

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Raising the Dead

Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.

And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died; whom when they had washed, they laid her in an upper chamber.

And forasmuch as Lydda was nigh to Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them.

Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by weeping, and shewing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.

But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed: and turning him to the body, said, Tabitha, arise. And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

And he gave her his hand, and lifted her up, and when he had called the saints and widows, presented her alive.

—*The Acts*, 9:36-41.

The Apostles were all spiritually developed men, and under the tutelage of their exalted Teacher they unfolded their spiritual powers to a still higher degree. They became able to imitate Him and perform miracles similar to those He performed while functioning in the body of Jesus. This incident is an example of Peter's use of this power, but it also reveals to the understanding person much more than a mere physical healing.

Frequently the word *dead* as used in the Bible does not mean that the silver cord is actually severed (from which there would be no resuscitation), but rather that the person is in a coma, or that he or she is in a state of consciousness which has resulted from transcending the things of the flesh. In other words, the Apostles, having be-

come initiates themselves, could, like Christ Jesus, initiate lesser developed ones into higher states of consciousness when the latter were ready. They were taught this as part of their training on the Path.

Usually there is a period of purification, or "sickness" as it may appear to the unenlightened, before the initiatory rite takes place. Sometimes actual illness may be necessary to prepare the body for the new influx of Spirit. There may be certain mental and physical conditions which have to be changed before the body is prepared to undergo the new experiences imminent, and through illness these changes can be accomplished.

That Dorcas was laid in an "upper room" signifies the higher state of consciousness which accompanies initiation. This involves the raising of the spinal spirit fire to the pituitary body and the pineal gland in the head, leading to positive clairvoyance and conscious functioning in the invisible worlds.

The coming of the Christ Ray as the Indwelling Planetary Spirit of the Earth made initiation possible for all, and therefore many of the pious ones who became early followers of Him were ready to be taught how to use this power they had accumulated within themselves by their lives of righteous living. Their "good works" shone in the soul body as a symbol of their readiness for yet higher steps on the upward Way.

Today the same golden opportunity exists for all humanity. "Whosoever will" may come into the glorious way of living which leads to the conscious unfoldment of latent potentialities into dynamic spiritual powers. The ability to heal and "raise the dead" comes to all who unfold the *Christ within*.