

CHAPTER 11

WHY THE INVERTED COMMAS ". . . "?

JEWS SUSPICIOUS AND UNEASY

We must not suppose that Jesus was buried 6 feet underground. The sepulchre was a big, airy chamber and not a grave. Jim Bishop (a Christian authority of note), in his book "The Day Christ Died," gives the dimensions as 5 feet wide by 7 feet high by 15 feet deep, with a ledge or ledges inside, which any "pondokkie" dweller in our slums would have been happy to own as his residence. The Jews were suspicious. It was all very "fishy."

- (a) The tomb within easy reach.
- (b) Helping hands of his "secret" disciples.
- (c) His "crossmates" still alive.
- (d) His legs not broken, whereas those of his "crossmates" were!
- (e) Quick and easy permission granted by Pilate to obtain the body of Jesus.

For these and many more reasons, the Jews were suspicious. They felt that they had been cheated. Jesus was ALIVE! (?) So they ran to Pilate. But they had missed the bus again! They were 24 hours too late!

JEWISH ERRORS

"Now the NEXT day . . . the chief priests and Pharisees came together unto Pilate, Saying, Sir, we remember that that deceiver said . . . Command, therefore, that the sepulchre be made sure until the third day, lest . . . the LAST error shall be worse than the FIRST (error)."

(HOLY BIBLE) *Matthew 27:62-64*

The Jews are talking about "first" and "last", not realising that in all their nervous haste they had made another slip. They had gone to

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION

Pilate only the NEXT day. They wanted to close the stable-door after the horse had bolted. Pilate was not interested in their childish plots. He had had enough of them. So he says to them:

"... Ye have a watch; ¹go your way, make it as sure as ye can. "

(HOLY BIBLE) *Matthew 27:65*

He was not going to pander to their whim. He had more than enough reasons to hate them.

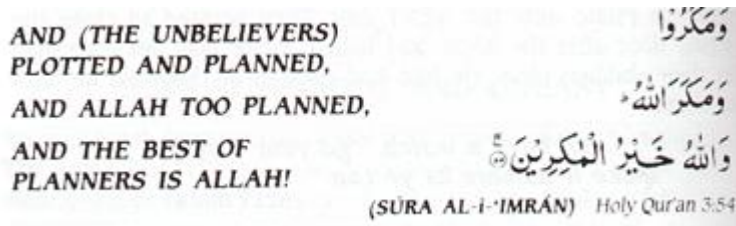
1. From the word "watch" in the King James Version of the Bible, and "guard" of the Roman Catholic Version; the 32 Christian scholars of the R.S.V. have now interpolated the words, "of soldiers" after the word "GUARD", reading "guard of soldiers". There is no end to Christian theological ingenuity! As was discussed earlier; the revisers have now re-revised the R.S.V. and have re-inserted the spicy verses about the women "caught in the act" once more into their 1971 Version.

CULTISTS' MANIA

What the Jews did or did not do after Pilate's curt reply is immaterial. They had already lost a day! But the Christian cultists clutching at straws, transform the Jewish temple "guard" to soldiers, and make these "soldiers" into "Roman" soldiers. Then fill pages expounding the efficiency of the Roman military machine; that it can never be caught napping or caught off-guard! And the dire consequences in store for any that slipped. Did all this make the Roman soldier impeccable, faultless (?). By the time the unwary and weary reader wades through the profuse irrelevant details, he is ready to swallow everything hook, line, and sinker uncritically. It is a deception they have developed as an art!

What was the FIRST "error" that the Jews made in wanting to eliminate Jesus? The first was that they had permitted Jesus to be brought down from the cross without breaking his legs, under the false assumption that he had died. The LAST would be to allow the "secret" disciples of Jesus to render help to the wounded man, by NOT sealing off the tomb. But in the meantime, they made another mistake by approaching Pilate the "NEXT" day which was TOO LATE! God works in a mysterious way. His Ways are not our ways. He says:

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION



SUNDAY MORNING

It was Sunday morning, the **FIRST** day of the week, according to Hebrew calculations, with Saturday the **Sabbath** as the seventh, when Mary Magdalene **alone** (*Mark 16:9 and John 20:1*) visited the tomb of Jesus.

The question arises: "Why did she go there?" **"TO ANOINT HIM"**, *Mark 16:1* tells us. The Hebrew word for anoint is "**masaha**", which means to rub, to massage, to anoint.¹ The second question is: "Do Jews massage dead bodies after 3 days?" The answer is **"No!"** "Do the Christians massage dead bodies after 3 days?" The answer is again, **"No!"** Do the Muslims (who are the nearest to the Jews in their ceremonial laws) massage dead bodies after 3 days? And the answer is again, **"No!"** Then why should a Jewess want to massage a dead, decaying body after 3 days? We know that within 3 hours **rigor mortis** sets in — the stiffening of the body after death. In 3 days time, the body would be fermenting from within — the body cells would be breaking up and decomposing. If anyone rubs such a decaying body, it will fall to pieces. Does the rubbing make sense? **No!**

It would, however, make sense if she was looking for a **LIVE** person. You see, she was about, the only person besides Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus who had given the final rites to the body of Jesus. If she had seen any sign of life in the limp body of Jesus when he was taken down from the cross, she was not going to shout, **"HE IS ALIVE!"** She returns after 2 nights and a day, when the Jewish Sabbath had passed, to take care of Jesus.

¹. This aspect is dealt with in greater detail in a book: ["WHO MOVED THE STONE"](#).

STONE REMOVED — WINDING SHEETS UNWOUND

She was sorely amazed to find on arrival, that somebody had already removed the stone and, on peeping into the tomb, she finds that the winding sheets (shroud) were folded up inside. More questions arise? "Why Was the stone removed?" Because for a

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION

resurrected body, one which had conquered death, it was not necessary for the stone to be removed for it to get out, nor was it necessary for the winding sheets to- be unwound for it to move. Because, for a spiritualised body: "STONE WALLS DO NOT A PRISON MAKE, NOR IRON BARS A CAGE."

The removal of the stone and the unwinding of the winding sheets was the need of a **physically resuscitated body**, not that of a resurrected¹ body! The empty tomb was an anti-climax to what she had expected! So the hysterical woman (Jesus had had to cast out of her "seven devils" - *Mark 16:9*) breaks down and sobs. Jesus was all the while watching her from the vicinity — not from heaven, but from earth.

This burial vault (tomb) was a privately-owned property belonging to Joseph of Arimathea (a very rich, influential Jew), who could afford to carve out of rock the big roomy chamber.² Around this tomb was his vegetable garden. Please do not try to tell me that this Jew was so generous that he was planting vegetables 5 miles out of town, for other people's goats and sheep to graze upon. Surely, he must also have built gardeners' quarters for his labourers and his own country home for himself and his family to relax during the weekends?

1. See ["RESURRECTION OR RESUSCITATION?"](#)

2. Dimensions already given earlier.

A PRACTICAL JOKE

Jesus is there! He is watching this woman. He knows who she is, and he knows why she is there. He approaches her from behind, and finds her crying. So he asks her:

"Woman, why weepest thou? Whom seekest thou? —

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 20:15*

Before she replies, allow me to interject: "Why does he ask what appears to be silly questions? Doesn't he know the obvious reasons? Of course he does! Then why the silly questions?"

The answer is that in reality they are not silly questions, though they appear to be so. He knows that this woman is looking for him, and she is disappointed on not finding him; hence the weeping. But

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION

he also knows that because of his heavy disguise she would not be able to recognise him. So metaphorically speaking he is pulling her leg. In describing this incident John, referring to Mary Magdalene, says:

"She, supposing him to be the gardener, saith unto him".

(Still John 20:15)

Now why should she suppose that he is a **gardener**? Do resurrected persons look like "gardeners"? No! Then why does she suppose him to be a gardener? Because he is **disguised** as a GARDENER! Why is he disguised as a gardener? Because he is **afraid** of the Jews! Why is he afraid of the Jews? Because he did **not die** and did **not conquer death**! If he had died, and if he had conquered death, then he would not be afraid anymore. Why not? Because a resurrected body cannot die twice! Who says so? The Bible says so. Where? In the Book of *Hebrews 9:27*. It says:

" . . . It is ordained unto all men ONCE to die, and after that the judgement."

BACK FROM THE DEAD

But what about the hundreds of people who have come back from the "dead"? We read about them daily in our newspapers. Those persons who were certified dead, by medical men, and who subsequently came back to life;

were not really DEAD, in the sense of DEATH AND RESURRECTION. Our Doctors have erred and will continue to make mistakes; it cannot be helped. But I want you to note the word "**dead**" on page 63, and "**Corpse**" on page 22, and "**crucifixion**" on page 85. All these words are in inverted commas. The honest and alert newspaper reporter in each case is telling us, very subtly, that the "DEAD" was not really dead. That the "CORPSE" was not really a corpse, and that the "CRUCIFIXIONS" were not really crucifixions but cruel-fictions! They were SO-CALLED dead, the SO-CALLED corpse, the SO-CALLED crucifixions, etc. But from the newspaper circulation point of view, the word "SO-CALLED" would greatly diminish the sensationalism, lessen the news value, and reduce possible sales. After all business is business! Hence the inverted commas "...". In actual fact, no man ever dies twice. No matter how many death certificates are issued.

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION

THE DRAMA CONTINUES

Mary supposing the disguised Jesus to be a gardener, says unto him:

"Sir, if you have taken HIM hence, tell me where have you laid HIM . . ."

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 20:15*

She is not looking for a corpse, for "it". She is looking for a LIVE person, for "HIM". And further, she wants to know as to "where have you 'LAID' him?" (i.e. To rest, to relax, to recuperate!) NOT, "where have you BURIED him?"

"So that I might take HIM away."

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 20:15*

Take HIM away, where? What would she want with a dead (?), decomposing body? She could only bury it. Who dug the grave? Carrying a corpse is one thing for an American Super-woman, but another for this frail Jewess; carrying a corpse of at least a hundred and sixty pounds. That weight plus another 100 pounds of medicaments (according to *John 19:39*) would make a neat load of 260 pounds. Carrying would be one thing, but burying? She would have to dump it in a hole! Does it make any sense?

The prank that Jesus was playing upon this woman had gone too far. The woman had not been able to see through the disguise yet and Jesus was "laughing under his breath", but could restrain himself no longer. He blurts out: "M-A-R-Y!" Only the one word! But it was enough. This one word, "Mary!" did what all the exchange of words failed to do. It enabled Mary to recognise her Master. Everyone has his or her unique and peculiar way of calling one's nearest and dearest. It was not the mere utterance of the word "Mary", but its deliberate intonation which made her respond: "Master! Master!". Mad with happiness, she lunges forward to grab her Master, to pay reverence. Jesus says,

"Touch me not!"

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 20:17*

SOBERING QUESTIONS

CRUCIFIXION OR CRUCI-FICTION

Why not? Is he a bundle of electricity, a dynamo, that if she touches him, she might get electrocuted? No! "Touch me not!", because it would hurt. Though he appears normal to all intents and purposes, he had, nevertheless, been through a violent, physical and emotional ordeal. It would be excruciatingly painful if he allowed her any enthusiastic contact. Jesus continues:

"For I am not yet ASCENDED unto my Father."

(HOLY BIBLE) *John 20:17*

She is not blind. She can see the man standing there before her. What does he mean by "not yet ascended" — GONE UP — when he was DOWN right there? He is, in fact, telling her that he is **not** RESURRECTED from the DEAD. In the language of the Jew, in the idiom of the Jew, he is saying: "I AM NOT DEAD YET!" — He is saying: "I AM ALIVE!"

"And they (the disciples), when they heard that he was ALIVE, and had been seen by her (Mary Magdalene), they BELIEVED NOT."

(HOLY BIBLE) *Mark 16:11*