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MEDITATION ON EASTER WINDOW

Here we have the completion of the Divine Trilogy – The Incarnation, The Crucifixion, The Resurrection. Without the crowning event of the Resurrection, the other two would be of no avail. These three are like the links of a chain; each is of equal importance to the others.

As in the Incarnation picture, the artist has used freely his power to take all of the Gospel accounts and, from them, select the few ideas he wishes to use in portraying the truth he wants to convey to the world. Again, it does not matter whether there were three women at the tomb or only one; it does not matter whether there were two angels or only one; whether they were in the tomb or outside; whether the central figure was dressed in the rude garb of a gardener, or the royal robes of a king. He has used the facts he wishes and given us, truly and simply, the Resurrection story.

Paralleling the scene in the Incarnation, the background is laid against the earthly; that which we can understand. But, instead of the stable we have the tomb, symbolic of our greatest fear. The tomb has been endured and conquered, and now the risen Christ stands before it. He has faced it and it no longer need hold terror for any believer in Him and His way of life.

The truth is painted indelibly on our hearts. The scene is that recorded in John's Gospel: there the titian-haired Mary Magdalene stands without the tomb weeping, after the impatient disciples had gone back to the city. This is the Mary out of whom Jesus has cast the seven devils; she of the tender heart, she of the loving spirit. At this moment, she looks up and sees one whom she mistakes for the gardener. Can't you just hear her saying: "Sir, if you have taken Him away, tell me where you have laid Him and I will take Him away." Then, after she recognizes Him, He gives her the commission: "Go to my brethren and say to them, I am ascending to my Father and your Father; to my God and your God." He seems to point her to the Father whom He has revealed to her through His life and His resurrection.

The angel on the right is an interesting personage. His presence implies that this is not a common scene, but one in which Heaven is deeply involved. I wonder who he is. Could he be one of those rosy-feathered cherubs in the other picture now grown to manhood? Could he be the angel Gabriel, who was sent to Mary to announce that she was to be the mother of the Messiah? He looks directly at Mary and seems to say to her, "Lo, He is risen, even as she said."

But it is the central figure that holds our attention the longest. He commands the scene, the tomb, and our lives. His richly embroidered robe is but a symbol of His lordship. He is looking at Mary, but His expression and bearing seem to be one of peace and calm. He embodies that Truth: "Whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."