

### *The Mystery of Golgotha*

**WHAT DOES** “The Mystery of Golgotha” have to do with a person living in the 21st century? Some allege it to be an historical fiction. What are the facts? Surviving accounts, known as Christian Gospels, describe a putative capital offense ending in a crucifixion: Rough justice, barbarity, tragedy, pathos—depending on your viewpoint. And the viewpoints abound. Then what? Earthquake? Night at noon? Global transformation?

Today’s positivist asks, How can we know for sure what happened? the identity of him to whom it happened—if it happened? No extant secular records even make reference to Jesus—him who was crucified. Over a billion humans call this same Jesus the Son of God, God incarnate, the world’s Savior—Him who couldn’t save himself—at least, he didn’t. Not your standard hero-god who carries a big stick. This God carried a cross and was nailed to it. What’s to imitate here? What’s so compelling about this story that human destiny has been altered by it? What’s in this to feed the soul and give joy? Well, there’s more to the story. For one thing, a few of “God’s” contemporaries saw Him after His death—alive, radiant, powerful. Come to think of it, he said, destroy this temple and he would raise it in three days. Apparently that’s what he did.

And what was raised? The Spirit that animated Jesus and spoke through him with authority and worked miracles and walked on water and wept salt tears and shed blood. Today’s emancipated humanist can weep too, and speak and walk and bleed. But to him this talk of Spirit is, to be polite, scientifically suspect. Yet that’s what the Jesus people—Christians—believe. Some would even die rather than renounce their core belief. And Rosicrucians believe more, some of them *know* more. They say Golgotha is a mystery only to those who are blind to the higher dimensions of reality, that Spirit is real. It exists. It is in each of us. It enables us, like Christ Jesus, to survive death. It is this Spirit that

makes us human. More, it can make us divine, like God who gave it. These Rosicrucians say that Christ is higher than a human Spirit, that because He came to Earth on a mission of mercy and lived in Jesus, humans can also do the works He did, and even greater.

But this Rosicrucian “teaching” is all hearsay, right? Where’s the proof? How about some incontrovertible truth? By “truth” do you mean according to scales and rulers, or based on lived experience? Paul was assaulted, stunned, and blinded by the Truth: vengeance was transmuted into candescent love. But that’s an antique narrative. How about now? Now is a keyhole into all time—and the timeless. Insert the key of truth, call it provisional truth, if you like, and turn it in the lock of ignorance. First, suspend your disbelief, because not believing gets zero results. You are welcome to doubt, to call all into question, to believe only what your senses tell you. But are your senses your only basis for knowing? Doesn’t something behind your eyes see deeper—and other? Doesn’t a hearing more inner than sound through the ears give you understanding, a finer and higher sense of things? Call it eyes and ears of the soul.

Material Earth is the place of the skull. It is Golgotha. There is also a living Earth, an Earth of soul and an Earth of Spirit. It is here, even where crucifixion in countless forms continues, where eyes are blinded by hate and envy and ears are deaf to words of grace and love and mercy.

It is not gravity that makes Spring possible. It is not electricity that generates vital light. It is not chemicals that produce life. By all means weigh and measure and number the mineral world. Be exacting. But if that is your sole guaranty of certainty, Spirit will remain mysterious, even as it makes all things new. And joy will be out reach, though ever ready, if you will, to exalt you. And life will remain elusive, even as it daily renews you and gives you reason to hope. And the empty tomb will be a hoax, even as Christ irradiates the Earth and knocks at the door of your heart. □