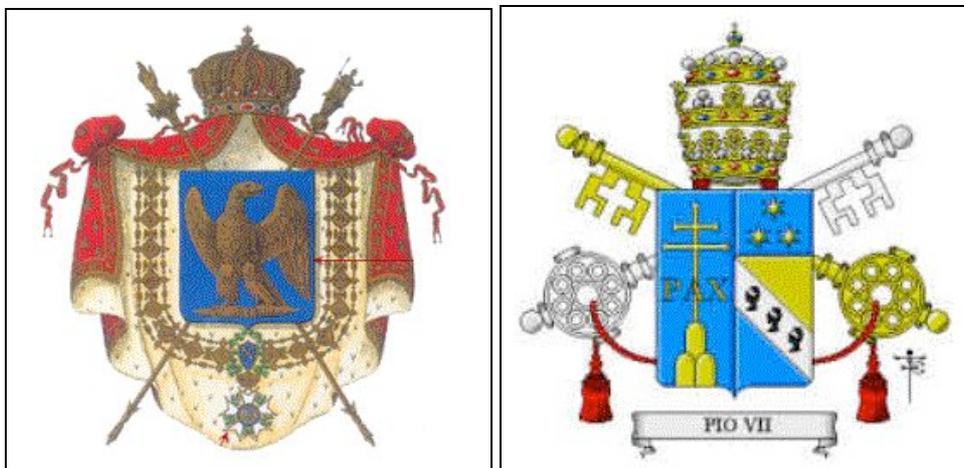
There was a rumor that in his family crest was a running bear, which is not proven. No further matching analogy has been found.

251 / 96 **Peregrin apostolic.** (Apostolic pilgrim) -> Pius VI (1775-99)

For many centuries, no pope had left the Vatican, but Pius VI traveled to speak to Emperor Joseph II in Vienna, since Joseph's edict of tolerance had suppressed many Catholic monasteries. This caused astonishment, and in memory of this visit, medals were coined bearing the inscription "Peregrinus apostolicus." Vincenzo Monti wrote the poem "Il pellegrino apostolico" in honor of this journey.

252 / 97 **Aquila rapax.** (Rapacious eagle) -> Pius VII (1800-23)

The Pope's pontificate was overshadowed by Napoleon, whose emblem was the eagle. When Pius excommunicated Napoleon, Pius was imprisoned in France.



22.7.-8. Coat of arms of Napoleon and Pius VII

253 / 98 **Canis & coluber.** (Dog and snake) -> Leo XII (1823-29)

Annibale Sermattei della Genga previously was bishop of Sinigaglia, which has two dogs in its emblem. Sermatti sounds similar to “serpente” (Italian, “snake”), and Leo fought against secret societies like the Freemasons and Carbonari, in which he saw the snake of evil.

254 / 99 **Vir religiosus.** (Religious man) -> Pius VIII (1829-30)

That he chose Pius as his papal name is seen as fulfillment.

255 / 100 **De balneis Etruriae.** (From the bath of Etruria) -> Gregory XVI (1831-46)

This analogy looks very constructed: Gregory came from the order of the Camaldolese. Saint Romuald founded the Sacred Hermitage of Camaldoli, high in the mountains of central Italy near the city of Arezzo, Toscana. Nearby is Bagno di Romagna, which ancient Romans called “balneum.” Gregory founded the Vatican’s Etruscan museum, where pre-Christian archeological excavations are exhibited.

256 / 101 **Crux de cruce.** (Cross of cross) -> Pius IX (1846-78)

Pope Pius IX suffered many crosses during his pontificate, but the greatest cross of all came from the House of Savoy, which reunited Italy and stripped the pope of his territorial possessions. The Savoy coat of arms is commonly depicted as a white cross over a red background.

257 / 102 **Lumen in coelo.** (Light in the sky) -> Leo XIII (1878-1903)

Leo chose a shooting star or comet on blue background for his papal coat of arms.



22.9. The emblem of Leo XIII

258 / 103 **Ignis ardens.** (Burning fire) -> Pius X (1903-14)

He was canonized in 1954. His omen symbolized his faith, burning like fire until the first “world fire” (WWI) ended his life. He was named the patron of the Society of St. Pius X (FSSPX), founded in 1970 by the French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. It rejects the resolutions of the Second Vatican Council.

259 / 104 **Religio depopulata.** (Religion without people) -> Benedict XV (1914-22)

He was the pope of WWI, which brought death for the masses and the beginning of Communist states. During his pontificate there was an outbreak of the Spanish flu, causing the deaths of about 100 million people—the greatest epidemic known to date.

260 / 105 **fides intrepida.** (Intrepid faith) -> Pius XI (1922-39)

The saying goes that he had intrepid faith into the church despite the ambitions of National Socialism and Communism.

261 / 106 **Pastor angelicus.** (Angelic shepherd) -> Pius XII (1939-58)

When Rome was bombed on July 19, 1943, the Pope appeared at the ruins, whereupon the people of the St. Lorenzo quarter called him *Angelo bianco* (white angel). During WWII, many newspapers called him "Angel Pope." His policies and tolerance of Hitler are very controversial. When he was cardinal, he was the mastermind of the concordat of the Vatican with the German Reich. This enhanced the prestige of Hitler, but also brought the church taxes for the Vatican, which are still one of its greatest sources of income. Some say Pius is the person mainly responsible for helping the Nazis come to power. After WWII, the Vatican under Pius XII was involved in rescue operations of Nazi criminals. Pius XII and Giovanni Montini (later Paul VI) gave resources to the Austrian bishop Hudal to enable the rescue operation. Hudal used this position to aid the escape of wanted Nazi war criminals, including Franz Stangl, commanding officer of Treblinka; Gustav Wagner, commanding officer of Sobibor; Alois Brunner, responsible for the Drancy internment camp near Paris; and Josef Mengele (the "death angel"). Some 180 or 300 well-known Nazi criminals escaped through the so-called Ratlines⁵ to Argentina. After Pius' death in the apses of St. Peter a high catafalque was erected reading "Pastor Angelicus sibi creditum gregem ad aeternae vitae pascua indefatigabili cura perduxit."

262 / 107 **Pastor & nauta.** (Shepherd and sailor) -> John XXIII (1958-63)

The motto of Gregory XII "Nauta de Ponte nigro," evidently refers to the port city of Venice, as the annexed remark shows: "Venetus, commentarius ecclesiae Nigropontis" (Venetian, Commendatory of the Church of Nigripontis). US cardinal Francis Joseph Spellmann, archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York, evidently accepted the Malachy prophecy at face value during a conclave and sailed the candidate in a boat loaded with sheep down the river Tiber.⁶ The Italian John XXIII, who before his election was also a bishop, was "high-shepherd" of the canal city of Venice. He called for the Second Vatican Council to navigate into the new age. One year after its beginning, he died and left mourning and agony.

263 / 108 **Flos florum.** (Flower of flowers) -> Paul VI (1963-78)

He chose a papal emblem with three lilies. The Fleur-de-Lys or Fleurs de Lis is a French expression of the heraldic lily. As shown in the chapter on the Milky Way, the lily has a symbolic meaning concerning birth and death, as if the souls are traveling between Milky Way and Earth. Paul VI published his encyclical "Humanæ Vitæ," subtitled "On the Regulation of Birth," in 1968. In this encyclical, he reaffirmed the Catholic Church's traditional condemnation of artificial birth control, which forbids even condoms and thus encourages the spread of AIDS. During his papacy, many people felt sexually liberated due to the invention of the hormonal birth control pill. The year 1969 also marked a high point in the youth and peace movement, finding its expression in the flower power of the Hippies.

264 / 109 **De medietate lunae.** (Of the half-moon) -> John Paul I (1978)

His election was on August 26, 1978, one day after the half moon. His papacy ended 33 days later on September 28. His sudden death sparked many conspiracy theories,^{7 8} which were even recorded in a movie (Francis Ford Coppola's *The Godfather III*).

265 / 110 **De labore solis.** (Solar eclipse) -> John Paul II (1978-2005)

The Polish pope was born as Karol Jozef Wojtyła on May 18, 1920, during a partial solar eclipse in the southern hemisphere.⁹ Perhaps to doubly fulfill his omen, after his death his

requiem and sepulture were postponed one week until April 8, 2005, the day of a hybrid eclipse over the southwestern Pacific and South America. The opening of the iron curtain is attributed to him. During massive strikes in Poland, the Polish people felt strengthened by their pope. The author of these lines was in Poland when the Pope died and witnessed the consternation of his people, who seemed to have “lost their sun.” The inflexibility of this pope against the necessities of the present time, however, seems like an attempt to eclipse even reality.

266 / 111 **De Gloria olivae.** (Of the olive’s glory) Benedict XVI -> (2005-)

The German-born Joseph Alois Ratzinger has chosen the name Benedict, making the author wonder if he did so to build a relationship with his Malachy omen. One far-fetched connection would be in the Olivetans, a congregation of the Benedict order, whose founder was Benedict of Nursia. A clearer relation to his omen is his occupation before his papacy: for more than 20 years, Cardinal Ratzinger was Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (in Latin: *Congregatio Romanae et universalis Inquisitionis*). It is best known for its authority over the teaching of Church doctrine, but it also has jurisdiction over other matters, including cases involving the seal of the confessional, clerical sexual misconduct, and other matters. Its precursor organization was the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Universal Inquisition, which used torture, hunted witches, and burned heretics at the stake during the end of the medieval period. In its emblem, it shows a sword and an olive branch under a cross.



22.10. The emblem of the Spanish Inquisition. Branch of olive and sword under cross.

Benedict has been severely attacked because of his remittance of the excommunication of the Society of St. Pius X. Members of this brotherhood deny the existence of the Holocaust. In 2008, Benedict caused a conflict with Muslim leaders due to a lecture given at a university in Regensburg, where he cited Byzantine emperor Manuel II Paleologus concerning the role of violence in Islam: “Show me just what Muhammad brought that was new and there you will find things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith he preached.”

As the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, Ratzinger cited the Austrian philosopher Feyerabend: “The Church at the time of Galileo kept much more closely to reason than did Galileo himself, and she took into consideration the ethical and social consequences of Galileo's teaching too. Her verdict against Galileo was rational and just, and the revision of this verdict can be justified only on the grounds of what is politically

opportune.” Because of this, in January 2008 as Pope Benedict XVI, Ratzinger canceled a visit to La Sapienza University following a protest letter signed by 67 of its 4,500 academics, as well as a few dozen of its 135,000 students.

While visiting Brazil in May 2007, the pope sparked controversy by saying that native populations had been “silently longing” for the Christian faith brought to South America by colonizers. The Pope continued, stating that “the proclamation of Jesus and of his Gospel did not at any point involve an alienation of the pre-Columbus cultures, nor was it the imposition of a foreign culture.” President Hugo Chavez of Venezuela demanded an apology, and an indigenous organization in Ecuador issued a response that stated, “representatives of the Catholic Church of those times, with honorable exceptions, were accomplices, deceivers and beneficiaries of one of the most horrific genocides of all humanity.”

In Austria in 2009, the nomination of a bishop against the wishes of the local church caused confusion and mass secession from the church. The nominated bishop stated that homosexuality is a sinful sickness that is curable by medicine, and that damage by hurricane Katrina in New Orleans is God’s punishment for the erotic bars there.

The proper list of the popes’ omens ends with Benedict XVI. The lines immediately after “De Gloria olivae,” the last motto of the prophecy, read:

In psecutione extreme S.R.E. sedebit. Petrus Romanus, qui pascet oves in multus tribulationibus: Quibus transactis civitas septicollis diruetur,& Iudex tremedus iudicabit populum suum. Finis.

(In extreme persecution the Holy Roman Church will remain. The Roman Petrus [the pope of Rome on the seat of St. Peter, ed.] herds his sheep in many tribulations: When this is over he seven-hilled city will be destroyed, and the dreaded Judge will judge his people. The End.

Some interpreters translate this last sentence differently, seeing no period between the words sedebit and Petrus, but instead a comma, whereby one more follower after Benedict would be given the motto “Petrus Romanus,” who would be then the very last.

This would be translated as follows: “During the final persecution of the Holy Roman Church, the seat will be occupied by Peter the Roman, who will feed his sheep in many tribulations: and when these things are finished, the seven-hilled city will be destroyed, and the formidable Judge will judge his people. The End.”

On the very end of the prophecy is added the annex:

Quae ad Pontifices adiecta, non sunt ipsius Malachiae, sed R.P.F. Alphonsi Giaconis, Ord. Praedicatoru, huius interpretis.

(What is added as remarks to the popes does not come from Malachy himself, but comes from Alphons Giacon of the Predicatorian order and are his own interpretations.

There are scholars, mostly in church circles, who appreciate this script as authentic and true. Thus the Catholic Encyclopedia of 1913 writes that in 1139, Malachy traveled to Rome to give a report to the pope upon his diocese. While in Rome, he had strange visions of the future, and in his mind a list of popes appeared that would lead the church until the end of

days. Malachy gave the list to Pope Innocent II, who kept the document in the Vatican archive, where it forgotten and not rediscovered until 1590.

It is astonishing that the systematic manipulation of this list is not acknowledged inside the church. The gullibility of many bishops and cardinals is apparent. But much more objectionable would be if the cardinals realized the true nature of the prophecy and nevertheless played their role in that theater, pretending in this way to encourage believers to affirm the Church's miracles and secrets.

The list of the mottos before 1600 can be recognized as a product of hindsight. All added fulfilling remarks (adiecta) on the omens until 1590 come from Alphonsus Giaconius, as even the annex states. The way the omens perform up to this point is so definite that prophecy must be excluded. Eminently demonstrative is the respective allocations of motto with family names or origins.

Here some random examples:

Nr 3 **Ex magnitudine montis**: Family name of Lucius II: Montemagno

Nr 4 **Abbas Suburranus**: Family name of Anastasius IV: Suburra

Nr. 10 **Lux in Ostio**: Lucius III was cardinal bishop of Ostio

Nr 11 **Sus in Cribo**: Family name of Urban III: Crivelli (Latin Cribo and Italian Crivelli translates as Sieve)

Nr 12 **Ensis Laurentii**: Gregor VIII was Cardinal of St. Laurentius

Nr 13 **De Schola Exiet**: Family name of Clemens III: Scolari

Nr 14 **De Rure Bovensi**: Family name of Celestin III: Bobone

Nr 18 **Leo sabinus**: In the family coat of arms of Celestin IV is a lion and before his election he was bishop of Sabina a small province North of Rome

Nr 43 **Luna Cosmedina**: Family name of Benedict XIII: Luna; he was cardinal in Cosmedin

Nr 44 **Schisma Barcinonicum**: The Antipope Clemens VIII was Canonic of Barcelona

Nr 45 **De Inferno pregnani**: Pope Urban VI came from suburb of Naples with the name Inferno and his civil name Bartolomeo Prignano.

Nr 48 **Nauta de Ponte Nigro**: Gregory XII came from the church of Nigropontis in Venice

Nr 53 **Amator Crucis**: The name of Antipope Felix V was Duke Amadeus of Savoy; Amadeus in Latin is Amator and Savoy has a cross in its emblem

Nr 62 **De parvo Homine**: Family name of Pius III: Piccolomini; a wordplay makes "parvo" (little, Italian "piccolo") and Homine (human, Italian "uomo")

Nr 64 **De Leo Florentius**: The name of Adrian VI was Adriaan Florensz Boeyens

As shown, the allocations of the mottos with family names, emblems, or origins of the popes before 1600 are easily traceable and definite, because both the fulfillments (adiecta) as well as the mottos are inventions in hindsight. This is not, however, the case for the omens or mottos after 1605. Here connections to the family names of the popes are not evident, and the popes or their attendants fulfill the references to the omens intentionally.

Here some examples:

Nr 96. For Pius VI, with the omen "**Peregrin apostolic,**" medals were coined bearing the inscription "peregrinus apostolicus." Vincenzo Monti wrote the poem "Il pellegrino apostolico."

Nr 89. For Clemens XI, with the omen "**Flores circumdati,**" after his death medals with the inscription "Flores circumdati" were coined.

Nr 102. Leo XIII, with the omen “**Lumen in coelo**” (Light in the sky), performed his motto by creating his papal coat of arms with a comet upon blue background.

Nr 107. US cardinal Spellman prominently fulfilled the omen “**Pastor & nauta**” (shepherd and sailor) during the conclave in order to theatrically favor cardinal Rocalli of Venice, and succeeded with the election of John XXIII.

Nr. 110. During the conclave and sepulture of John Paul II, the cardinals evidently strove to fulfill verbatim the omen “**de labore solis**” (solar eclipse), electing and entombing him during solar eclipses.

Nr 111. The conclave of the cardinals almost perfectly fulfilled the omen “**De Gloria olivae**” by electing Cardinal Ratzinger, who resided in the office that had once belonged to the Inquisition, with the olive in its emblem.

As shown, almost no omen after 1605 (“Undosus vir”) coincides with such precision as the mottos before. This lets us conclude that until 1605 the prophecies were no fortune-telling, but only pretended to be.

Some omens afterward were weakly fulfilled thanks to the devoted search for connections by interpreters. Strong connections are owed to the compliance of cardinals to the omens at the selection of the pope, to their self-fulfillment by the popes, or to their reinterpretation in hindsight. The Malachy prophecy is a classic self-fulfilling prophecy.

The prophecy is cleverly constructed temporally so that the number of the actual popes until the year 2000 fits almost exactly. The average duration of the pontificates is therefore calculable. In the approximately 1110 years from the first pope on the list (Celestin II), there were 165 popes. On average, one papacy lasts about 7 years. During the 860 years from 1140 until 2000, this results in about 122 popes. Philip Neri or whoever wrote the prophecy chose the number of 77 popes counting backwards since 1605 (“Undosus vir”), and from “Undosus vir” onwards chose the number of 33 popes. Predicting 111 popes must have to do with the magic of numbers, numerology, or kabbalah, which we will not discuss here.

The Malachy prophecy is essentially a magic trick. With it, the Catholic Church encloses itself in a mystic aura of dubious truth in which it predicts a fatal end for itself. To perform magic is a wonderful artistry, as long as it is declared to be magic. As soon as conjuring is performed veiled, it is deception. How reprehensible are church leaders who perform magic in this way, and how silly are believers who adore it!

¹ Dawkins, Richard: *Der Gotteswahn*, Berlin 2007, S.155 (English title: The God Delusion. London 2006)

² Dawkins, Richard: *Der Gotteswahn*, Berlin 2007, S.99 (English title: The God Delusion. London 2006) and Jerry Coyne: Playboy, August 2006

³ Catholic Encyclopedia: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/12272b.htm>

⁴ Hildebrand Troll: *Die Papstweissagung des Heiligen Malachias. Ein Beitrag zur Lösung ihres Geheimnisses*. St. Ottilien 2005

⁵ [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratlines_\(history\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ratlines_(history))

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- ⁶ Bander, Peter: *The Prophecies of St. Malachy*. TAN Books and Publishers, Inc. 1969.
- ⁷ Yallop, David A.: *Im Namen Gottes?* Rowohlt, Reinbek bei Hamburg. 2001
- ⁸ Vandenberg, Philipp: *Sixtinische Verschwörung*. Lübbe 1988.
- ⁹ Espenak & Meeus: <http://eclipse.gsfc.nasa.gov/5MCSEmap/1901-2000/1920-05-18.gif>