

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

The Risen Christ



The first day of the week cometh Mary Magdalene early, when it was yet dark, unto the sepulchre, and seeth the stone taken away from the sepulchre.

Then she runneth, and cometh to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and saith unto them,

They have taken away the Lord out of the sepulchre, and we know not where they have laid him.

But Mary stood without at the sepulchre weeping: and as she wept, she stooped down, and looked into the sepulchre.

And seeth two angels in white sitting, the one at the head, and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain.

And they say unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? She saith unto them, Because they have taken away my Lord, and I know not where they have laid him.

And when she had thus said, she turned herself back, and saw Jesus standing, and knew not that it was Jesus.

Jesus saith unto her, Woman, why weepest thou? whom seekest thou? She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him, Sir, if thou have borne him hence, tell me where thou hast laid him, and I will take him away.

Jesus saith unto her, Mary. She turned herself, and saith unto him, Rabboni; which is to say, Master.

Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father.

John 20:1-17.

Contemplation of the fullness of promise contained in the message of the Resurrection brings from the heart of the spiritually aspiring an ecstatic outpouring of gratitude and adoration to that blessed One who has become the radiant symbol of hope and immortality to the Christian world.

The Western Wisdom Teachings explain that the mystery of the Crucifixion and the Resurrection involves *the cleansing of the blood from egosim,*

or the attainment of that pure and passionless state exemplified by the plants. Each of us is a Christ-in-the-making, and the incidents related in the four Gospels indicate steps on the Path for every Christian aspirant. The fact that at the Baptism, Jesus, a highly evolved member of the human life wave, gave his dense and vital bodies for the Christ Spirit to use during His ministry upon the earth, and that at the Crucifixion the Christ Spirit was liberated from the bodies of Jesus, entered the earth by means of the flowing of the blood, and was "resurrected," is an augury of what is in store for every human being.

Man has, in addition to his dense physical body, a vital body composed of four ethers. The two lower of these ethers are the avenues of growth and propagation, while the two higher, the light and reflecting ethers, compose the soul body, that golden wedding-garment which is the insignia of the Christ-life. The building of this soul body, the vehicle in which each of us will be "resurrected," depends upon cleansing the blood from selfishness and passion.

So it is that the promise of the Resurrection becomes imbued with an infinitely deeper and more soul-satisfying meaning when we consider that the yearly infusion of Divine Life brought by the Christ Ray as the Indwelling Planetary Spirit of the earth marks a specific point in the spiritual and physical growth and activity in all the plant, animal, and human life upon the earth. The Resurrection is a definite and glorious design in the pattern of existence which we follow in our evolution from a virgin spirit to the state of a God-man.

What Christ Jesus suffered, we are to suffer; the powers which He attained,

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decided. "Shall we find him some worm friends to play with?"

"Ye-ES," Paulie agreed, giving a little hop to express his satisfaction over the idea. He watched with interest as Nanny slowly dug the hand spade into the soft soil. She told the little boy that she had to give the earthworms time to get out of the way, as she didn't want to cut any in two. The spade upturned a dozen or more deep red adult worms, besides many of all ages, including a few capsules containing eggs. Paulie thought these latter were cur-rants, but Nanny told him they were earthworm houses for their babies.

Paulie helped Nanny dig little holes for the earthworms, and together the big hands and the little hands carried the pot to a low shelf that Paulie could reach and visit. Paulie brought water and poured it into the dish Nanny put under the pot. They discussed the kind of food the earthworms should have and how often it was to be given them. Paulie would take complete charge of the pot, when he came over. It was all a wonderful adventure to him.

Nanny also told him how the earthworm's tiny tunnels ventilated the roots of the plants, as well as piped water to them; how this natural cultivation besides being constant and consequently ideal, was not injurious to the underground parts of plants, as garden tools could not help but be, since they could not tell where they were going, and the earthworms could. She also told him that during this time of the year, the Easter Season, all of the plants and trees were being given new life by God, and that was why everything was growing and flowering so luxuriantly.

Paulie was charmed, and he seemed to understand so well that Nanny wondered if he might be a potential successor to her admired Luther Burbank! Indeed, as she knew, his microscope indicated much ability along these lines, the result of much effort in past lives.

By this time it was getting quite light, and the birds were chattering noisily all about. A saucy jaybird perched himself in a rose tree nearby and with cocked head peered inquisitively at Nanny and Paulie.

"Go away, you rascal," laughed Nanny. "You wont get your breakfast here."

"Would he eat our earthworms, Nanny?" anxiously inquired Paulie.

"Indeed, he would, if he could get them," replied Nanny. "But he can't get them, don't you worry. The earthworms stay down under the surface during the daytime so they are safe. Now, we must go inside, my Paulie, and have breakfast, so we can get ready to go to the zoo."

This suggestion met with Paul's full approval, and he hopped up the path, reaching out his hand to Nanny, ready for any new adventure the day might bring.

As for little Oliver, he would welcome changes. Nothing could remain the same, for *everything grew*. And he was completely happy to be under the care of a god—and especially when that god was such a wonderful one as Paulie! It was a wonderful world. How good to be alive!

(To be concluded)

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we, too, will some day possess. Eventually, when we, as individual aspirants, have lived a life of purity and self-forgetting service long enough to evolve the radiant soul body in which one functions in the higher worlds, we will then experience our own crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. Then we shall be shown how consciously to sever the ties (the "nails") binding us to the physical body, so that we can at will leave the dense vehicle and soar into the higher worlds to perform a wider work for humanity.