

Reflections

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Ascension of the Lord

The Ascension is a mystery. It means the glorification, the exaltation of Christ, his “ascension” in influence and power.

On the other hand, the ascension is not the departure of Christ. If it were thus, it would be contrary to all our faith in His real presence, in His promise that “He would be with us always, until the end of the age” (MT 28, 20).

The Ascension is nothing more than a disappearance: Christ has become invisible, but still being present. He is even more present than ever, since the Ascension is an intensification of his presence, an extension of the action of Christ for all times and for all places. The Lord has not departed, He is with us forever. Sometimes we no longer see Him, but He never abandons us.

In this way we also understand why He says to his apostles: “it is convenient for you that I leave.” In the long run, the Ascension was very beneficial to them. It was from the Ascension when they began to raise their eyes towards the divinity of the Lord.

They had attached themselves to Him with the human attachments of a human friendship and then with admiration and confidence in his miraculous power. But they had not become aware of whom He was who had always been among them until they saw Him reach Heaven like to his own kingdom, his own home.

Especially, they discovered that the Lord heard them better since He had returned to Heaven. Then they obtained all they asked for in His name.

The treasures of Heaven were open to them. They only had to put their hands in and share the treasures among all those whom the Lord had sent them.

Never had they felt Jesus so present, so strong, so consoling. Wherever they went, He accompanied them, confirming his words with miracles.

Then the disciples understood that the Lord had not separated from them when He returned to the Father. At the same moment in which they imagined that they had lost Him, they began to receive Him truly and to recognize Him like the first time. Therefore they never felt the sorrow of having lost the physical presence of Christ.

The Ascension is a proof of faith, accessible to the faith and which each one of us can confirm through his own personal experience – the same as the apostles and the first Christian communities which little by little were convinced of the true meaning of the Ascension.

The great proof of the Ascension is that Jesus is alive for me, for us, alive for millions of our contemporaries, also with those with whom He worked for the fraternization and divinization (glorification) of the world.

He no longer has only one face, a presence located in only one point of the universe. He is present everywhere he acts. An attentive glance He will spot in the smallest of his own.

Christ continues acting everywhere where there is love, where truth is searched for, where there is a struggle for justice, where respect and the promotion of man is secured.

The extent of his influence is infinite, but continues being invisible for those who only believe in power or in wealth. It extends progressively. Awakening the slumbering communities, the degraded and exploited men, the hungry and needy masses – so that they take on awareness and responsibility.

Dear brothers and sisters, the true Ascension of Christ is the ascension of all men whom He inspires and wins over to build a new world where truth, justice and love reign. It is a world where Christ is the head and Mary is the heart.

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