

CRUCIFIXION AND REDEMPTION

JOURNEY SCHOOL
APRIL 10, 2025





AIM WILL & INTENTION IN THE PASSION

- FOREKNOWN
- FORESHADOWED
- FORGIVENESS OF OUR FORGETFULNESS
- FORBEARANCE OF SUFFERING
- FOREVER EVOLVING WITH US

FOREKNOWN

Isaiah 53:4-5

But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was on him, and by his wounds we are healed.

Psalm 22:1.

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

Psalm 22:16-18:

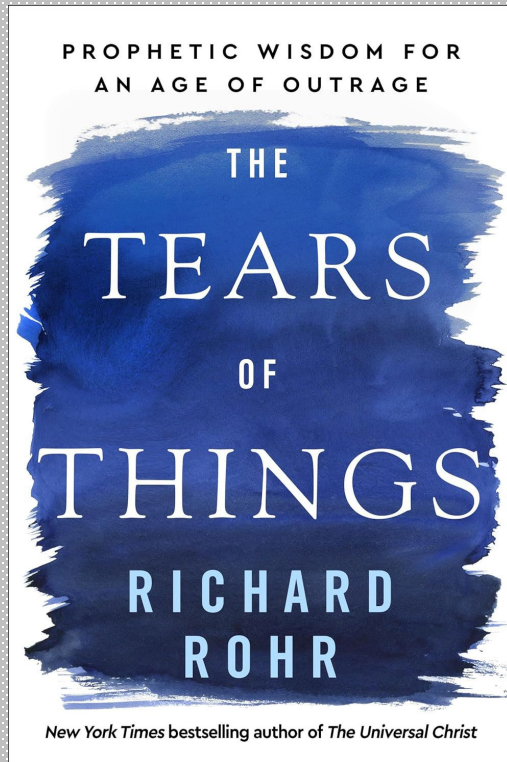
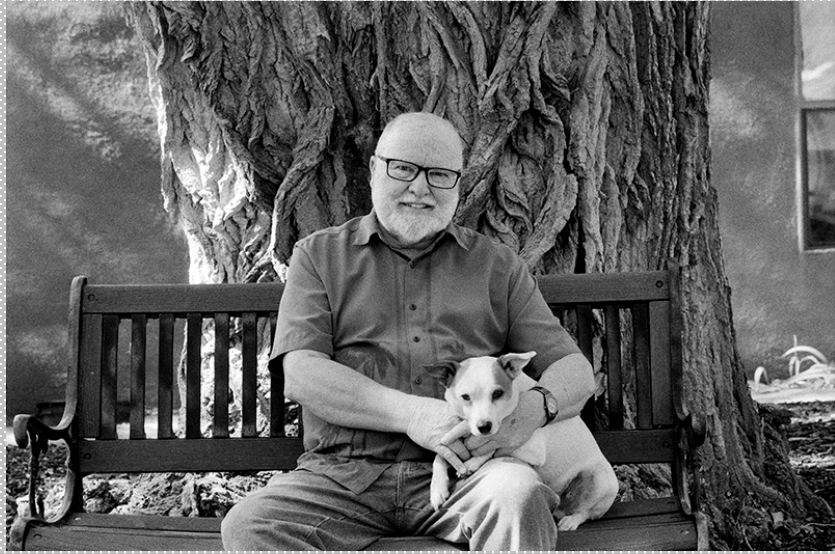
they have pierced my hands and feet

*—I can count all my bones—they stare and gloat over me;
they divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they
cast lots*

Zechariah 12:10

...then they will look on Me whom they pierced.

*Yes, they will mourn for Him as one mourns for his only son,
and grieve for Him as one grieves for a firstborn.*



“Prophets, then, are full – truth tellers, not fortune tellers. They pull back the veil to radically reframe our preferred storyline of history...

They are by definition those rare individuals who see reality in its fullness and dimension, rather than in dualities like totally right or totally wrong, all good or all bad.

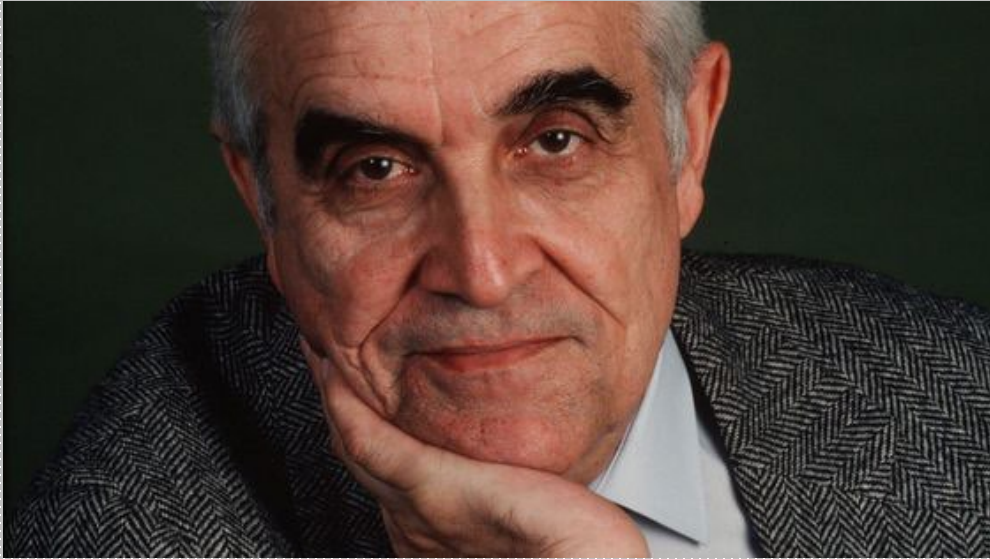
“No one else is your problem”, says the prophet. “you are your own problem. What you think is goodness is too often delusion, and what you think is bad just might be your spiritual friend.”

Religion worldwide, it seems, remains committed to making something or somebody a sacrifice in every age so that the status quo can be maintained.

In our time it is immigrants at the border; in other times it was Black people in the American South or Indigenous people being driven from their lands.

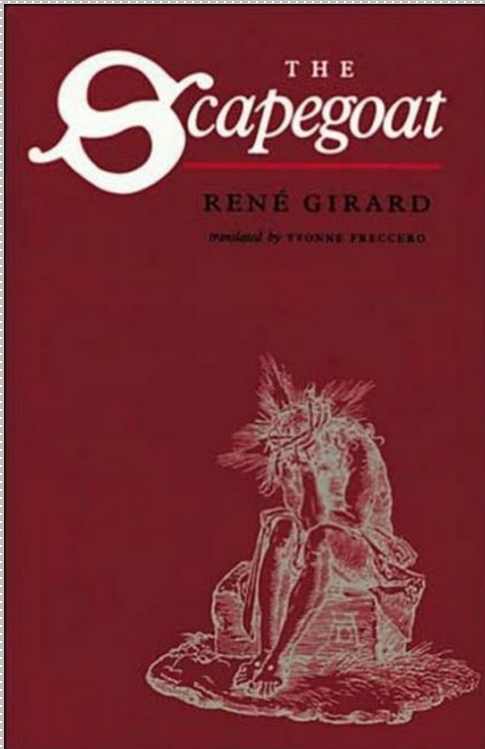
But Jesus, Rene Girard insists, undoes sacrifice “once and for all” by his revelation of an infinitely loving God.”

Richard Rohr: *The Tears of Things* xiix-xxi



“Religion worldwide, it seems, remains committed to making something or somebody a sacrifice in every age so that the status quo can be maintained.”

Richard Rohr: The Tears of Things



Caiphas, the high priest that year, said, “You don’t seem to have grasped the situation at all; you fail to see that it is better for one man to die for the people, than for the whole nation to be destroyed”.

John 11: 50-51

Indeed the hour is coming when anyone who kills you will think he is doing a holy duty for God.

John 16: 2

“Caiphas is stating the same political reason we have given for the scapegoat: to limit violence as much as possible but to turn to it, if necessary, as a last resort to avoid even greater violence. Caiaphas is the incarnation of politics at its best, not its worst. No one has ever been a better politician’

Rene Girard The Scapegoat p 113

FORESHADOWED

Matthew 16:21

*From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he **must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things** at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that **he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.***

Mark 9:2-4,7 ”

*There he was **transfigured** before them.*

His clothes became dazzling white, whiter than anyone in the world could bleach them.

*And there appeared before them Elijah and Moses, who were talking with Jesus... Then a cloud appeared and covered them, and a **voice came from the cloud: "This is my Son, whom I love. Listen to him!"***

Luke 18:32

*He will be delivered over to the Gentiles. They will mock him, insult him and spit on him; **they will flog him and kill him. On the third day he will rise again***

John 10:17

The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life —only to take it up again.

No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again

JESUS' INTENTIONAL FULFILMENT



“In the Apocryphal Gospel entitled
The Gospel of Nicodemus or Acts of Pilate
the efforts of Pilate to liberate Christ are more emphatically portrayed.

Pilate, speaking privately to Christ,
asks: ‘What shall I do with thee?’

Jesus answers: ‘Do as it hath been given thee.’

Pilate asks: ‘How hath it been given?’

And Jesus replies:

‘The prophets foretold concerning my death and resurrection.’

He *had* to die, and so Pilate *had* to condemn him to death.
This extraordinary passage means that Christ practically
told Pilate to put him to death and, however unwilling Pilate was
to do so, he was helped by what Christ said to him privately to act as he did

Christ had to die in fulfilment of the part he was playing.”

Maurice Nicoll: *The Mark* pp 155-56.



FORGIVENESS OF OUR FORGETFULNESS

Luke 22:31-34

*He replied, "Lord, I am ready to go with you to prison and to death."
Jesus answered, "I tell you, Peter, before the rooster crows today, you will deny three times that you know me."*

John 13:21-22,26

*Jesus was troubled in his spirit, and testified,
"Truly, truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me."*

*The disciples looked at one another, uncertain of whom he spoke...
Jesus answered, "It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it." So when he had dipped the morsel,
he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.*

Mark 14: 37 *And he came and found them sleeping,
and he said to Peter, **"Simon, are you asleep?"***

Could you not watch one hour?

*Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation.
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Luke 23:34 *And Jesus said, **"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."***

And they cast lots to divide his garments.



So when he had dipped the morsel,
he gave it to **Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot.**

John 13:26



*"Simon, are you asleep?
The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Mark 14:37-38



"Suggestibility is a maleficent property of our psyche"

G. I. Gurdjieff



FORBEARANCE OF SUFFERING

Matthew 26:39,

“O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Luke 22:44

And being in anguish, He prayed more fervently, and His sweat was like drops of blood, falling to the ground.

Isaiah 52:14

His face was so disfigured He seemed hardly human, and from His appearance, one would scarcely know He was a man.

Matthew 27:46

And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying,

“Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” that is,

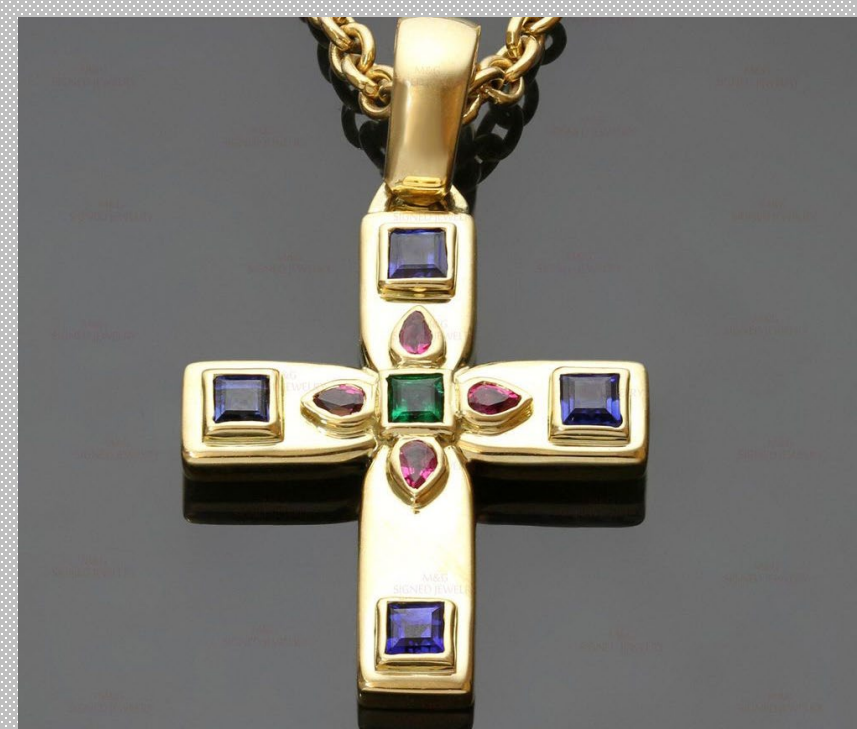
“My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

John 19: 28,30


After this, Jesus, knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, said, “I thirst!”

...So when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, “It is finished!”

And bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

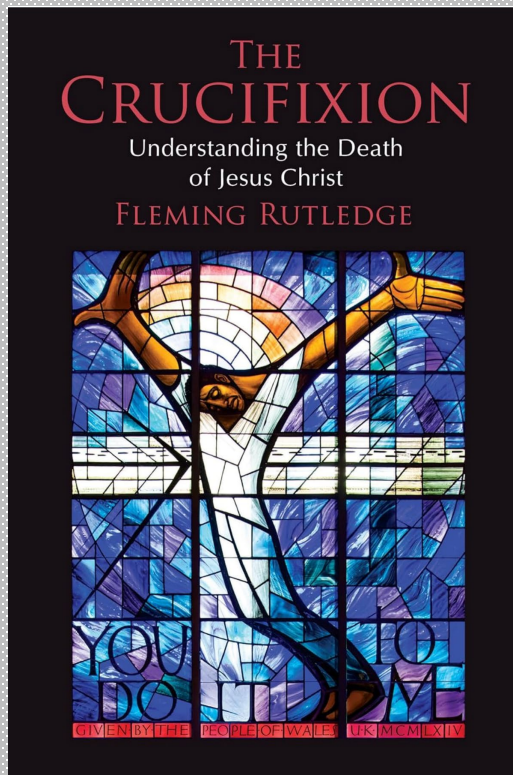






There is something so outrageous and obscene about it
that the agony in Gethsemane becomes
the only comprehensible part of the whole saga.

Kenneth Leech *We Preach Christ Crucified*



“Crucifixion was specifically designed to be the ultimate insult to personal dignity, the last word in humiliating and dehumanizing treatment.

Degradation was the whole point.

‘Executed publicly situated at a major crossroads or on a well trafficked artery, devoid of clothing, left to be eaten by birds and beasts, victims of crucifixion were subjected to **optimal, unmitigated, vicious ridicule**’.....

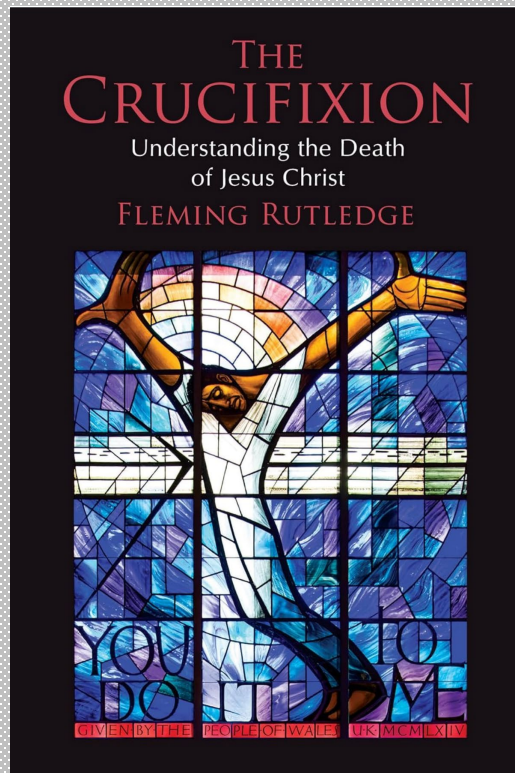
Crucifixion as a means of execution in the Roman Empire had *as its express purpose*

**the elimination of victims from consideration
as members of the human race...**

Crucifixion was cleverly designed – we might say diabolically designed – to be an **almost theatrical enactment** of all the **sadistic and inhumane impulses that lie within human beings.**”

Fleming Rutledge; *The Crucifixion: Understanding the Death of Jesus Christ*. 2015 pp 78, 81,93





It is the crucifixion that marks out Christianity as something definitively different in the history of religion.

It is in the crucifixion that the nature of God is truly revealed.

Since the resurrection is **God's mighty transhistorical Yes** to the historically crucified Son, we can assert that

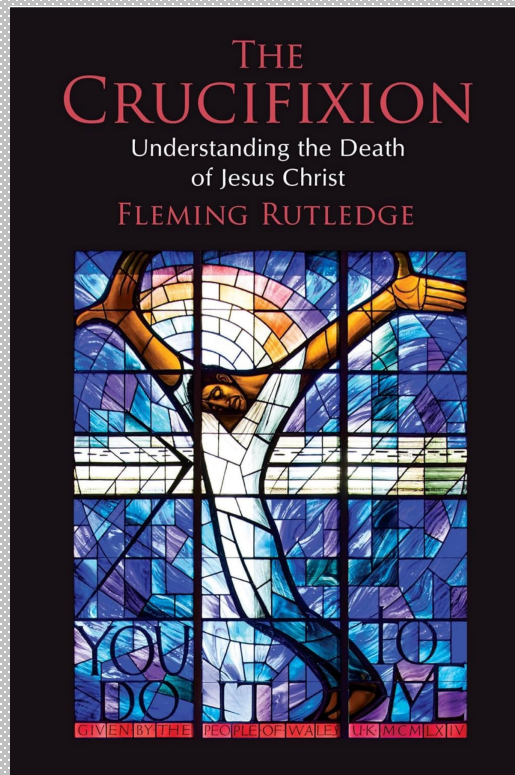
the crucifixion is the most important historical event that has ever happened.

When we say that Jesus Christ took upon himself the sin of the world, it means quite specifically that he suffered

the shame and degradation that human beings have inflicted on one another and that he above all others had done nothing to merit.”

Fleming Rutledge IBID, p 44, 84





Christianity is the only major religion ***to have as its central focus the suffering and degradation of its God.***

The crucifixion is so familiar to us, and so moving, that it is hard to realize ***how unusual it is as an image of God...***

This was the destiny chosen by the Creator and the Lord of the universe: ***the death of a nobody...***

Thus, the Son of God entered into solidarity with the lowest and the least of all his creation, the nameless and forgotten.....

Fleming Rutledge IBID, 75, 610



Jesus himself set out for Jerusalem
and actively took the expected suffering upon himself.

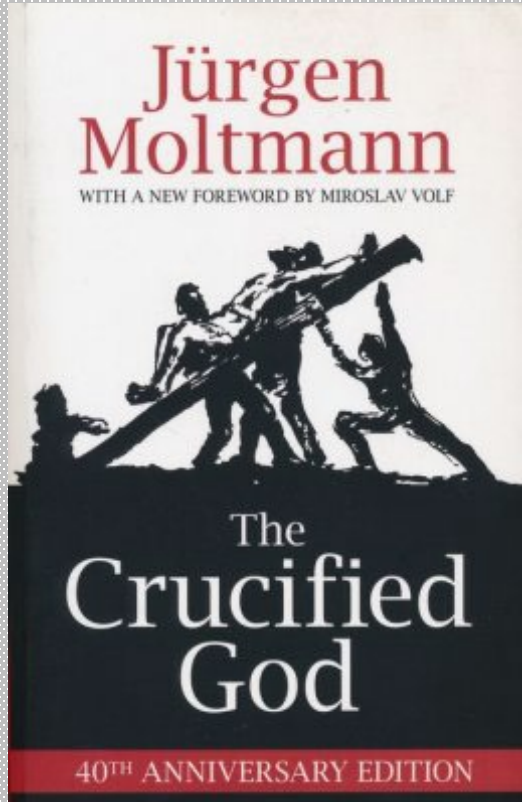
By proclaiming the righteousness of God as the right of those
who were rejected and without grace to receive grace,
he provoked the hostility of the guardians of the law.

By becoming a 'friend of sinners and tax collectors',
he made their enemies his enemies.

By claiming that God himself was on the side of the godless,
he incited the devout against him and
was cast out into the godlessness of Golgotha...

To the extent that men in misery feel his solidarity with them,
their solidarity with his sufferings brings them out of their situation.
If they understand him as their brother in their sufferings,
they in turn do not become imitators of his sufferings until
they accept his mission and actively follow him.

He suffered on account of the liberating word of God and died
on account of his liberating fellowship with those who were not free."



“Making something or somebody a sacrifice in every age
so that the status quo can be maintained.”

Richard Rohr



If they understand him as their brother in their sufferings,
they in turn do not become imitators of his sufferings
until they accept his mission and actively follow him.

Jorgen Moltmann

THE CROSS AND THE LYNCHING TREE

REV DR JAMES CONE

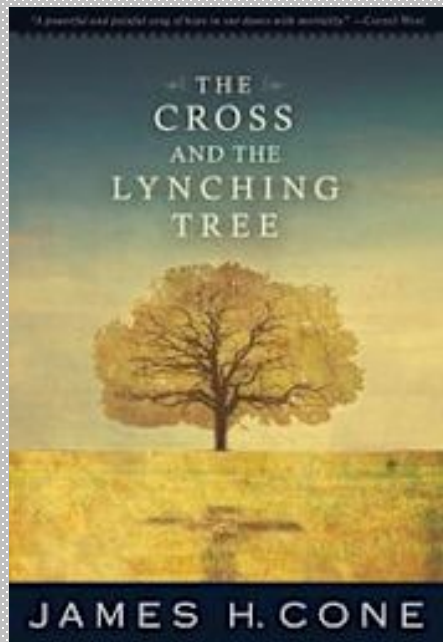


“In the lynching era (1880-1940), the lynching tree joined the cross as the most emotionally charged symbols in the African American community – symbols that represented both death and the promise of redemption, judgement and the offer of mercy, suffering and the power of hope.

Both the cross and the lynching tree represented the worst in human beings and at the same time “an unquenchable ontological thirst” for life that refuses to let the worst determine our final meaning.

While the lynching tree symbolized white power and “black death” the cross symbolized divine power and “black life” – God overcoming the power of sin and death.”

James Cone *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* xiii, 3, 12-13,18





“Religion offered a way for black people to find hope...

African Americans embraced the story of Jesus,
the crucified Christ,

whose death they claimed paradoxically gave them life,

just as God resurrected him in the life
in the earliest Christian community”.

James Cone: IBID





FOREVER EVOLVING WITH US

John 11:25-26

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?"

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

Revelation 21:3-4.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Romans 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.



THE ISSUE OF BODILY RESURRECTION

"On the third day he rose again from the dead"

"I believe in the resurrection of the body"

Apostle's Creed

*"The death referred to is not the death of the body,
since for such a death there is no need of resurrection.
For if there is a soul, and moreover, an immortal soul, it can
dispense with a resurrection of the body. G.I. Gurdjieff*

- **Acceptable?**
- **Plausible?**
- **Consistently portrayed in Gospels?**
- **Necessary?**
- **Consistent with Cosmic Law- Ray of Creation?**



Restored Resurrected Body?

Acceptable?

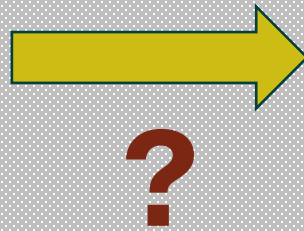
- No mention that disciples horrified by his appearance

Plausible? Necessary?

- A refurbished resurrected body is equivalent to a Visionary Resurrection
- Capitulation to “A” influences?

Consistently portrayed in the Gospels?

- **Mark:** Empty tomb – No appearance
- **Matthew:** Appearance to women & later at Great Commission: Visionary ?
- **Luke:** Visionary to women, Bodily in upper room, Visionary road to Emmaus
- **John:** Visionary to Mary, Bodily/visionary in upper room, Visionary by sea





Someone may ask: How do the dead rise, and what body do they have? ...

When you sow, it is not the body that will be.

Sown a mortal body, it rises immortal;

sown disfigured, it rises beautiful;

sown weak, it rises strong;

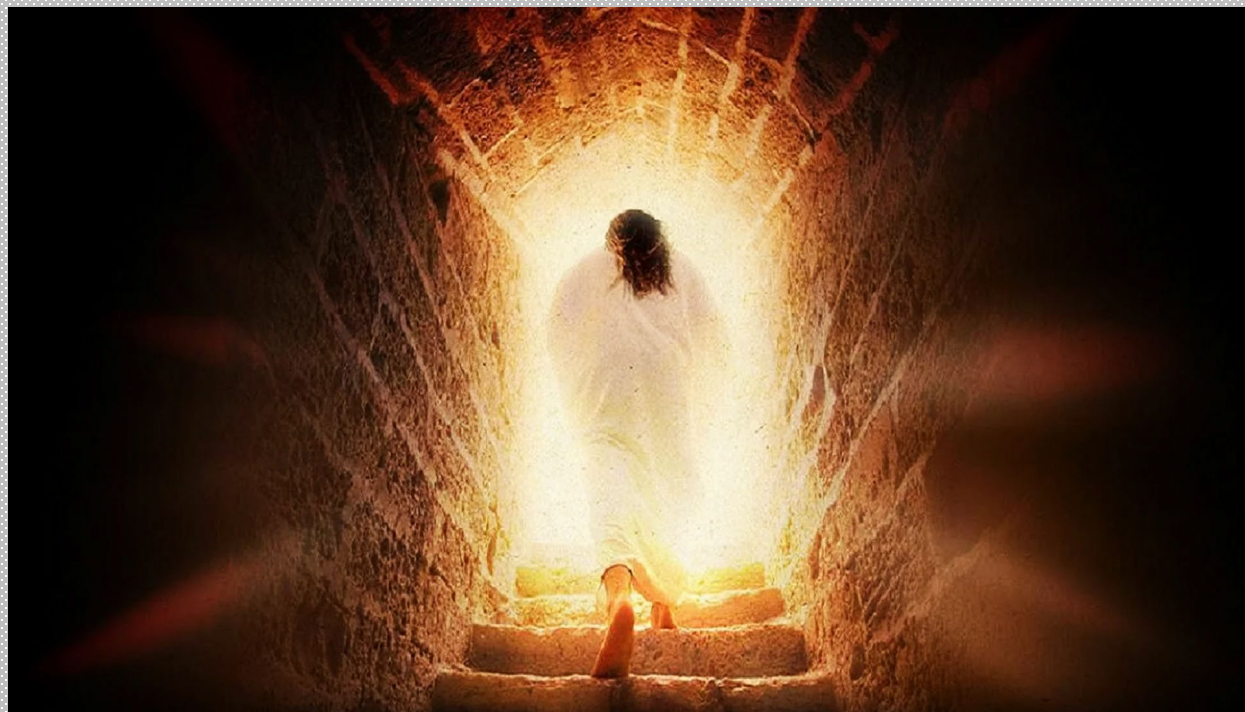
sown a human body, it rises a spiritual body.

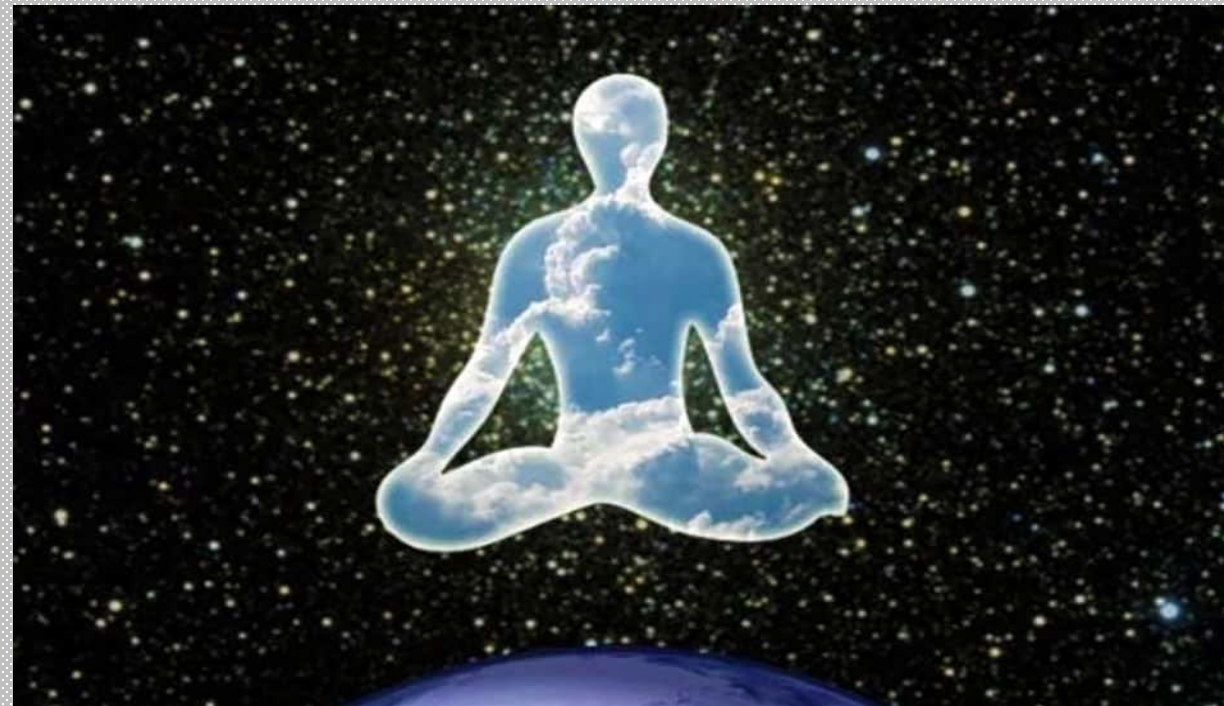
As surely as there is a human body, there is also a spiritual body.

(I Corinthians 15:35,38,42-44),

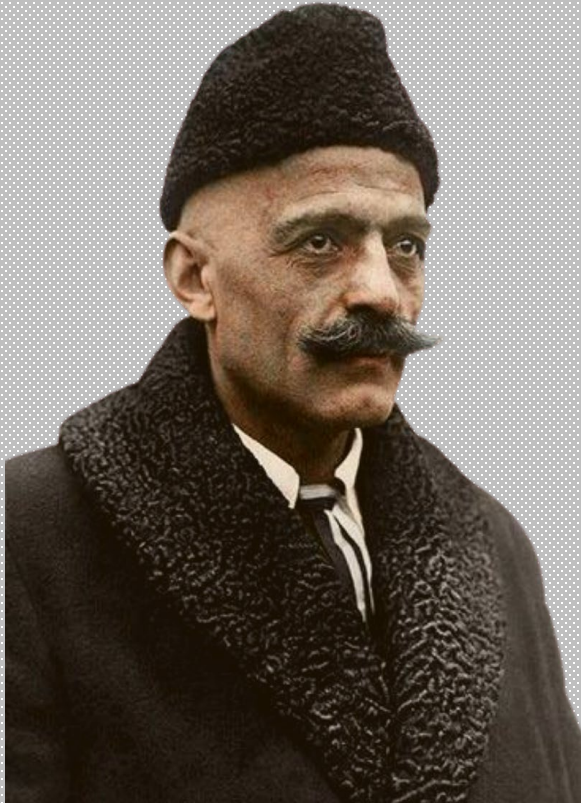
All of you together are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it. .

(I Corinthians 12:27)





Were Resurrection Appearances Jesus' Astral Body?



In high esotericism there is a sacrament that is called “**Almznoshinoo.**”

Thanks to that sacrament, a master can live materialized in a three-dimensional world for one year after the death of his physical body to instruct his disciples.

When a master wants to instruct his disciples in the physical world after losing his physical body, he can do it by **materializing his astral (Kesdjan) body** and

making it visible to his disciples for further teaching up to one rotation around the sun.



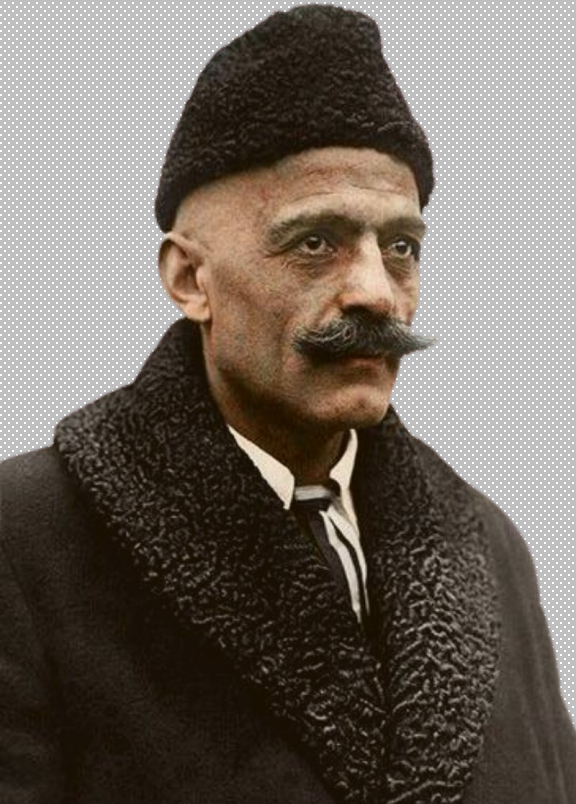


The Almznoshinoo sacrament.

The adeptus will put a little of his blood in a chalice
and his disciples
will put a little of their blood in the chalice, too.

They will mix that blood and will celebrate a very special ritual
during which each of them will drink blood from the chalice
and the Almznoshinoo sacrament will take place.”

Gurdjieff on Resurrection and Eucharist



“They also proved just as convincingly that after His crucifixion and burial, Jesus Christ was resurrected and continued to exist among them and to teach this and that, and only afterwards did He raise Himself with His planetary body to Heaven.

The result of this kind of, in the objective sense, **‘criminal wiseacring’** of theirs, was that in the beings of subsequent generations, **genuine faith** in all this Divine and Religion uniquely accomplished teaching of salvation of the All Loving Jesus Christ **was totally destroyed.**

The information about what is called **‘the Lord’s Supper’** given in the ‘noted totality,’ still existing today among your contemporary favorites, representing as it were the real accurate history of this Sacred Individual, and which is called by them the ‘Holy Writ,’ **was nothing else but a preparation for the great sacrament Almznoshinoo on the body Kesdjan of Saint Jesus Christ.**

Beelzebub’s Tales – Chapter 38 Religion pp 735-6

Gurdjieff on Judas' Role in Actualizing Almznoshinoo



“And it was just here that this **Judas, now a Saint** and formerly the **inseparable and devoted helper of Jesus Christ...**, manifested himself and rendered his great objective service for which terrestrial three-brained beings of **all subsequent generations should be grateful.**

...This wise, onerous, and disinterestedly devoted manifestation taken upon himself consisted in this, that while in a **state of desperation on ascertaining that it was impossible to fulfill the required preliminary procedure for the actualization of the sacred Almznoshinoo,** this Judas, now a Saint, leaped from his place and hurriedly said:

‘I shall go and do everything in such a way that **you should have the possibility of fulfilling this sacred preparation without hindrance,** and meanwhile set to work at once’

Having said this, he approached Jesus Christ and having confidentially spoken with Him a little and received His blessing, hurriedly left.

The others, indeed without hindrance, **finished everything necessary** for the possibility of accomplishing **this sacred process Almznoshinoo.”**

De-literalizing Christianity: Gurdjieff and Almzoshinoo

Michael Pittman: Correspondences: Journal for the Study of Esotericism 8: 2 pp 219-254



- ***Dharmakaya*** - (The Teaching Body) Second of Buddha's 3 bodies, lives after death
- **Mechanics of Soul making** is an overarching theme in *Beelzebub's Tales*
- ***Kesdjan Body* or *Second Body*** contains higher emotions and can serve as a seat for the soul
- **Same shape as the Carnal Body**, but emanates from the inside
- Food for the formation of the Kesdjan Body is **Conscious Labor and Intentional Suffering**
- Beelzebub claims that Jesus Christ at the last gathering of his disciples, was intending to transmit certain cosmic Truths by means of the sacred **Almoznoshinoo**.

The Resurrection of Jesus

A New Historiographical Approach



MICHAEL R. LICONA



Weighing All Hypotheses of Jesus Resurrection Appearances

Methodological neutrality to assign burden of proof to any proposition in order of importance

A KESDJAN (ASTRAL BODY)

VISION OF THE 'RESURRECTED' CHRIST MEETS CRITERIA BEST

1. **PLAUSIBILITY:** *Almznoshinoo* in materializing Jesus' Astral Body for up to a year to instruct his disciples
2. **EXPLANATORY SCOPE:** Grants Jesus death by crucifixion and accounts for the experiences of disciples and Paul
3. **EXPLANATORY POWER:** A 'true bodily' resurrection it aligns better with the empty tomb. But empty tomb doesn't imply only a bodily resurrection.
4. **LESS CONTINGENT ON OTHER ASSUMPTIONS:** (*Occam's Razor*) If we are open to a reality beyond our senses, these resurrection appearances align well his Astral Body.
5. **ILLUMINATION:** "Amazing devotion of the earliest Christians toward Jesus to such an extent that they felt obligated to worship him. ...Jesus had made numerous divine claims during his ministry, and after he rose and appeared to them, any doubts about those claims dissolved".

OUR OWN CRUCIFIXIONS AND REDEMPTIONS





Eliza Gilkyson *REQUIEM* from *Paradise Hotel* 2004

- Written for victims of the Indonesian Tsunami 2004
- Gained greater exposure after Katrina in 2005
- Resurgence during COVID pandemic 2020
- Anthem for Redemption of Global & Personal Suffering





O Mother Mary
come and carry us
in your embrace
that our sorrows
may be faced