

The Glorious Resurrection

“Now upon the first day of the week, very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulcher, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain others with them. And they found the stone rolled away from the sepulcher. And they entered in, and found not the body of the Lord Jesus. And it came to pass, as they were much perplexed thereabout, behold, two men stood by them in shining garments. And as they were afraid, and bowed down their faces to the earth, they said unto them, ‘why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here but is risen.’”—Luke 24:1-6

SCIENCE, RELIGION and esoteric philosophy are all bound together in this one event.* The science aspect is reflected by the Vernal Equinox, the starting point for determining the date of this glorious holiday, and the sun’s ‘passing over’ the equator from the southern hemisphere to the northern hemisphere. This has been observed by ancient peoples and is recognized by ancient and contemporary astronomy as a major annual event. Typically during the four sacred seasons of the year all kingdoms of the earth participate in the cosmic flow of energy that brings new life to the flora and fauna, quiescent since the Winter Solstice. For Christianity, the Resurrection is truly a symbol of hope, that we too can achieve resurrection and liberation.

Students of esoteric Christianity understand that the liberated Christ Ray returns to the Temple of the Sun in great glory. Esoteric philosophy teaches that the Christ Ray is at the outer envelope of the earth in its out-breathing phase of the yearly cycle.

Thus the Cosmic Christ is liberated, for a time, until the return to the confines of the earth in the Fall, there to provide finer cosmic energy from which we can build the glorious garment of the Resurrected One. Since each human being is a spark of the Divine Essence, a particle of spiritual sunlight, each has the potential of forming the diamond body or philosopher’s stone, which shines in great glory. In the *Mystical Interpretation of Easter* we read: “Without the annual mystic wave of vital energy from the Cosmic Christ, physical life would be an impossibility; without it there could be no physical bread and wine nor the transubstantiated spiritual tincture, prepared by alchemy, from the heart blood of the disciple.” Eventually the disciple will be able to say, like Jesus, “I have overcome the world”.

We call this overcoming “Easter”. How strange and incongruous this seems. How can we talk about the resurrection on one hand and Easter on the other, when the former is a sacred holiday and the latter is a pagan festival? Investigation reveals that the early church incorporated many pagan traditions into its religion in order to encourage pagans to join the church and to prevent the church from seeming so foreign to them. The dictionary defines Easter as a Christian festival that embodies many pre-Christian traditions. Scholars tend to accept the derivation proposed by the eighth century scholar Saint Bede, who believed the term probably came from *Easter*, the Anglo-Saxon name of the Teutonic Goddess of spring and fertility, to whom was dedicated a period of time corresponding to the month of April. Her festival was celebrated on the day of the Vernal Equinox.

* The text of this article was delivered as a talk at the 2001 Easter Day service in the Mt. Ecclesia chapel.

Traditions associated with the festival survive in the Easter Bunny, a symbol of fertility, and in the colored eggs, originally painted with gay hues representing the colors seen in Spring.

Such festivals, and the myths and legends that explain their origin, were common in ancient religions. The Christian festival of Easter probably embodies a number of converging traditions. Most scholars emphasize the original relation of Easter to the Jewish festival of Passover, or Pesach, from which is derived *Pasch* and its adjective, *Paschal*, other names for Easter. The early Christians, most of whom were of Jewish origin, were brought up in the Hebrew tradition and regarded Easter as a new feature of the Passover celebration. This holiday was a commemoration of the advent of the Messiah, as foretold by the prophets; as well as the 'passing over' of the Angel of Death, who spared the houses of the Israelites, while striking down the firstborn of the Egyptians.

The life of Jesus changed the history of the world. He was the One Who enlightened mankind and awakened them to the real meaning of the Ten Commandments and what it is to love one's fellow man. He was the One Who was beaten and bloodied and finally crucified; the sacrificial lamb, the Paschal Lamb, Who was obedient unto death, even the infamous death upon the cross. We know that every human being has the same potential as Jesus, which is to receive the Christ within, enter into initiation, and eventually experience liberation. The Christed Jesus bridges the seeming chasm between Judaism and Christianity, between the old and the new. All the bloodlines traced by Max Heindel, in *Freemasonry and Catholicism* were within the Jewish nation. Jesus was born, lived, and died a Jew. The Essenes, the Jewish sect from which Jesus arose, were contemporary with the Pharisees and the Sadducees. The Apostle Paul, also a Jew, established Christianity out of Gnosis or knowing, which was a doctrine of the Essenes that reflected pristine Christianity. All time was reckoned in a



Die Bibel in Bildern, Julius Schnorr von Carolsfeld (1789-1853)

The Passover

Dressed as if ready for a journey, the Israelites were instructed to eat in haste: "it is the Lord's passover...against all the gods of Egypt I will exercise judgment: I am the Lord....and this day shall be unto you for a memorial."

forward manner until the death of this one man. Then suddenly time was reckoned as B.C or A.D., based upon the death of this solitary life.

Before going further, let us look at the word, *glory*. Among the many definitions given in the dictionary, let us focus on the following: "1. An emanation of light supposed to proceed from beings of peculiar sanctity; 2. A painting representing the heavens opened; and 3. Any ring of light; a halo; a corona, specifically an anthelion or halo opposite the sun." The word *glory* is based on the infinitive "to glow". There is one glory of the sun, its corona. This is the glow of the Father. There is another glory of the moon, its reflection of sunlight, the Holy Spirit. There is another glory; the glory of the Christ, the Son, the Cosmic Ray. There is yet another glory; this for the philosopher who has found the Holy Grail; one who has developed the white stone. The moon glows by absorption and reflection of sunlight; we can glow by absorption and reflection of Sonlight.

Several scriptures express these various kinds of "glowings." In 1 Corinthians 15:40-43, we read: "There are also celestial bodies and bodies terres-

trial; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.”

You have heard it said that, “In God we live, move and have our being.” This, in esoteric terms, means that we live in the vital and desire bodies of the earth. It also means that we live within the cosmic events of the planet. It also means that we live within the cosmic effects of the solar corona. The Earth, and all the other planets, are situated within the solar wind. The solar corona can be likened to the vital body of the Sun; the solar wind is likened to its desire body. The substance of the Desire World is force-matter. The solar wind is composed of particles emitted from the sun into the Solar System in long wavelengths. As we absorb the cosmic light rays of the sun from September to March, when the Christ Spirit permeates the earth, we internalize this Christ Spirit. It was called the “hope of glory,” by the apostle Paul, as expressed in Colossians 1:27: “To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory”.

On the eve of Passover, Christ Jesus was crucified, entombed, and shortly afterward rose from the dead. In consequence, the Easter celebration commemorated the resurrection. In time, a serious difference over the date of Easter arose among Christians. Those of Jewish origin celebrated the resurrection immediately following Passover, which, according to their ancient lunar calendar, borrowed from the Babylonians, fell on the evening of the full moon (14th day of Nisan, the first month of the year). By their reckoning, Easter, from year to year, fell on different days of the week. Christians of Gentile origin, however, wished to commemorate the resurrection on the first day of the week, but from year to year it fell on different dates. Historically, Christian churches in the East, closer to the birthplace of this new reli-

gion, had strong old traditions binding them to the Passover Festival. The churches of the West, descendants of the Greco-Roman civilization, celebrated Easter on a Sunday. To resolve this conflict, Constantine 1, Emperor of Rome, convoked in 325 A.D. the Council of Nicea. The council unanimously ruled that Easter was to be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon following the Vernal Equinox, and that if the full moon should occur on a Sunday and thereby coincide with Passover, Easter should be celebrated the following Sunday.

Max Heindel’s occult elucidation on this matter stated:

Thus Easter is now held on the same day as required by the occult tradition to symbolize properly the cosmic significance of the event, and in this respect, both the Sun and the Moon are necessary factors, since Easter is not merely a solar festival. The Sun must go, not only past the equator, as it does on the 21st of March, but the full Moon after the Vernal Equinox must also be passed. Then, the following Sunday is Easter, the day of Resurrection. The light of the Vernal Sun must be reflected by a full moon before that day can dawn on Earth, and there is a deep meaning behind that method of determining Easter....humanity was not sufficiently evolved to have the religion of the Sun, the Christian Religion of universal brotherhood, until they had been fully prepared through the religions of the Moon, which segregated and separated humanity into groups, nations and races. This is symbolized by the annual rise of the Sun Spirit at Easter being deferred until the Jehovistic Moon has thrown back and fully reflected the light of the Easter Sun.

The purpose of the Religion of the Son, Christianity, is to further uplift mankind by forming it into a Universal Brotherhood of separate individuals to work in loving cooperation.

Christ Jesus was crucified, killed by the Roman soldiers. The difference between Him and previous teachers, in whom the Race Spirits were born, is that they died and must be reborn again and again to help their people. The Archangel Michael, race

spirit of the Jews, raised up Moses, who was taken to Mt. Nebo to die. He was reborn as Elijah and Elijah returned as John the Baptist. Buddha died and was reborn as Shankaracharya. When death came, Moses' face shone and Buddha's body became alight. They all reached the stage where the spirit begins to shine from within, but then they died. Christ Jesus reached that stage on the Mount of Transfiguration. It is highly significant that his real work took place subsequent to this event.

When Christ Jesus was crucified, in addition to the wounds made by crown of thorns, His body was pierced in the five places where the vital body currents flow. In this way the great Sun Spirit, Christ, was liberated from the physical vehicle of Jesus and went into the earth where He found Himself with individual vehicles. He permeated the

already existing planetary vehicles with His own and in the twinkling of an eye, diffused His own desire body over the planet, which enabled Him thenceforth to work upon the Earth as its regent and upon humanity from within. This is the "cleansing blood" of Christ Jesus. Because of the resurrection Christians have a risen Savior, One Who is ever present to help those who call upon His name. Having suffered like unto ourselves in all things and knowing fully our needs, He is lenient toward our mistakes and failures, so long as we continue trying to live the good life. After His resurrection the Christ Spirit remained in attenuated form among His disciples for 40 days to strengthen them and prepare them for their ministry.

During the three years between the baptism, when Jesus vacated his lower vehicles, and the crucifixion, which brought the return of their seed atoms, Jesus gathered a vehicle of ether, as an invisible helper gathers physical material whenever necessary to materialize all or part of the body. But material not matched with the seed atom cannot be permanently appropriated; it disintegrates as soon as the will power which assembled it is withdrawn, and this was, therefore, only a makeshift



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The Death of Moses

After his etheric body was transfigured with light and he envisioned a future promised land founded on truth, Moses died, to be reborn Elijah, then John.

arrangement. When the seed atom of his vital body was returned to Jesus, a new vital body was formed. In that vehicle Jesus has been functioning ever since, working with the churches. He has never taken another dense body since then, although he would be perfectly able to do so.

The four letters on the cross and the method of fixing Easter in commemoration of the resurrection show the cosmic character of this event. The letters INRI commonly supposed to signify *Iesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews, are also the initial letters of the Hebrew names of the four elements: *Ian*, water; *Nour*, fire; *Ruach*, air or spirit; *Iabeshah*, earth. It would be foolish to fix the anniversary of the death of an individual as Easter is fixed by the Sun and Moon. But it is the proper thing to do in respect to a solar festival and a cosmic character, related to the sun as the spiritual light-bringer to mankind.

By His crucifixion and resurrection Christ Jesus showed humanity that it need not fear death, for the spirit is eternal and cannot be harmed. The body is just a temporary vehicle. Christ, by His embodiment in Jesus and his subsequent triumphant rising from the depths of the Earth, gave

us an example of our ultimate victory. Through His steady supply of cosmic energy, we are able to face every challenge, go through every difficulty, and overcome every obstacle.

In closing, let us look at Revelation 5:11-13:

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.' And every creature which is in heaven, and on Earth, and under the earth, and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, heard I saying, 'Blessing and honor, and glory and power, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever.' And the four and twenty elders fell down and worshiped him that liveth for ever and ever.

As a footnote I append the following. There is a rare event taking place that will not happen for another 1500 years, an event that we will not read about in the newspapers or hear about in the news. It takes the careful studies of John Pratt, Meridian's Science and Religion Editor, a Ph.D in astronomy, and an expert in ancient calendars, to have discovered this in February. Have you noticed Venus, the Evening Star, currently blazing in the west after sunset? From Native American traditions we learn that in this phase it represents the Savior when he was at the heights of his ministry. In March it will plunge into the darkness below the horizon even as the Savior conquered the forces of death in the underworld. Then, in an extremely rare event, Venus will resurrect precisely on Easter Sunday, April 15, 2001, as the Bright Morning Star. It can be witnessed around the world, just before dawn, wherever the eastern horizon is low and clear. This extraordinary sight was also witnessed on that Easter Sunday morning, long ago, when death was conquered by the Savior of the world. □

—Ruth Winocur

EXISTENCE

You are here, and you are wanted,
Though a waif upon life's stair;
Though the sunlit hours are haunted
With the shadowy shapes of care.
Still the Great One, the All-Seeing,
Called your spirit into being,
Gave you strength for any fate.
Since your life by Him was needed,
All your ways by Him are heeded—
You can trust and you can wait.

You can wait to know the meaning
Of the troubles sent your soul;
Of the chasms intervening
'Twixt your purpose and your goal;
Of the sorrows and the trials,
Of the silence and denials,
Ofttimes answering to your pleas;
Of the stinted sweets of pleasure,
And of pain's too generous measure—
You can wait the WHY of these.

Forth from planet unto planet
You have gone, and you will go.
Space is vast, but we must span it;
For life's purpose is TO KNOW.
Earth retains you but a minute,
Make the best of what lies in it;
Light the pathway where you are.
There is nothing worth the doing
That will leave regret or ruing,
As you speed from star to star.

You are part of the Beginning,
You are parcel of Today.
When He set His world to spinning
You were flung upon your way.
When the system falls to pieces,
When this pulsing epoch ceases,
When the IS becomes the WAS,
You will live, for you will enter
In the great Creative Center,
In the All-Enduring Cause.

—Ella Wheeler Wilcox