

## **The Golgotha of History**

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After a while we will process with the Holy Cross chanting the hymn loved by many Christians, "Today is hung upon a tree."

There are two events in the Holy Bible in which Christ carries His Cross. The First, when He carried it on His way to Golgotha in Jerusalem and the second is written in the Book of Revelation. At His Second Coming, Jesus will carry the trophy of victory, and this will be His Cross. In between these two events, Christ is hung upon the Tree. When Jesus spread his hands on the Cross, He put one hand on the past, and the other on the future, covering all history. Christ was not crucified just once, but His crucifixion inaugurated the path of the Cross.

On the Cross Jesus cried, "It is finished." In reality, at that time, the full Divine Truth was uncovered. The Old Testament revealed much of God's love. More was revealed in the three years during which God walked among, and talked to, men. But at the Cross, however, the full divine love was unveiled: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:13 AV)

At the Cross, water and blood came out of the side of Christ. And this means, "It has started."

Christ did not carry His Cross in order to leave behind a personal adventure or a story in History. Christ entered History in order to crucify it, that is to turn it to its proper path after it had deviated. At the Cross the Divine Truth was revealed in all its glory and the Divine presence inaugurated its mission.

God entered History so that He can share with man the making of History.

History is not a black destiny, or the opposite of that, written by God to man. We are free to choose. We are not driven. God has formed us in order to form History with Him. God created us creative. History is a dialogue between God and us. Christians enter the dialogue of History answering God's "Let it be" of creation by Mary's "Let it be unto me according to Thy Will" at the Annunciation. This means that man answers the gift by love and answers the Word by obedience. History is the secret relationship between the gift of God (in the beginning) and the answer of man through obedience (as a continuation).

Man is the builder of his destiny. God is ahead in reading what we write. The Divine Care does not mean destiny, but it means Grace. The man is free not to think of God, even though He is present in History. God hates religion that transforms Him into an idea even though He struggled to be present. Making God absent means killing Him. Everything that was before Christ was a "type" pointing to Him and everything that came after Him was a continuation of Him. The presence of God in History is an event recorded by the Christians.

The Crucifixion of Christ is not a story or a picture. The Crucified One calls whoever He desires. Christ was wounded on the Cross, but the water and blood pouring out from His pure side wound many. He Himself declared that when He is raised (crucified) he would raise many to Himself (crucify them with Him).

The Cross calls freely. Its call is built on us being truthfully wounded with the Divine Love. Chrysostom says, "A noble soldier, seeing his master wounded, fight more bitterly."

The future is a responsibility and not a destiny. The future is a page written by us. And the Christian writes it again with a new pen, the Cross. History is not written. Beforehand, Jesus forewarned His disciples about His passion, and He knew who would deliver Him, but He addressed them saying, "Woe unto that man by whom the Son of man is betrayed!" (Matthew 26:24). Jesus knew that Judas was going to deliver Him, but He did not want that. He tried to care about Him in order to turn him away from his betrayal.

History is formed and shaped by the hands of God and man. If man denies God and distances Him from his life, this does not mean that God is nonexistent. Yes, the Son of man is coming to be crucified and woe to the one who will betray Him. There is another truth facing this one, "The son of man is coming to conquer, and Woe to him who will not share in His glory."

History will separate us into goats or sheep, or into a left or a right thief, depending on how we build it. Your Cross O Lord has appeared as a balance of Justice between the two thieves: one brought it down because of

blasphemy and the other raised it up, confessing your Truth.

The Cross was planted in the depth of the earth on Golgotha to crucify History. Jesus was raised in order to raise us and by His wound we were wounded. He began so that we may continue. He unveiled the Truth so that we may start realizing His mission. By His Cross Christ opened the Kingdom, so that also by His Cross we may build the Kingdom. That's why we process with the Cross and we meditate on it. The Cross is our mission and path.

Thy Passion O Christ we worship.

Amen.