**Easter - Ponderings**

**Affirmation: “Dear God, I know that I am on an eternal journey. While I don't know the past or future steps of my immortal soul, I know that I am ever traveling safely within You. There is no place that I can go where You are not, and my heart sings with joy and praise that I am part of You.” *(Richard & Mary-Alice Jafolla, in The Quest)***

**Resurrection is always a mystery. It is always a miracle. It is always the creative act of the Eternal Word. Because that Word is spoken now, in the present, in terms of what we call the common circumstances of life, there can be nobody who at some time or other has not thus been raised from the dead. But more often than not we do not recognize resurrection when it comes to us. The presence of the Eternal Word is unnoticed, and evidenced only in the new life made available. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**First animal: “I’m writing a book about my life.” Second animal: “How’s it going?” First animal: “It’s fun. I hope it never ends.” *(Patrick McDonnell, in Mutts comic strip)***

**Every ending is a new beginning. Once we get the feel of a continuity of life and realize there is no death, then we are able to overcome the fear of death. The resurrection personified in Jesus’ experience helps us to realize that when this experience on earth is ended, there is in reality no end at all. Just as a high note of an octave is the low note of the next octave, so is the beginning of a new experience. *(Jim Ockley)***

**Easter is so much more than the crossing out of negative thoughts in mind. (Jim Ockley)**

**Charles Fillmore had a lot to say about shell breaking -- he called it the crucifixion experience. In his book Keep A True Lent, Mr. Fillmore explained that, metaphysically, “crucifixion” means the crossing out in consciousness of certain errors that have become fixed states of mind. Letting go of what restricts us frees us to experience the God life within. Crucifixion opens the way for resurrection. Until we let go of worn-out thinking, our consciousness does not have the room or the strength to contain the fullness of the Christ expression that is our divine birthright. Crucifixion is good news because it means resurrection is on the way! *(The Unity World Report)***

**What we hanker after is a sign from heaven which cannot be spoken against, an experience in which we are lifted out of the tears and sweat and dirt of our humanity into a serene empyrean where our ordinary daily life is left far behind and can be forgotten. But resurrection as a present miracle does not deliver us from the unevenness and turmoil and fragmentariness of being human. The miracle is to be found precisely within the daily routine of our lives. Resurrection occurs to us as we are, and its coming is generally quiet and unobtrusive and we may hardly be aware of its creative power. It is often only later that we realize that in some way or other we have been raised to newness of life, and so have heard the voice of the Eternal Word. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**The material body and mind are temporal, but the real man is spiritual and eternal. The identity of the real man is not lost, but found through this explanation; for the conscious infinitude of existence and of all identity is thereby discerned and remains unchanged. *(Mary Baker Eddy, in Science and Health)***

**Nothing is dead. Men feign themselves dead, endure funerals and mournful obituaries, and there they stand, looking out the window, sound and well in some new disguise. *(Ralph Waldo Emerson)***

**At Christmastime we are reminded that Christmas is every day that we let the Christ awareness come into our hearts. I believe this. I also believe that Easter can be every day that we transcend our problems. The Christ within us is continually being resurrected, lifting us up out of the death of darkness and despair into the glorious Light of spiritual rebirth. (Cornelia Addington)**

**For Christians Easter is the supreme festival. Church bells ring. Hymns of triumphant gladness are the order of the day. Christ is risen! It is a proclamation about mankind, about the world. All that separates and injures and destroys has been overcome by what unites and heals and creates. Death is swallowed up by life. It is a magnificently compelling vision. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**What does Easter mean to YOU? It can mean freedom from the mistakes of the past, freedom to rise into a new life; freedom to do, to be; freedom to glorify God. It can mean freedom from your prejudices and prejudgments; freedom from the old hates and resentments that have held you in bondage; it can mean the rising up into a new level of consciousness. In you the desert can blossom as the rose. *(Jack & Cornelia Addington)***

**“Think of the lilies,” Jesus said. They seem to die, but are not dead. And rise from the entombing earth in glorious garments of rebirth. The Lily of His love, likewise, though we entomb it, yet will rise through our encumbering bars and bring us to a glorious blossoming. (James Dillet Freeman)**

**But what of resurrection as future, of resurrection as our entry into the life of the world to come? If we have been aware of resurrection in this life, then, and only then, shall we be able or ready to receive the hope of final resurrection after physical death. Resurrection as our final and ultimate future can be known only by those who perceive resurrection with us now, encompassing all we are and do. For only then will it be recognized as a country we have already entered, and in whose light and warmth we have already lived. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Scripture reveals that there is a power that restores to us “the years that the locust hath eaten.” There is a power of resurrection, a power of restoration, regeneration, and renewal, and it is this power within us that the Master came to reveal. He restored to full and complete dignity the woman taken in adultery; he restored to heaven the thief on the cross. What was that restoration and regeneration but a resurrection? The power of resurrection is in the love that flows through us and from us. Life is love, and there is no life separate and apart from love. (Joel S. Goldsmith, in Living Now)**

**An individual finds life less and less rewarding, not on its public and professional side, where he may be very successful, but in its failing to bring in an adequate degree of personal fulfillment. He seems to get less and less of what he values most, although he does not know what that is. He has identified himself with a limited and false portrait which he was successfully sold by an unconscious conviction that limitation means safety. But the supposed claims of safety are emptying his life of content. In the midst of his despair, however, he discovers a broader basis on which to establish himself, and, in spite of the threatening danger, fills up more of his own space, lets himself in for more of what he is, and thus finds a richer, more satisfying life. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Easter is not a day. Easter is an infection. The Resurrected Lord Jesus Christ gets under our skin, suffuses our whole being, opens new perspectives and moves us into new places and new possibilities. *(Rev. Luther Johnson)***

**Jesus is the great example, not the great exception. That example was to teach us that we can step out of our limiting sepulchers into abundant life any time we choose, no matter how dark the circumstances may seem to be that would hem us in. *(Dr. Delia Sellers)***

**By his resurrection Jesus revealed that life is greater than death and that death is but life's effort to free itself from man's self-imposed limitations. (Divine Science Textbook, p. 126)**

**What happens after death is so unspeakably glorious that our imagination and our feelings do not suffice to form even an approximate conception of it. The dissolution of our time-bound form in eternity brings no loss of meaning. *(Carl G. Jung, in Letters)***

**On a lighter but by no means insignificant level, the prisoner of irritating or confining circumstances, the man whose great expectations are belied, the man who is tied to triviality, realizes the humor of his situation, and by his laughter shows that he has risen above what cabins and confines him because he can relish the joke at his own expense. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone but in every leaf of springtime. *(Martin Luther)***

**What does Easter mean to you? To the children of Israel it was the time of the Passover which came to mean the celebration of freedom. The children of Israel were seeking freedom from their bondage. But, they carried with them into the Promised Land many of their old prejudices, the old feelings of bondage and oppression, and so, they were not really free after all. *(Jack & Cornelia Addington)***

**The metaphysical meaning of Easter: The awakening and raising to spiritual consciousness of the I AM in man, which has been dead in trespasses and sins and buried in the tomb of Materiality. (Charles Fillmore)**

**Never think you’ve seen the last of anything. (Eudora Welty)**

**If the vision of Easter is soon lost, that may well be because resurrection, at least in Western Christendom, has invariably been described as belonging to another time and place. The typical emphasis has been either upon what happened in the environs of Jerusalem on the third day after Jesus was crucified, or upon what may be in store for us after our own death. Considered thus in terms of past and future, resurrection is robbed of its impact on the present. We think that we have no personal experience of it. The fact is, there can be an experience of resurrection now, of resurrection and of the death which must precede it. The death in this case is a death to familiar and childish certainties. The resurrection consists in our being raised up to a first and no doubt fleeting glance at unmanageable mystery. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**I read an article recently about a woman who lived in Germany, who was so opposed to the idea of a “Resurrection” of any kind, that she had her own grave designed in a way that her body would be “protected” from such a thing. The vault itself was above ground, made of huge solid slabs of granite, and held together by giant iron clasps. She had the inscription carved on the formidable structure: “This Grave is never to b disturbed!” After her death, for a time nothing happened to the burial place, or so it appeared. However, no one had noticed the seed of a tree that had been lying in the ground under the vault when it was placed in position. Over the years, the little seed began to spring to life, eventually splitting apart the granite blocks, bursting the iron clasps, and leaving the woman’s vain attempt to block renewed Life in a pile of rubble that had become part of the base of a very vibrant and large tree. *(Rev. Andy Kress)***

**People, we say, are never the same again after a severe illness or the premature death of someone deeply loved. Sometimes they do shrivel up and atrophy. But appearances here can be deceptive. Under the devastation of their ordeal, which leaves its deep and permanent \traces, one can be aware that they are in touch with a new dimension of reality. They have somehow penetrated to the center of the universe. They are greater people. They are more deeply alive. That is resurrection. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**What does it consist of, this being fully alive as body and mind? It means being a person, and being a person is resurrection. What does a person exist to do? A person exists to be the agent of creative goodness. When we thus create goodness we are both ourselves raised from the dead and also the agents to others of resurrection. For genuine goodness always brings life. *(H. A. Williams, in True Resurrection)***

**For every departure there is an arrival. It is the law of the ax whose handle was a tree. It is the secret the fire caves in upon whose smoke disappears along its own trail. The leaves push off again – a whole fleet of small sails – and no one knows where they land. Children wave from train windows, their years growing heavy on their backs. But somewhere a cloud is forming that will flower here in petals of snow, and light from a star that started towards us a million years ago arrives at last. (Linda Pastan, in a poem, “Terminal”)**

**The real message of Easter is in going through tough times, learning from them, then letting the Christ Presence resurrect our lives out of painful circumstances into something better. Here's to your resurrection at this Easter Season! (Catherine Ponder)**

**You will recall that when the Prodigal Son came to himself out in the “far country,” he suddenly saw himself in a larger context, and he came home. He was free. He had released his greater potential. This was a very real resurrection. It didn't involve dying and returning from the grave, but it did involve waking up to the awareness of his true being. (Eric Butterworth, in Unity magazine)**

**Easter in the first instance and for the first time in the history of man gave irrefutable proof of the continuity of life. Jesus’ crucifixion and subsequent resurrection further substantiated in his reappearance to the disciples, as it is recorded in Acts, further proves and demonstrates everything he attempted to teach. *(Jim Ockley)***

**Go roll the stone of self away and let the Christ within thee arise. (Ella Wheeler Wilcox)**

**A baby is God’s opinion that life should go on. *(Carl Sandburg)***

**Science has found that nothing can disappear without a trace. Nature does not know extinction. All it knows is transformation! How, if God applies this fundamental principle to the most minute and insignificant parts of His universe, doesn't it make sense to assume that He applies it also to the masterpiece of his creation -- the human soul? I think it does. And everything science has taught me -- and continues to teach me -- strengthens my belief in the continuity of our spiritual existence after death. Nothing disappears without a trace. (Wernher von Braun)**

**Beware of the guy who reminds you that you can’t take it with him. He’ll try to take it with him. (H. F. Henrichs, in Sunshine magazine)**

**The Resurrection takes place in us every time we rise to Jesus’ realization of the perpetual indwelling life that is connecting us with the Father. A new flood of life comes to all who open their minds and their bodies to the living word of God. (Charles Fillmore)**

**Our loved ones pass from our material view to work in another part of Our Father’s vineyard. *(Jerry Miller)***

**Resurrect new life out of earth’s old habits. Resurrect the intuition of joy from beneath the debris of moods. Resurrect unending joy from ever-changing life. *(Paramahansa Yogananda)***

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