

H - 180401 Holy Week Easter

I. TALK

Everyone talks about it!

Buddhists write and preach about
NIRVANA and Hindus about
MOKSHA and Jews and Moslems
about HEAVEN.

Everyone talks about it, fantasizes
about it **BUT NO ONE HAS
DIRECTLY EXPERIENCED IT AS
AN ACTUAL EVENT** that can be

witnessed by other people.

THAT IS EXCEPT FOR JESUS!

For a moment, let us look at things from our point of view in this world.

**DEATH IS THE ULTIMATE
TERMINATION OF LIFE,
MEANING, VALUE . . .**

**ALL LIFE IS A DEAD END
STREET THAT LEADS TO
EXTINCTION, ANNIHILATION IN
DEATH, LEAVING BEHIND THE
WASTE OF OUR LIVES AS A**

MESS OF UNRESOLVED
INJUSTICES AND MISERIES.

OUR WORK AND SUCCESSES IN
SCIENCE AND ART AND
ECONOMY BECOME
MEANINGLESS AND
ULTIMATELY . . . LESS THAN
NOTHING, FOR ALL IS PASSING
AWAY, EVEN THIS VERY
UNIVERSE.

But, for CATHOLICS, our faith is not
based on someone's vision or
daydream or change in consciousness
. . . but on an EVENT!

And at this EVENT, everything changes ... LIFE AFTER DEATH IS NO LONGER A WISH OR DAYDREAM BUT A CONCRETE REALITY!

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EX: History

a. Many wish to explain away this event of Jesus' Resurrection!

b. But no one would dream of denying the historical event of Caesar crossing the Rubicon and starting the civil war that doomed the Republic that was Rome and began the

ROMAN EMPIRE!

c. Yet, there is no eye witness account of Caesar crossing the Rubicon, Caesar never mentions it in his writings, and our sources for this event date to some considerable time after the event and are second hand or third hand accounts.

d. Yet, we have eye witness accounts from many different sources and primary documentation of the

EVENT OF JESUS RESURRECTION

e. It is as HISTORICAL AS ANY
EVENT IN THE PAST.

f. WHAT SEPARATES IT OUT

FROM ALL THE OTHERS IS THAT
IT IS UNIQUE!!!

g. As Fr. Arnold remarked, many
people through out history including
this very day cross the Rubicon, BUT
ONLY JESUS HAS RISEN FORM
THE DEAD, AN EVENT TO
WHICH THERE ARE MANY
WITNESSES!

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So Peter, in the Acts of Apostles,
witnesses to the EVENT of Jesus'
RESURRECTION AS A PUBLICLY
EXPERIENCED AND KNOWN
EVENT!

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Q: We are witnesses of all that he did both in the country of the Jews and in Jerusalem.

They put him to death by hanging him on a tree. This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us, the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead.

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II. UNIQUE

But, this RESURRECTION OF JESUS was not a resuscitation like those who experience a near death experience.

IT IS RADICALLY DIFFERENT AND DEFIES ALL ATTEMPTS TO NAIL IT DOWN OR GRASP ITS CAUSES AND PROCESSES ... IT IS AN ACTUAL EVENT THAT TRANSCENDS OUR ABILITY TO EXPLAIN ...

EXCEPT TO PROFESS THAT IT WAS A DIVINE EVENT ACTED OUT IN OUR MORTAL AND

PHYSICAL WORLD!

It is similar to the EVENT OF OUR SELF-AWARENESS which science with all its tools and insights is STILL AT A LOOSE TO EXPLAIN ... and Artificial Intelligence is not SELF-AWARENESS FOR WE CANNOT GET TO AND ANALYZE THE SELF-AWARENESS OF ANYTHING BESIDES OUR OWN LITTLE EXPERIENCE OF IT.

So the Gospels are very blunt about the disciples inability to understand the EVENT IN HUMAN TERMS:

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Q: For they did not yet understand the Scripture that he had to rise from the dead.

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But, **DIVINE SCRIPTURE** gives to us the meaning of the **RESURRECTION EVENT** as St. Paul proclaims in the second reading:

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Q: If then you were raised with Christ, seek what is above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of

God. Think of what is above, not of what is on earth. . . . For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ your life appears, then you too will appear with him in glory.

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III. CELEBRATION!

This morning we CELEBRATE AN EVENT THAT WILL SOON OVERCOME EACH ONE OF US FOR . . . DEATH IS DEAD . . . AND LIFE IS ALIVE IN GLORY!

We too shall EXPERIENCE THIS
EVENT FOR OURSELVES, IN
OUR OWN AWARENESS, WHEN
GOD RAISES US GLORIOUS
FROM THE DEAD!

And how are we to celebrate?

Simply ... by sharing our joy with
others and express our gratitude to
Jesus!

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EX: Robby and thank you

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Remember the final words of the eye witness Peter in the first reading:

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Q: He commissioned us to preach to the people and testify that he is the one appointed by God as judge of the living and the dead.

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We celebrate by personally preaching the truth:

**JESUS IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!
HE IS RISEN INDEED!**

Apr 1, 2018

ALLELUIA!