









THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST — A FACT OR FANTASY?

By THE REV. S. S. ARULAMPALAM

The miracle of the Risen Christ has always posed a problem to the human mind. During the first century the man who doubted this fact were not the ones within the Christian community but those outside the Church.

IF THERE WERE NO EASTER

As we celebrate the glorious festival of Easter once again, we should like to ask our Christian readers to meditate closely on what the consequences would be to them and the world if there were no Easter.

That is exactly what St. Paul impressed upon the members of the Corinthian Church. In his first Epistle to the Corinthians he reminds them: "If Christ was not raised then neither our preaching nor your faith has any meaning at all."

Are there not some Christians today who belong to this category of the members of the early Corinthian Church? There are, as suggested in the article appearing in this issue entitled: "Is the Resurrection a Fact or a Fantasy?"

The Church's affirmation about the resurrection of Christ is one that is grounded in history. But, when we say that it belongs to history, we should be cautious to point out that it is not a mere recording of facts.

The mistake that we moderns make is to sacrifice history for the sake of interpretation. In order to make our faith in the resurrection more acceptable to the critical mind of the modern man we have left out that which is most essential to our belief—namely history.

eternal life. Finally, without Easter there would be no hope of immortality. Socrates said "Hope is the mainspring of life". The Christian's hope is a lively hope. Because Christ has risen from the dead, the Christian is able to boast "I know my Redeemer lives".

Meditation on the Cross.

"TRULY THIS WAS A SON OF GOD".

Mark 15:13, 20.

It was not an ordinary man who died on the Cross at Calvary. He was, in the words of the Roman centurion, "a son of God". It may be thought that the centurion regarded him only as one worthy to be deemed a super-human person, to be numbered among the Roman gods.

Right against this view, John Masefield in his Good Friday Drama represents the wife of Pilate asking at nightfall the Roman centurion: "Do you think he is dead?" "No, lady," is his reply, "Where is he?" asks Pilate's wife. The centurion replies firmly: "Loose in the world, lady; where neither Romans nor Jews can stop him".

historical inquiry should disprove the event, it wouldn't make any difference to his belief because it is not based on any objective fact. Writing in a similar vein, Professor Paul Van Buren says that the "secular meaning" of Jesus' resurrection from the dead is that Jesus' followers "found themselves caught up in something like the freedom of Jesus Himself, having become men who were free to face even death without fear".

The only alternate interpretation left for a true understanding of the resurrection is the historical one, for which we have ample evidence from the New Testament. I shall, however, refer to two important incidents from the New Testament to prove the reality of the resurrection. The first one is the public appearance of the Risen Christ to five-hundred people at the same time (1 Cor. 15:6).

At length the chief rose and said: "Read it again". When the reader had finished the second reading, the chief said: "What you read, is it true? You say it is true; then, why did you tell us that first? Now we know, you must not go. We will listen to the words of the Man who suffered so for us". The Cross compared.

Letter to the Editor.

CRUCIFIXION CONFOUNDS EVOLUTION

Lent and Crucifixion are meaningless unless we acknowledge and accept the teaching of the Bible that man was created physically perfect in the beginning. He was created suddenly. That man disobeyed his Creator and sinned and, therefore, needs a Redeemer to blot out his sins.

Constantly, in one way or another, the idea of evolution is perpetuated in your mind. And there is a reason why Evolution makes belief in God and the Bible impossible. Evolution denies the necessity of an Almighty Creator God.

Jesus' death was in perfect keeping with the claim which He had made: "I have power to lay down my life, and I have power to take it again".

This was no idle boast. On the Crucifixion Day He laid it down; and on the Day of the Resurrection He took it up again.

In saying this, we have not reached the climax. Jesus has other powers. He has power to relate His death and resurrection to our lives. He is the electric Christ. He can put courage into us, and transmit loyalty to us.

Two stories will illustrate this fact. Once certain Christian missionaries had gone to Clovis, the king of the Franks. They told him the story of the Cross.

The Moravians had sent a mission to Greenland. Finding the natives totally ignorant of the meaning of sin, guilt, righteousness etc., the missionaries thought it well to begin by educating them. The result was so utterly negative that they decided to leave. Whilst waiting for a vessel, one of the missionaries thought that he would test the truthfulness of his translation of a portion of the Gospels by reading it to the natives.

The Crucifixion yet is not the climax; nor is the Resurrection. The climax came to Mary, when the Living Lord hailed her: "Mary," and she answered: "Rabboni". The climax comes when Christ calls our name and we give the answer with our life's devotion.

A PRAYER

We adore Thee, O Christ, Son of the living God. Who didst rise in great triumph from the grave, and didst bear in Thy pierced hands the keys of hell and death. We rejoice, O Lord our God, in Thy almighty power and glory.

Reproduced from a Chain of Prayers Across the Ages.

All things, it implies God never existed. And it makes the Bible appear as a colossal lie! Evolution also denies the necessity of a Redeemer for, if there is no God, then there is no Spiritual Law to break.

"Satan which deceiveth the whole world" (Rev. 12:9) planned it this way. For the "father" of all lies (John 8:44) is the true author of the "Theory of Evolution".

The Theory of Evolution claims that our earth came into existence by slow progressive changes of matter which already existed. It implies that matter has always existed. Evolution denies that God had anything to do with designing and creating the earth.

We appeal in particular to the African Chiefs of State to offer the contribution of their counsel, their suggestions and, should the case arise, their mediation, with a view to the resolution of this sad conflict.

COMMON APPEAL FOR PEACE IN NIGERIA BY THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH AND THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

In a common statement issued simultaneously in Rome and Gapswe, the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches voiced an urgent appeal for an immediate cessation of armed hostilities to the contending parties in the Nigerian conflict.

This is the first time that the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches have appealed together to all men of good will throughout the world of unite their voices in prayer to God for the achievement of peace.

For the Roman Catholic Church the statement has been issued under the authority of His Holiness Pope Paul VI. The World Council of Churches is headed by the Officers of the Central Committee: Dr. Franklin Clark Fry, Chairman; Dr. Eugene C. Blake, General Secretary; Dr. Erna A. Payne and Vice-Principal Russell Chastred, Vice-Chairman.

Both the Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches—a fellowship of more than 350 Protestant and Orthodox churches—have previously pleaded for peace in Nigeria in separate statements.

The text of the common statement reads as follows:

"The Roman Catholic Church and the World Council of Churches unite in one voice in a most

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