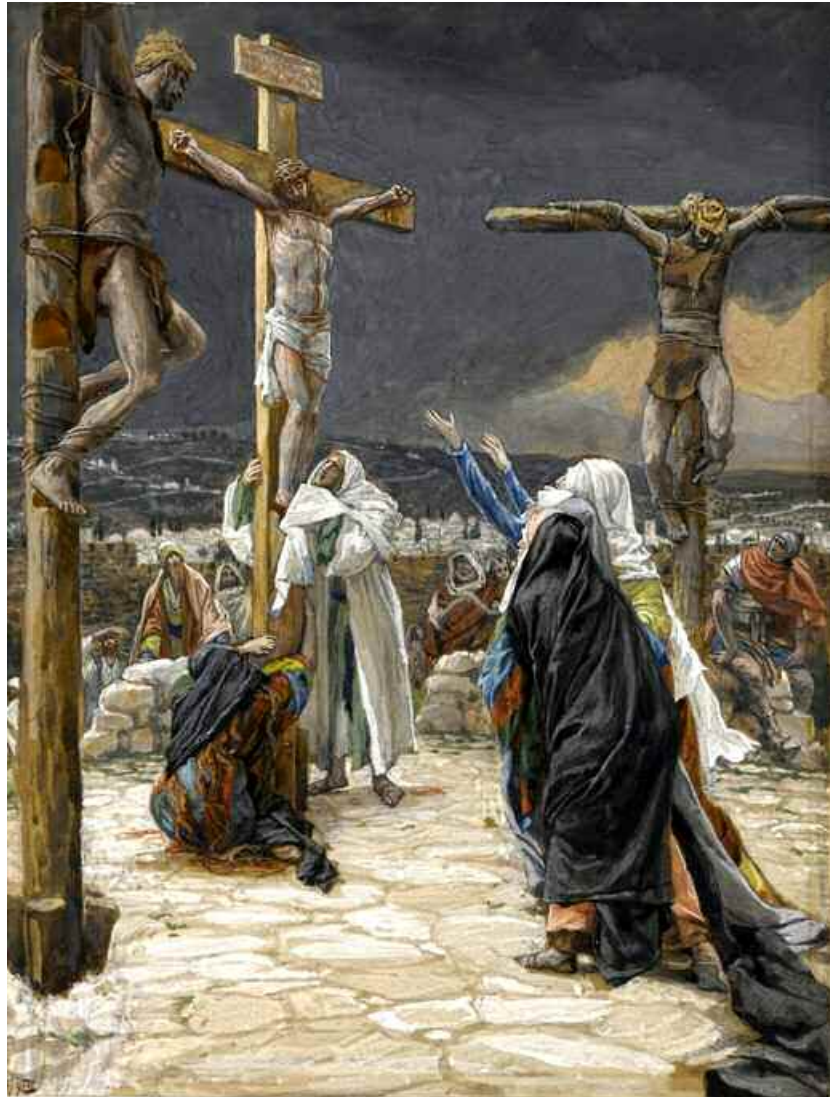


Easter Thoughts

EASTER is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Sun has entered Aries at the vernal equinox. At this full moon, because the Sun is in Aries, where its creative energies are strongest, the Moon must be in Libra, the sign of marriage and partnerships. It hints that heaven takes earth into partnership, that Christ unites Himself with His brethren, the Church or Bride.

Aries is the sign of the Lamb or Christ, and in the Crucifixion Drama, Aries was on the Cross of the Meridian and the Equator. The foot of the cross is Libra. The Crucifixion occurs on the Equinox, in the sixth hour, the actual time when the Sun (Son) dies. The veil in the Temple was rent in twain, that is to say, into two equal parts. Hence at the Equinox, day and night are equal. Two thieves were also crucified on either side of Christ—Cancer and Capricorn. One thief went to Paradise with Jesus. Cancer rose. Capricorn sank below the horizon into the netherworld, which is the Kingdom of Satan or Saturn.

The Crucifixion symbolizes the lowest point of attainment in the descent of the Logos into matter, the Sun (Logos) reaching the lowest meridian for the northern hemisphere at the time of the culminating act of the drama. Then it ascends. After Spirit has become involved in matter to the extent



Woodcut, Albrecht Dürer (1471-1578), British Museum, London

Crucifixion

“The personal crucifixion is absolutely necessary to develop the desire and stimulus to rise.” The two thieves are our lusts and our desires.

necessary to develop a fund of experiences, evolution begins and the spiritual powers become manifest. It is only after humanity has reached its lowest point in matter or world experience that it truly begins to ascend in permanent progress toward the higher planes or spheres of being.

All the elements of this Sacrifice on Golgotha’s brow or hill are peculiarly our own elements of progress and experience. Every man and every

woman meets a lowest point or Nadir in human existence at some time before passing beyond, and everyone is destined to personal crucifixion on a cross of his own making, before he or she can lawfully expect to rise in spiritual power. The personal crucifixion is absolutely necessary to develop the desire and stimulus to rise; otherwise humanity would be more or less content to passively accept things as they are as long as they could endure them. Our personal crucifixion is derived from the fact that "in Him we live and move and have our being." It is the outer symbol of a "divine discontent," a Spirit moving humanity to progress to a higher and better estate.

The two thieves of the crucifixion drama are always with us. They are our lusts and our desires. Lusts will always remain—lusts, and are therefore doomed to destruction. The other thief, desire, may at times appear to rob our higher selves, but desire can always be purified, hence saved and ultimately redeemed so as to go with us into our Paradise or better, fairer living conditions.

The veil that must be rent is the veil of spiritual ignorance. Many, some placed in very humble positions in the world, with apparently little to give them cheer or optimism, have nevertheless a clear vision of life, and as they live up to it according to their abilities, they are blessed in the possession of an inner light or radiance denied to many who may enjoy great earthly and worldly blessings.

For the true purpose of life consists in first understanding it, and then in trying to shape it in accordance with this knowledge, trying to live as befits sons and daughters of God, using the creative energies wisely and well, subjugating selfish desires and purifying the mirror of the mind so it can reflect Divine Wisdom.

Easter! Resurrection Power! Yes, many would like magical power over their fellows, but they are seldom prepared to pay the price—self-abnegation, self-sacrifice, and service to humanity. And until they have to some extent subjugated the lower self and yielded obedience to the higher, the door of the mystical temple must be shut, for real power can only be wielded by "the lover of all that lives." The torch of Power must be carried by the hands of Love, by those who strive for the heaven-

ly mind, seeking those things which are above. Otherwise chaos, not order, would reign; destruction, not evolution or progress, would ensue.

If humanity is to come upon the Day of days, Easter, when death shall be swallowed up in victory, when marvelous things are to be done, when blissful meetings are to take place, it must put away childish things, grow to spiritual manhood and womanhood, realize its nobility and witness to the truth.

To preach the death of Christ alone does not seem to disturb the selfish heart of man. It often flatters him with the thought of what was endured for his sake. It makes a free offer of forgiveness, which it pleases him to hear of, always supposing that he needs it. It tells him that he has nothing to "do" to be saved. It even frowns upon self-sacrifice, as if it were the same thing as self-righteousness.

Men and women will not be persuaded to better living by the fact alone that one rose from the dead. "If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded if one rise from the dead." Even a Lazarus can continue to come forth from the tomb without much effect upon humanity's life and ways. There may be temporary wonder and awe among a few bystanders, but the large majority of humanity would be unaffected.

Looking back upon the Resurrection of the Master, we read in it not something peculiar to Him, but the token of a higher destiny towards which all creation moves. The mountains and hills are to break forth into singing, and all the trees of the forest are to clap their hands. The period of night, of weeping, is to pass; the morning of joy is to come. Already the dawn of that morning of joy has arrived with the Resurrection of our Forerunner, the Lord Jesus.

So many good things are coming to humanity that we, like the Apostles, may believe not for joy, and wonder. To souls who first awake to the higher life, earth seems a fairyland; they enjoy a new and endless life and all things look different indeed. Their hearts, now light and brave, can face the things to be. They keep the wonderful feast of Easter, eating the unleavened bread of sincerity and of truth. Malice and guile are extinguished in their bosoms. Ambition and inordinate self-love,



Oil on canvas, detail from zodiacal panel of Virgo in the Rosicrucian Fellowship's Healing Temple (Ecclesia), one of twelve panels painted by Camille Lambert in Paris c.1921

Virgo, the Virgin, is the sixth sign of the Zodiac. She holds a six-petaled Bermuda lily, which is a symbol of purity.

which harden the heart, cease to abide with them. All creation shares their joy and bliss. All creatures rejoice. Nature dons her most beautiful robes, the birds sing their sweetest songs, the flowers give forth their fairest hues and sweetest scents. The lamb and the lion become friends. The Holy Child leads.

Humanity is bound in so many ways. It is suffering from self-inflicted wounds. In vain it seems the voice cries: "Ye are not bound, the soul of things is sweet." The Master, Jesus wants to share His glory and power with His brethren, humanity, all creation. He wants us to be free with the glorious liberty of the children of God.

If we have thought wrongly or foolishly, evidenced by Mercury afflicted in our horoscopes, then we should set ourselves vigorously to watch and control our thoughts, so as to think more wisely and more truly.

Perhaps Mars is afflicted in the natal chart; does the passionate nature seek to enchain and enslave you? Be it so, now seek to unbind the chain you once bound, and using your mind and thought power, decide to dominate this side of your nature. For the mind is king over the senses, and, long though the struggle may be, the result is sure. From Moon square Mars we can evolve Moon sextile or trine Mars, by purifying the passions.

So we should always seek to turn the square of affliction, corresponding to the Biblical "evening of weeping," into the angle of joy (trine or sextile), corresponding to the "morning of joy." Now is the moment to make your past failures steppingstones to future virtues. Today represents your wonderful opportunity. Ask yourself, "Is this act selfish, unbrotherly, unkind?" Then if the answer is "Yes," you may be certain that it is not Christian. Moreover, it will fetter and bind chains about you in your future lives. It will crucify afresh the Christ

that is your hope of glory. And the daughters of Jerusalem, man's affectionate longings for peace and goodness, will weep or mourn.

Since in man abides the Christ, his very Self, who shall forbid him to pass within the veil and to see "with open face the glory of the Lord"? But Wisdom will not enter the soul of a base man, nor dwell in a body weakened by foolish practices. The higher truths are reserved for those who are athletes in piety and in every virtue. Only Wisdom enables one to lift the veil that hides the Virgin of Eternal Truth from the careless eyes of men.

No Easter is complete without the lily, the Bermuda lily being the favorite everywhere. Its waxen-white petals are six in number, symbol of Virgo, the Virgin, sixth sign of the zodiac. Not only does it symbolize the purity and heavenliness of that new and endless life bestowed by the Christ Spirit, it also symbolizes the brotherhood of man, and this means the unselfish service of man.

The great occultist, Max Heindel, saw that humanity must outgrow patriotism and learn to say with Thomas Paine: "The world is my country, to do good is my religion." He pointed out that at the present time there is a tendency to exalt "self" above all else. The division of the world into nations, tribes, and families must vanish before Universal Brotherhood can become a fact.

The great English reformer John Wesley declared that the world was his parish. God who is ALL-in-All has no limited viewpoint. His love is over all and includes all. We are members one of another. We are meant to do honor to one another. Lives have crept long on broken wings, through cells of madness, haunts of horror and fear, divided by various group allegiances. It is time for mankind to unite, to embrace the purpose of God and to win through to the eternal life that is their

birthright.

Tennyson glimpsed man's present low estate. In "Maud" he is very frank and outspoken:

We are puppets, Man in his pride,
and Beauty fair in her flower;
Do we move ourselves, or are moved
by an unseen hand at a game
That pushes us off from the board,
and others ever succeed?
Ah yet, we cannot be kind to each other
here for an hour;
We whisper, and hint, and chuckle,
and grin at a brother's shame;
However we brave it out,
we men are a little breed.

But from the heights of eternity a voice proclaims, "Behold, I make all things new." At the time of the Vernal Equinox our cosmos is vibrant with a new release of energy to which man and Nature respond. It is the festival time on the inner planes when hosts of celestial beings join in the triumphant song of the new, the nobler, resurrected life in which men are *not* a little breed, in which kindness is *not* regarded as weakness or treason or folly.

The Passover of the Hebrews and the Resurrection of the Christians are of like significance. They are both events of emancipation. Both events occurred under similar stellar influences.

There will always be some men who strive after real spiritual values, refining their inner awareness to the point where they become the consecrated vessels, the "grails," into which flows, and into which alone may flow, the "wine of significance." The heart of humanity goes out to them as to the promise of the future, as well as the splendor of the past. For the beauty of Divinity that is revealed in them shall be revealed in us. As the Father in heaven is perfect, so is perfection the inevitable goal of man.

When the Sun is focussing the active rays of Aries on humanity, events of great moment often occur. The Bible records many such events. It was on the fifteenth day of April that the Israelites left Egypt—the most important date in the Old Dispensation's calendar. Joseph was released from prison on this date. Other events occurring at this time include the encampment of Sennacherib's



Très Riches Heures of Jean, Duke of Berry, c. 1413, Musée Condé, Chantilly

Ascension

The Lord rises in a glory of angels, leaving footprints in stone.

army before Jerusalem when it was slain by the Lord, the deliverance of the three Hebrew youths from the fiery furnace; and Daniel's release unharmed from the lions' den.

A new light now dawns for us; we are exalted to a higher state of knowing, raised to greater powers of performance. In other words, we are initiated into more of the divine plan for humanity, and definitely commissioned to carry it forward among the worthy and understanding ones. We are pioneers, elect, chosen. What an astonishing elevation is this, for us "who dwell in houses of clay, and who are crushed before the moth."

Truly we are to fight, but it is to be the good fight of perfection against corruption, health against sickness, spirit against flesh, the happy future against the sad past. We are to bring joy to the heavy-hearted.

We call hear the Risen Lord's "Peace be unto you, " and hearing, we call do our share in the creation of a new, better, happier heaven and earth. □

—Wesley D. Jamieson