

April 8, 2020

My Friends, I hope you are handling all of this with reasonable happiness, it is difficult to keep the fear and sadness in check. These daily thoughts that I compose for you, help me to believe in a bigger picture, I hope they are good for you.

Either the Gospel texts mean something, or they mean nothing or, more likely, they mean everything, everything, that is, that you want them to mean.

Because they are spiritual literature and we have so little skill with our spirits, we tend to force them, if we pay any attention to them at all, into our categories rather than try to learn the workings of the spirit.

The institutional Church has been little help to us because about the 4th century they turned the entire bible into a book about morals, manners, and social customs that heavily favored the clergy, practically turning Jesus Christ into a character in *their* scripts virtually ignoring the actual texts of the Gospel.

We are looking toward Easter, a strange word, indeed, and whatever the origin of that word, the Resurrection of Christ is what gave birth to it. We are and the Church is extremely reluctant to deal seriously with the texts that tell of the resurrection because they are dense and because we want them to mean that we, our egocentric selves, survive death and have an “eternal life” very much like our life before we died.

Now as consoling as those thoughts might be, they are not found in the Gospel accounts of the resurrection because in every account there are details that tell us and, if we allow them their power, can teach us, such as the fact that the resurrected Jesus Christ is not

recognized by even his closest followers, in fact, he only appears to his closest followers.

So, in my mind, one thing that resurrection means, obviously one thing that our death means, is that we are not recognizable as we know ourselves to be before we have died.

That doesn't scare or alarm me, it intrigues me. After all, we have had many, many transformations from conception to death and we are not recognizable in those either.

So, contemplating our transformations is one pathway to our understanding of resurrection.