



LIVING IN THE RESURRECTION

Here we are, after the Easter celebration, and I was thinking about the time Jesus spent on earth after leaving the tomb. He was living in the resurrection. The ascension came forty days later. During that time Jesus lived in Christ Consciousness, and he imparted that consciousness to those receptive to it. His actions nullified the belief that there is power in material cause and effect. Being the great Way Shower, he revealed that when we experience the presence of God, called Christ Consciousness, we too can live in the resurrection.

There are many stories of death and resurrection from civilizations around the globe, both ancient and contemporary. They become relevant to us, evolving from myth to allegory, as we move in consciousness from the material to the spiritual. The Easter story is one of the most dramatic examples of what everyone on the spiritual path experiences in some form or another. It begins with rejecting the power projected by this world – the power of empires, the power of belief and the power of pestilence and Mother Nature.

The journey to enlightenment starts with the acknowledgement of the Christ within. When John the Baptist recognized the Christ in Jesus, he set in motion the narrative that has its fulfillment in the ascended consciousness of the realized Christ.

Follow along and notice if what you are experiencing in your life fits into the narrative.

When the Master was baptized a voice from heaven proclaimed him the son of God.

The inner voice is the *I* of your being declaring that you are not mortal, not born of fleshly parents but are God made manifest, “the Word made flesh.” Once that happens all hell breaks loose. You are tempted by the devil to personalize that revelation and turn it into power. To deal with that temptation you leave the contemporary world of conflict, of judgment, of arguing and fighting over what is right and what is wrong, and you spend forty days and forty nights in the wilderness, alone with yourself, observing the nature of your mind and letting the Christ within you mediate your relationship with the Truth. The Christ of your being discerns that which is of the Spirit from the objective appearances of the world of conflicting forces. You discover that your path is one of nonresistance.

The number forty is significant in the Bible. It is the time, whether actual or metaphorical, when transitions take place. In Genesis it rained forty days and forty nights to cleanse the world of sin. Moses spent forty days and forty nights on Mount Sinai to change from a man of power to a man of God. The Hebrew people spent forty years in the wilderness to transform from a slave society to a free one. And the forty days in the resurrection is just as difficult.

“You would have no power over me unless it was given to you from above...”

After living in the world for a time we all come to the point of confronting overwhelming material power. The degree to which we have built our spiritual consciousness dictates how we deal with the great challenges in life. How those circumstances come into your experience depend on what you hold dear in the conceptual world of time and space. If you identify with your work, your challenge might be about your idea of success. Your trials might be about your health or money. They might appear as a lack of friends or loving relationships. You might experience a form of tyranny, either individually or in your society. In whatever form the appearance of material power uses, overcoming it through your spiritual awareness requires a death. St. Paul disclosed that “I die daily.” He said, “That which thou sowest is not quickened unless it die.” Your death to all forms of material power removes you from the world of conflicting forces. It was not the Roman state that killed Jesus for being a troublesome prophet challenging their power, it was a moment of receptivity in human consciousness that opened the way for the nature of the Christ to be known. And the Christ cannot be known through the conditioned mind; that mind must die to be replaced by the unconditioned mind. “Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God.

“For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

Where does all the healing and transformation in this world take place? Students of mysticism know that a still mind is the avenue for spiritual transformation. The mystic knows that it is only when their mind is devoid of mental concepts based on human conditioning that a healing can take place. As the prophet understood, it is “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit,” that neutralizes the power of material effect. The omnipresent Christ Consciousness, realized by an individual, unleashes the omnipotent law of oneness into the world to bring creation into alignment with its source. This appears as the Grace of God. Its power is love and It functions through the deep silence of My peace.

Jesus was in the tomb about forty hours, another symbol of trial and transformation. During that time his mind and body were still. Consciousness, on the other hand, is omnipresent. It functions best when there is no interference brought on by human thought. All of Jesus’ teaching, and all of his revelations on spiritual oneness, prepared him to withhold judgment regarding his physical situation and to keep open the spiritual umbilical cord between the source of life – Spirit, the substance of life – the Christ, and the manifestation of life – Jesus. His demonstration of oneness was the word made flesh. That demonstration began with his birth and continued through his resurrection.

Living in the resurrection is not free of challenges. People did not believe what they saw when Jesus appeared to them after the resurrection. People rejected the idea of immortality. Birth and death were too powerful an idea for the natural man to see through. To see that life is not dependent on flesh and blood takes a person already schooled in mystical principle. Even after Jesus' followers had witnessed many physical healings – the sight having been restored to the blind, and the lame walking, the unawakened person could not separate the child of God from his or her physical form. It takes the realization in each of us that we are the word made flesh, and all that ever dies is the universal belief in the power of material cause and effect.

Our challenge today is to detach all physical appearances from the immortal beings living in this world. See through the appearance of mortal man to the in-dwelling Christ. Death is the great illusion. Though the forms come and go, the person living in Christ Consciousness lives in the eternal now, not in the cycle of material cause and effect. In that realization we can agree with Saint Paul, "This mortal shall have put on immortality, ... and death is swallowed up in victory."

Jesus said that he was the "alpha and omega," the beginning and the end. What an amazing way to define completeness. To the Christ nothing can be added, and nothing can be taken away. We are complete, as individuals, no matter our circumstance. From the first moment we realize the presence of God, we no longer live in the world of time and space. That world is the illusion we perceive through our conditioned senses. As Paul said, "'The first man Adam was made a living soul.' The last Adam was made a quickening spirit." This is our nature; a living soul through which we experience this world, and a quickening spirit to which suffering and conflict cannot touch.

For more insights to this idea read Paul's letters to the Romans and to the Corinthians.