

commit misdemeanors or crimes, if the ego, blinded by matter, doesn't know any better (which is frequently if not usually the case), the dummy is providing his master with experiences from which the latter may learn valuable lessons needed in its unfoldment. In that case the dummy does the right thing from the ego's, the higher, point of view, although he breaks man-made laws and does wrong from the legal and worldly, the lower, point of view, and may have to suffer the penalties provided by law or fall under the ostracism imposed by public opinion. On the other hand, when the dummy neglects or refuses to do the things that the ego expects or requires to be done, or executes the acts that the ego tries to bring

about by indirect stimuli or impulses (which is the usual means of attempted control), then the useless agent will surely come upon "evil days," and may expect to have his uselessness more or less summarily terminated. Was it not said of old that he who blows neither hot nor cold shall be spewed out? Let dummies take note.

Even a dummy is entitled to his opinion and may gain something by expressing it. But when you hear a man say: "Life is just one blank thing after another"; when you hear another vocalize: "When I die, I'm dead"; and when you hear some one enunciate: "All we get out of life is the few pleasures we have," recognize it for what it is—DUMMY PHILOSOPHY.

Esoteric Bible Studies

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STUDIES IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST JESUS

XII.—*The Resurrection and the*

Ascension.

TEXT

1. 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.

2. 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.

3. Peter therefore went forth, and that other disciple, and came to the sepulchre.

4. So they ran both together: and the other disciple did outrun Peter, and came first to the sepulchre.

5. And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen clothes lying; yet went he not in.

6. Then cometh Simon Peter following him, and went into the sepulchre, and seeth the linen clothes lie,

7. And the napkin, that was about his head, not lying with the linen clothes, but wrapped together in a place by itself.

8. Then went in also that other disciple, which came first to the sepulchre, and he saw, and believed.

9. For as yet they knew not the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead.

10. Then the disciples went away again unto their own home.

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

12. 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.

13. 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.

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

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

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

17. Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God.

18. Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that he had spoken these things unto her.
—*John, 20: 1-18.*

INTERPRETATION

The body of Christ Jesus remained in the tomb through Friday night, the whole of Saturday, and part of Sunday. The student of mystic Christianity understands that the three days refer to the process of Initiation. During the three Cosmic Days comprising the Saturn, Sun, and Moon revolutions of the Earth Period, and the nights between, the Holy Spirit and the Creative Hierarchies worked in the Great Deep perfecting the inner parts of man and the earth. The earth emerged from its watery stage of development in middle Atlantis. Man in reviewing this time through Initiation is said to be three days in the tomb or darkness, and on the fourth day at sunrise is reborn into the light of a *new day*.

The story of the *Descent into Hell* is found in all pre-Christian religions, perhaps the oldest story in preservation being the Babylonian, known as the "Descent of Ishtar." In ancient Greek and Roman literature we find numerous descents into Hades, perhaps the most familiar being those of Hercules, Dionysius, and Persephone. These legends all contain the story of Initiation, so the steps of progress must be similar. Buddha descended into Hades to preach to mortals there. It is interesting to note that each of these saviors or heroes descended into the underworld to aid or rescue *some one else*. Here we find the key which unlocks the door of Initiation.

The Empty Tomb: This has been the cause of much speculation among esoteric or orthodox Christians. Its meaning, however, becomes perfectly plain when studied esoterically. The atoms of the body of Jesus, pure and holy as He was, were vibrating at a much slower rate than the vibratory forces of the Christ Spirit. Consequently frequent acceleration of the atoms of Jesus'

body had to take place during the three years' ministry. This acceleration of the vibration of the atoms would have shattered the physical body of Jesus had not the powerful will of the Master Christ, assisted by the skill of the Essenes, held it together. Had the atoms of the body been asleep, as ours are, when Christ left it at the Crucifixion, a long process of putrefaction would have been required to disintegrate the body; but they were highly sensitized and alive, and therefore it was impossible to keep them in bondage when the great Spirit was released.

When we learn to make and to keep our bodies fully alive, we shall not change atoms or bodies so often, nor will the work of putrefaction be so long a process as at the present time.

No trace was ever found of the bodies of Moses, Pythagoras, or Appolonius of Tyana. Buddha's death is described as "that utter passing away in which nothing whatever remains behind."

The stone that was rolled away from Jesus' sepulchre was a great circular rock moving in a groove like a mill stone, which when rolled over the entrance closed it like a door. The Romans sealed it by drawing cords in front of it, the cords being fastened on each side of the tomb by wax or clay so the authorities would know if the tomb had been entered. Such a stone would require several men to move it.

The stone rolled away means esoterically the complete overcoming of materiality and all obstacles that prevent attainment, the complete self-mastery which opens the way of Initiation. This overcoming is always accomplished through the resurrection of the Christ power within man himself.

The earthquake recorded as having occurred when Christ Jesus arose from the tomb was caused by the change of the atomic vibrations in the earth as the great Sun Spirit freed Himself from its confines. The same phenomenon took place and for the same reason when He

entered the earth at the time of the Crucifixion.

Mary Magdalene sought and found Peter and John, the two who were highest in spiritual attainment. The story recorded in this passage may well be termed the deification of the great feminine principle. It is always this principle which the spirit must awaken before the work of Initiation can be accomplished. When Christ arose from the grave, it was not to the Sanhedrin that He showed Himself first, it was not to His disciples that He appeared, but He came first to a woman—Mary Magdalene. And it was through her that He sent the great news of the Resurrection abroad to the world. She was among the greatest of sinners before her redemption, yet for her was reserved this proud honor, a beautiful symbol of the forgiveness of sins. The disciples when they came to the tomb could not see the angels there, but to woman, representing the feminine or intuitive, imaginative principle, was given this power. However, neither she nor the disciples had attained to that stage of consciousness which was to be theirs on the Day of Pentecost, so she could not touch the Master's body; that was reserved for a further stage of illumination.

Two great sinners described in the New Testament, Saul of Tarsus and Mary Magdalene, are examples of what may be accomplished through redemption. Truly the greatest sinner may become the greatest saint.

The first day of the week is now held sacred instead of the seventh in commemoration of the resurrection of Christ Jesus. The seventh day is Saturn's day, a day of law, form, and ceremonial worship. The Resurrection ushered in a new regime of spirituality, the dawn of love instead of law, so the first day of the week, the Sun's day, is sacred to the Christian world.

The forty days between the Resurrection and the Ascension were spent in teaching inner or deeper spiritual truths to the disciples and in appearing before

the Sanhedrin. Christ told the disciples that the work would not bear fruit for a long time. But they could not understand His meaning, and did not fully comprehend the reason for His coming until the great illumination at Pentecost. There were probably eleven appearances of our risen Lord between the Resurrection and the Ascension.

The three supreme steps in the life of Christ Jesus are:

1. The Temptation, the great overcoming or purification which opens the door of the inner worlds.

2. The Transfiguration, the highest step ever taken by a world Savior. Buddha and Moses were transfigured just before death. Christ Jesus performed His highest work in His body of flesh after the Transfiguration.

3. The Ascension, the final attainment, the returning unto His home world, the World of Life Spirit: "I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also."

In the Transfiguration He was endeavoring to teach His foremost disciples to follow Him into the World of Life Spirit, but they failed Him. In the Last Supper and the Triumphal Entry He was teaching the blending which lifts unto that world. The Ascension demonstrates it, and the disciples followed Him there on the Day of Pentecost. All of the Master's esoteric work after the Transfiguration was concerned with the great blending in preparation for the first of the Great Initiations.

His life is the perfect pattern for our lives. We are all Christs in the making. Our ideal as mystic Christians is to follow Him until we too shall be able to ascend into that world of love and unity, the world of the Christ consciousness, the World of Life Spirit, the particular realm of our Lord and Savior, the Christ.

(End of Series on Life of Christ Jesus.)

A man should keep his friendship in constant repair.—*Johnson.*