

# The Meaning of Easter

Dr. M.W. Lewis

San Diego, 4-10-55

Subject this morning: "The Meaning of Easter."

There are several meanings of Easter, of course. The usual meaning is that annual celebration commemorating the resurrection of Christ. It had to do with the, his death and resurrection had to do with the date of the Jewish Passover and also with the Vernal Equinox, March 21. So to do away with all confusion, the First Nicene Counsel established Easter in the following way.

Easter is always the first Sunday after the full moon, or next after the Vernal Equinox, or March 21. Now those of you who do not remember when Easter comes, remember that. That was established in 325, I believe, A.D. So, there wouldn't be any confusion. But there still is because we all wonder, now, let me see, when is Easter this year. And, finally, we read about it in the newspaper that Easter is such-and-such a day and so-and-so is gonna speak at some church, and then we realize that Easter is once more upon us. But the real meaning of Easter is something quite different, and I think before we are finished this morning, perhaps we'll understand a little more about what the real meaning of Easter is.

Now the theological definition of Easter is this: "Arising again from the dead" – "Arising again from the dead." Now there are three types of resurrection, which gives us the meaning of Easter. There is that type which Jesus exemplified when he resurrected the elements of his body and once more lived. Then there is that type of resurrection which was performed by the great Hindu Yogi Hari Das, who was buried alive, and then he reactivated the elements of his body, coming back into normal living. And finally, there was that type of resurrection exemplified by St. Paul. St. Paul said, "...I die daily." I die daily. So he died daily to outward consciousness and he superseded that outward consciousness. He resurrected his ordinary consciousness into the Superconsciousness. The state of breathlessness is the state which St. Paul exemplified. "Behold, I die daily." He died to outward consciousness, superseded it by the Christ Consciousness within, because he said in 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians, 15<sup>th</sup> Chapter, 31<sup>st</sup> Verse. He said: "I protest by the rejoicing that I have in Christ, I die daily."<sup>1</sup> (Sic) That

---

<sup>1</sup> I Corinthians 15:31, "I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our LORD, I die daily."

is, he felt the Bliss of Christ Consciousness when he died to outward consciousness.

Therefore, you have three types, three types of resurrection, or Easter can mean these varying things to you: the resurrection of consciousness or even the resurrection of the elements of the body if, if you know God. That's the important thing.

Now let us take first the illustration of Jesus – the resurrection. In general, we must realize that all things have come from God's Great Light. All things have come from the One Light of God, and in that Light is His Omniscience, His Consciousness, His Love. There is no difference between love and the power of love. They are one and the same thing. So, everything has come from one thing – God – God and His Infinite Light. It is come down through the various stages of creation; the creation of the three universes – Causal, Electronic, or Astral, and Physical. And it has come down through the three bodies which we have – the Causal, the Astral or Electronic body, the Spiritual body, if you wanna call it that, and finally, this gross body.

So, from that One Light of God, down through these various bodies, have we come until we find ourselves in this body. So by these certain definite psychological and chemical reactions, has been produced, finally, this gross body. But still it is God's Consciousness; still it is God's Love vibrating, that's all. Remember one thing, as the Master used to say, "Remember the dream consciousness and you'll never be confused." Take your consciousness as a whole and think it as God's Eternal Light.

Now, you can take a portion of that consciousness and create a dream within yourselves, can't you? And you can have three bodies in that dream, or you can have anything you want. Now, when you resolve that dream, there you find the same one consciousness with which you started. Is there any difference? No. So, our three bodies are simply God's Light differentiated by these certain psychological and chemical reactions. But those things are deeply impressed upon us. We are deeply tied to those reactions. They are strongly fixed in our consciousness; so much so that we feel this body as the reality. "I am this, and if I'm not careful I'll miss the other," which is the reality, not this body. So, remember those certain psychological and chemical reactions which have produced, "my Causal," "my Astral," and finally, "my Physical" body, are deeply ingrained in us – deeply fixed.

Now, if we can somehow unfix them – if I can use that words “unfix them” – then we can go back into the One Light from which we have come. Through the different steps, we can supersede the Physical consciousness; we can become one with the Astral or Electro, Electronic consciousness within us, the Spiritual body. Those things can be seen. Then, if we go further and unfix the Causal reactions, we can go beyond that into the One Light of God, His One Great Love, His Omniscience, from which all things have come.

Now, that is just what Jesus did. If we can do that, if we can transmute our consciousness as Jesus did, then, then we can dematerialize this body into the One Light of God and materialize it at will. Jesus knew Jesus knew the Electronic and Magnetic Laws. He knew how to do that, and it took him three days, as he said, to resolve first the body consciousness, then the Spiritual body consciousness, finally the Causal body consciousness, into the Light of God.<sup>2</sup> Then he reassembled them, because he came and he appeared to his disciples.

So there you have one form of resurrection. Resurrec, resurrecting the elements which made our body, it's quite difficult. The psychological reactions we can control. In meditation you can sit and with concentration you can rise above the identity with the Physical body, and your name and form will disappear. And if you go deeper, you will see the One Light from which your consciousness has come. You can do that. You can understand and go beyond the psychological reactions quite easily. But those chemical, that chemical affinity, that's quite different, because that is so firmly attached and fixed, it is difficult to go beyond, and get beyond – resolve the chemical affinity of the body. But, Jesus knew how. That's why he once more resolved the elements of his body into the One Light of God, and then resurrected them again so that he lived and walked and communed with his disciples. Jesus knew the Electronic Laws, the magnetic laws. He knew the Laws of Life. Why? Because he was one with God, who produces all things. And so he resurrected, Jesus resurrected, remember, the elements of the body along with his consciousness, which of course was One with God.

There's one point I want to point out before going on to the next example of resurrection, and it is this. Remember, Jesus had experience in resurrecting his body. Because in the Old Testament, as you have remembered, the Master has pointed out that Jesus was Elisha, and Elijah was John the Baptist. So, in that

---

<sup>2</sup> St. John 2:19, “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.”

role, Jesus saw Elijah release the elements of his body, transmute them into the One Light of God, and as such, seeing that, he received a double portion of Spirit. Elijah said, Elisha, if you can see me ascend into heaven, then I will give you the double portion of Spirit which you want. Jesus needed that, because he knew he would come again and be crucified, dead, and buried.<sup>3</sup> So, there you see, Jesus had experience in resolving the elements of his body, because he saw Elijah do it, and seeing him – having the concentration enough to see Elijah once more ascend into heaven – he likewise received that portion of Spirit, double portion of Spirit, and had the power of concentration to resolve the elements of his body into the One Great Light of God.

So there you have the illustration of one of the phases, or rather, methods of resurrection – resurrecting elements of the body. Very difficult, unless, as the Master said, you know God and know His Laws, it cannot be done. Jesus resurrected, remember, the elements of his Physical body along with His Consciousness.

Now let us pass on to the second phase of Hari Das, the second type of resurrection. This has been recorded historically, how the yogi, Hari Das, was buried in India, and corn planted over his grave, and when the corn was ripe, they dug Hari Das up, and his disciples performed certain mantras, and certain forms to revive him, and he returned. He reactivated the cells of his body. That's a state of sus, suspended animation. Hari Das was in the state of suspended animation. The Electronic part of him remained in a state of flux, of a stasis, a static condition. The polarity was changed. And so, that's the state of suspended animation. Then when they dug Hari Das up, then once more he reactivated the elements of his body, not resurrected them, reactivated them, and returned once more to normal living. So remember, in the second phase of resurrection is that of reactivating the body. The body remains in a suspended state of animation. There are many cases of this. But there is a resurr, resurrection of the function of the body, and the cells are once more reactivated.

So, then we come to the third, the third phase of resurrection, which is that which St. Paul did. St. Paul said, "I die daily."<sup>4</sup> St. Paul died to outward consciousness. St. Paul reached the state of breathlessness. St. Paul found that he could live

---

<sup>3</sup> II Kings 2:9-10, "And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me." "And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so."

<sup>4</sup> I Corinthians 15:31, "I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

without breath, and as such, he superseded his Physical outward consciousness by the Christ Consciousness within. He resurrected his consciousness from worldly, transient, uncertain consciousness into the Eternal Presence of God within, as the Christ Consciousness. That's why he said, "I protest by the rejoicing that I have in Christ daily, in Christ, I die daily."<sup>5</sup> (*Sic*). He didn't die as we ordinarily understand death, he died to outward consciousness. His body was in the state of breathlessness, but he was fully awake, fully resurrected in God within.

So there you have three types of resurrection: three types of resurrection, which we can understand, if we will, according to our determination, and if we join our will with God's Will.

Now let us go on to the pragmatic or practical meaning of Easter. That's what we're interested in. What is the practical meaning of Easter to us? It's nice to come here, see the flowers, feel the nice spirit. What are we doing about it? What is the practical meaning of Easter to us? That's what we're interested in. Now there is another definition of resurrection, and when we say "Easter," we mean, and immediately comes to our mind, "resurrection."

Now there is another definition, it is this: "Any, any rising again, any renewal, any restoration." Now what is it? What is it that rises again? What is it that is renewed? What is it that is restored? That's what we must understand. It certainly isn't this body. This body, we know, is transient and passes away. It is not the Soul attached to the body, because while it's attached to the body, that's all it can do. It is limited by bodily functions, limitations of the body.

What is it? What is it that rises again? What is it that is restored? What is it, yes, that is resurrected? It is that free state of consciousness within us – the Soul. It is the Christ Consciousness, God the Father in us. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God."<sup>6</sup> The Word is what? The Word is the Holy Vibration, the Comforter, the Om Vibration, of which we talk. In that is God's Intelligence, His Presence, and His Great Love. That is what we have to resurrect and become one with. That is what we have to remove. That is what we have to restore.

---

<sup>5</sup> Ibid.

<sup>6</sup> St. John 1:1, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

We had that one time. We had that consciousness. For in Ezekiel it says, “Thou wast upon the holy mountain...”<sup>7</sup> We had Christ Consciousness. The “holy mountain” is the Thousand-rayed Lotus in the top of the head. That’s why it is called the mountain. It’s holy because it’s God’s Consciousness there. We had that Consciousness. “Thou wast upon the holy mountain of God.” We had that.

Then it goes on to say, “Thou didst walk up and down amidst the stones of fire.”<sup>8</sup> Now the stones of fire are what? Those are the Centers of God’s Consciousness in our spine. There are six of them, plus the one in the Thousand-rayed Lotus, makes seven. We had that Consciousness of the holy mountain, and we had the Consciousness of God’s Presence in the spinal Centers, because we walked up and down midst the stones of fire.

What happened? We had that until iniquity came in upon us.<sup>9</sup> What is iniquity? Nothing but delusion; nothing but delusion – nothing but darkness. When you take away the darkness, there is God’s Light. Then you can perceive His Light and Consciousness in the holy mountain and in the stones of fire. We had that. What happened? We lost it. Why? Because delusion entered into us. We forgot that free state of our consciousness, and we became attached to the Physical body, the vehicle, and to the Astral vehicle. And being attached, we could not once more regain our Immortal Nature.

So delusion, delusion is the trouble. Delusion is the cause of our having lost that high state of consciousness. Now that, remember that is what is resurrected, restored, renewed. It isn’t something you have to go and buy, something you have to get. Something have you, you have to labor for anew. No, it is there. Always was, always will be, because that’s God Himself. That’s your Soul, which is a ray of the One Eternal Presence and Consciousness of God. That to me seems to be the practical meaning of Easter, the pragmatic meaning to regain, restore, resurrect that Consciousness of God within us. That we can do. Every night we do it. Every night in sleep we do it. We wake up in the morning, and especially if you just pause a minute before you get into the rush of life, you will feel a peace throughout your being and consciousness. You feel a peace. Why? Because you have been with God. You have been with Him and you have been renewed, resurrected; but in an unconscious way. In sleep we go back to God.

---

<sup>7</sup> Ezekiel 28:14, “Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire.”

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ezekiel 28:15, “Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.”

We renew, we re, we restore, we resurrect our consciousness to God, but in an unconscious way. So we must have something better than sleep.

Now every day, every day, if you daily keep in tune, daily keep in tune with God through the channel He has sent, the channel of Jesus, the Great Ones, and our beloved Master, who all manifested Christ Consciousness, if you keep in tune with that daily – not once in awhile, not once a week, once a month, once a year – daily; if you do that, then you are tending toward permanently resurrecting your consciousness into the Christ Consciousness within. Permanently it becomes a fact. You will really resurrect your consciousness. You may not see the advancement day-by-day. Suddenly there will be the Light of God.

So, we must remember. Every day we keep in tune with God the Father, as the Christ Consciousness within us, by following the channel He has sent. We are working toward a permanent resurrection, which no man can take away, and which is ours. We simply have to renew, regain it, restore it.

Now going on...Professor James has said most beautifully. He says, "Methodical, aesthetic, methodical aesthetic discipline gives one full control of the will." Full freedom of will gives one the use of the full will, which is simply our will. Our will coupled with God's Will. That's why if you regularly follow me, "methodical aesthetic discipline." What is that big word? Nothing but Self-Realization Yoga techniques. That's all. You only have to be methodical. The aesthetic part is the metaphysical part. The discipline is the making of yourself do it. If you do that, follow the techniques of Self-Realization Fellowship, what will you attain? God-contact; God-contact through one of the techniques of Self-Realization, the Om technique, you absolutely contact God within you as the Holy Vibration, the Holy Ghost.

As I said, "In the beginning was the Word..." The Word is the Holy Vibration. The Word is the Comforter which Jesus said his, said to his disciples would be with them.<sup>10</sup> The Word is the Holy Vibration. The Word is the Holy Ghost from which all things have come. The Word is Divine Mother which gives all things. But in that Word is God's Presence. "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God, the Word was God."<sup>11</sup> So Self-Realization Fellowship techniques, if followed methodically, will give you God-contact. And there's nothing, there's nothing that will resurrect your consciousness like the Presence of God in you,

---

<sup>10</sup> St. John 15:26, "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"

<sup>11</sup> See Footnote 6

Consciously. Nothing will resurrect your consciousness like communing with God; like having friendship with the Master of the Universe. That's what Self-Realization will do for you, because it is a true channel which God has sent.

So, let us daily, let us daily be baptized, again and again, in the Presence of God within. Don't cha think you'll become like Him? Certainly we will. When you mix with God you become like Him. So be baptized, again and again, every day, regularly, by being one with the Holy Vibration within you. That is what changes us. That is what will remove, restore, resurrect our little worldly consciousness into the Omniscience of God. That's why it says in Titus, the 5<sup>th</sup> Chapter the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter the 5<sup>th</sup> Verse: "Not by works of righteousness..." not by doing even good things in the world – they are commendable – but that won't do it, "...but by the washing and regeneration..." – by being baptized, again and again, in the Holy Vibration – "by that washing and regeneration...of" the Holy Spirit, "the Holy Ghost" within, shall you be saved.<sup>12</sup> And being saved simply means, resurrecting your consciousness, restoring it, renewing that Great Presence of God within.

And so, in closing, one verse, the words of Jesus, St. John the 1<sup>st</sup> Chapter the 12<sup>th</sup> Verse. "As many as received Him...", "as many of us who will merge in the Holy Vibration within, and be one with It, "As many as received Him, to them gave He the power..." and I add, to resurrect their consciousness and, "...become sons of God."<sup>13</sup> What is a son of God? One who has resurrected, restored, renewed the Christ Consciousness within. Such is a son of God. Such, to me, seems to be the practical meaning of Easter.

---

<sup>12</sup> Titus 3:5, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

<sup>13</sup> St. John 1:12, "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name:"