

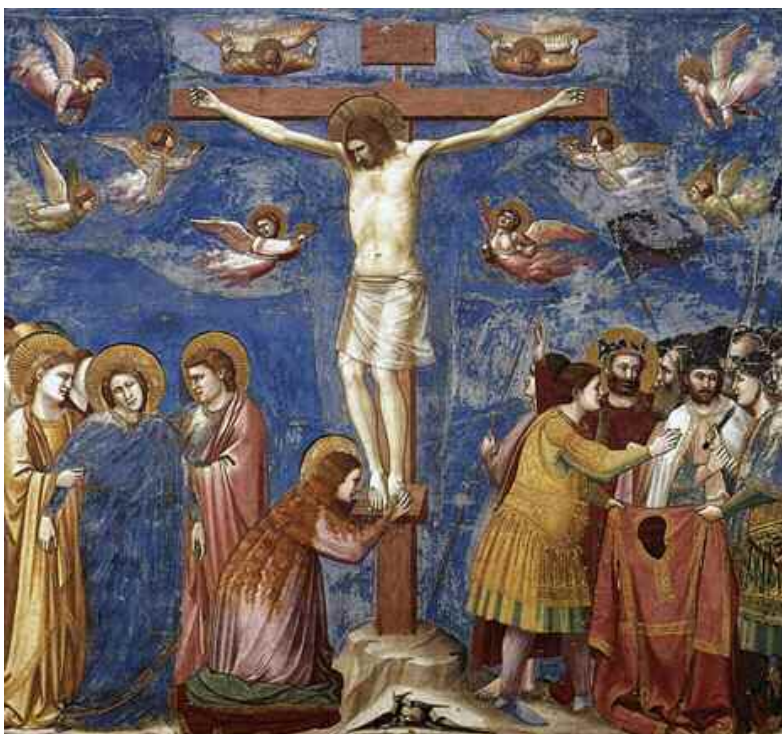
## READERS' QUESTIONS

### *The Reason for Christ's Violent Death; Is There a Last Day? Immortality of the Physical Body?*

**QUESTION:** Could not the mission of Christ have been accomplished without such a drastic method as the crucifixion?

**Answer:** It could, of course, have been accomplished without the specific method of crucifixion, but it was an absolute necessity that the blood should flow. There are various grades of teachers and they require different conditions for the accomplishment of their task. Some teachers, like Moses and the Buddha, come to a nation and help it to a certain point, they themselves growing thereby; and both of the teachers mentioned attained to the point in their own development where their bodies became luminous. We hear how the face of Moses shone so that it became necessary for him to use a veil. The Buddha became luminous at the time of his death.

The Christ attained the stage of luminosity at the time of His transfiguration, and it is very significant that the most important part of His work, His suffering and death, took place after the event of the transfiguration. And while it became necessary for Moses, Elijah, Buddha and other previous teachers to be born in a physical body again and again, in order to bear the sins of their people, the Christ has only appeared once in a physical body and will not need again to take upon Himself such an instrument. For when the spirit leaves the body in the natural way it takes along certain impurities as it slowly withdraws



Fresco (1304-06), Giotto di Bondone. Cappella Scrovegni (Arena Chapel), Padua

#### *Christ on the Cross*

*The blood of Christ Jesus, received in the chalice of the earth (here via angelic aid), effects a regeneration of its physical, vital and desire bodies.*

from the congealing blood. Even in such a pure body as the body of Jesus, there were impurities, and the violent death which caused the blood to run liberated the Ego of Christ from the blood with a quick wrench, leaving behind whatever impurity there may have been, so that the Christ emerged from the body of Jesus unsullied and without the tie of destiny usually attendant on life in the dense body.

On the same principle it is a fact that although at the present time we have wars that are to be regretted from the mere human standpoint, it is nevertheless

a fact which is patent to the occultist that these wars have cleansed the blood of the race considerably, so that gradually humanity is becoming less and less passionate and more and more spiritual. Also we may say that in this fact lies the redeeming feature of the slaughter of animals. When humanity went through the animal stage it had no red passion-filled blood as our animals have; we were not as highly evolved. The animals of today, though behind us in evolution, are on a higher spiral and while we now are suffering under the law of consequence because of having to overcome our passions in our own strength, the animals are being helped and held in check by their group spirits. And when they reach the human stage in the Jupiter Period, they will be a higher humanity, free from the passions which have made this world such a sorrowful place. Thus nature always transmutes whatever evil we may commit into a higher good.

Answering the question, we may therefore say that in the case of Christ the violent death was necessary because it enabled the Christ Spirit to withdraw from the body of Jesus without retaining any of the impurities attached to that merely human vehicle.

### **The “Last Day”**

**Question:** What is the Rosicrucian teaching regarding the Last Day? Is there to be a last day of judgment at which time the sheep will be separated from the goats?

**Answer:** There will be no “last day” in the orthodox Biblical sense. At the end of the Vulcan Period, however, all manifestation will go back into chaos for the great cosmic night, but this cannot in reality be spoken of as a day of judgment, because all life will then be quiescent. Each of the World Periods and also each of the Epochs in our present Earth Period constitutes a minor cosmic day. The end of such a cosmic day may be truly spoken of as a day of judgment, but certainly not the last day, because there never will be a last day. Evolution is forever going forward, and there will be forever a succession of such events.

The judgment which takes place at the end of such a cosmic day is automatically determined by the amount of progress made by each ego during his previous evolution, and which therefore desig-

nates the plane of nature on which he naturally belongs. If he has made much progress during his preceding life or lives, then he is eligible to proceed to one of the higher planes and to be one of the pioneers when the next cosmic day begins. But, vice versa, if he has made little progress or even gone backwards, then he is fated temporarily to sojourn on one of the lower planes and to occupy a minor position in the next cosmic day.

### **Immortality of the Physical Body?**

**Question:** Certain metaphysical sects are teaching that it is possible to overcome death while still in the physical body. Do the Rosicrucians believe this?

**Answer:** No, the Rosicrucians do not believe that immortality will be attained in a physical body. They do teach, however, that man will conquer death, but it will be in the vital body instead of the physical. The upper vital body, composed of the light and reflecting ethers, is spoken of as the soul body. All humanity is developing this at the present time through the influence of the Christ vibrations. In the Sixth Epoch this body will be perfected so that man will function in it as easily as he now functions in his physical body. The soul body is not subject to death, and therefore man will then have conquered death inasmuch as his consciousness will be continuous on the lower planes instead of being periodically interrupted by physical death as it is at present.

This does not mean, however, that man in the Sixth Epoch will not possess a physical body, because the field of operation of this Epoch will still be on Globe D of the Earth Period and in the physical region. Man at that time will possess a physical body, which will be sloughed off from time to time and new ones acquired; but his consciousness will be continuous both on the etheric and physical planes because he will then possess both etheric and physical vision. Therefore at this time man will have conquered death by virtue of the fact that his consciousness will be continuous, although his physical bodies will still be subject to death. At a later stage in evolution when the physical body has been permanently discarded, he will of course have carried the process of conquering death to a still higher stage. □