

WESTERN WISDOM BIBLE STUDY

Culmination of the Ministry

The Rite of the Crucifixion

Father, forgive them for they know not what they do. --- *Luke 23:34.*

The two paths of development, the mystic and the occult, converge at Gethsemane where the candidate for Initiation is weighted with sorrow that flowers into compassion---the compassion which weeps above Jerusalem and breathes in gentle tones of infinite understanding beneath the heavy burden of the cross, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." And again, after three hours of agony on the cross, He voices that immortal prayer, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do."

The Crucifixion is one of the holy mysteries which must ever remain sealed to the profane. The sacredness of its meaning can only be touched upon briefly. Its true, inner purpose can be revealed only to those who seek and find the light within themselves, the flame of the great Christ love which passeth all understanding.

When Barabbas was released, Christ Jesus was scourged and heaped with indignity and abuse. His garments were torn off, and a certain cloak was put upon Him. A crown of thorns was woven, placed upon His head, and crushed down into His temples. This phase of the stigmata is produced visibly in the mystic through intense concentration upon the Passion of our Lord. In the occultist the same is produced invisibly through certain exercises received by those who have made themselves worthy by living the life. The spiritual currents generated in the vital body of such a person are so powerful that the body is literally *scourged* by them, particularly in the

region of the head where the pain of the Crown of Thorns is produced; also in the palms of the hands, the arches of the feet, and the side.

In Matthew the *robe of scarlet* is the symbol of service through purification. (Many artists portray the Christ in a robe of red.)

"They placed a reed in His right hand." The reed or wand is the insignia of power gained through lifting the spinal spirit fire. The reed was placed in His *right* hand, signifying the positive path of development. The crown of thorns represents the pain produced in the head as the cranial nerves are revived by the ascending spirit fire force.

Read Mark 15:17-20.

The Gospels of Mark and John outline a further development. The Master is robed in purple, the kingly color. Purple is a combination of red and blue. (Red, the lower nature, purified through service; blue, the reflection of spirit.)

The ascent of the awakened currents to the head is described in the words: "They smote him on the head with a reed."

Read Luke 23:11,12.

The Hebrew royal dress was white; the gorgeous robe refers to the White Light of pure spirit. Herod represents the carnal or lower man, the fleshly appetites; Pilate, the material or concrete mind. Through the power of spirit these two opposing forces are redeemed and united in greater manifestations of spiritual power.

Only the Gospels of Matthew and Mark mention the reed and crown of thorns. These are early manifestations of the inner work produced within this wonderful temple of the indwelling

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barrier but nothing else can.

The Wings and the Power

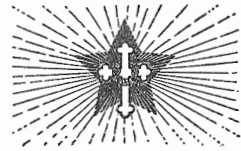
It has been made clear that there are certain occult reasons which make *collective* prayer inadvisable except under special conditions.

It was knowledge of these difficulties which prompted the Christ to warn His disciples not to say their prayers before men and to advise them that when they wanted to pray to enter into their *closet*. We cannot each have a large beautiful edifice for our devotions, nor do we require it; too often pomp and display are apt to turn our hearts from God. But most of us can set a small portion of our room aside for devotion, curtain it off or with a screen separate it from the rest of the apartment, or we can take a closet (literally) and make it into a sanctuary. The nature of the encircling walls matters not; it is *the apartness and the invisible House of God* which we build by our prayers, and the divine downpouring which we receive in response from our Father that are important. A picture of Christ and a Rose Cross may be hung upon the wall if desired, but are not essential. The All-Seeing Eye is preferred by some very successful occultists of our acquaintance as a symbol of the Father. But we remember the words of Christ, "The Father and I are one;" so though we have no authentic picture of Christ, we prefer to use such as we have, for we know that thoughts will not go astray on account of lack of authenticity. Christ is the Lord of this era; later, of course, the Father takes charge, but now Christ is Mediator for the masses.

We need scarcely say that no matter how large or small, the whole room or apartment of the successful aspirant is permeated by an atmosphere of holiness, for all the thoughts which he can legitimately have apart from the faithful performance of his worldly

duties are of the heavenly Father, but the corner or closet set apart as a sanctuary soon becomes filled with *superlatively spiritual vibrations*; therefore any aspirant who contemplates following the scientific method of prayer should first seek to secure *a permanent place of residence*, for if he moves about from place to place he will suffer a distinct loss every time and have to begin to build anew. The invisible temple which he built and left disintegrates by degrees when worship ceases.

It is a mystic maxim that "all spiritual development begins with the vital body." This is next in density to our dense body, its key-note is *repetition*, and it is the vehicle of habits, hence somewhat difficult to change or influence, but once a change has been effected and a habit acquired by repetition, its performance becomes automatic to a certain extent.



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Spirit, the physical body, and the process of liberation begins.

The sublime Christ on the Cross is the perfect symbol in every detail of the future attainment of all humanity.

There have been, altogether, sixteen crucified World Saviours, whose lives reveal the mystic meanings of Initiation. Orpheus says, "They pierced my hands and my feet."

Read *Matthew 27:33-37*.

Golgotha, the place of the Crucifixion, is an Aramaic word, meaning "the place of the skull." The word has the same meaning as the Greek word *kranion*, which the Latin Vulgate translates as *Calvaria*, or Calvary.

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