

Easter Message 2014

Here comes Easter along with joy and felicity- joy with the Resurrection of the Christ and His victory over death; but also sorrow due to the excruciation of the modern man and his spiritual death. What does Easter inspire us today amidst this world, struggling with human conflicts and torn by an overwhelming labor in the East, as well as in the West?

Apparently and in reality, the prince of this world, or the devil, is still dominating the conflict arena of this world and ravaging it with corruption and devastation. So, what can Easter bring us within this epidemic ambience?

Brother who believes in the Christ who suffered and resurrected, you need to believe that there are still some people loyal to the Lord who suffered for them and for every human being that He created in His own image and likeness. Those loyal people – including you if you truly wish- rejoice and are consoled by the Christ Resurrection, in spite of their suffering and the world's agony. In fact, the world is full of distress, but the Lord says to His disciples: « Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom ». (Luke 12: 32).



The secret of the Christ Resurrection resides in our deepest desire that it would happen within ourselves. Saint Symeon the New Theologian says: « The Christ is buried deep inside us, as in a grave...He knew death and descended into the Hades, then He resurrected and rose to the Heavens. Similarly, when we leave the world of sins and step into the grave of humbleness and repentance, He unites to our souls, which are indeed mortal, to resurrect them. Thus, he qualifies us, having risen with Him, to witness the glory of His mystical Resurrection ».

The Resurrection of the Christ is our own resurrection, we who have sinned. On Easter day, as on every Sunday, we don't say « having *believed in the Christ Resurrection* » , but we say «*having witnessed the Christ Resurrection ...*»

How can the Resurrection of the Christ occur in us? When we are glowing with a spiritual radiance, this means that we have risen from our sins. Saint Symeon the New Theologian adds by saying : “In fact, the Resurrection of the Christ takes place in the soul of every believer separately; but this does not occur only once- it happens everytime the Christ resurrects in us, radiant and glowing with His divine radiance that remains uncorrupted...therefore, we say: « the Lord has manifested to us, blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord »).

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Dear beloved brother, I conclude by saying: Note this apocalyptical message- which might empower you with strength, hope, patience, and solace : At the end of the world, the material world will become light, but have no despair !

It is at that time when Resurrection shall illuminate all living creatures, including mankind- both dead and alive. That is on the last day. But nowadays, inspite of our excruciation and the world’s suffering, we can experience the prior delightfulness of Easter and of Christ’s Resurrection, as long as we stay loyal to God’s Word. Indeed, the Christ has inaugurated the new universe with His Resurrection.

The Christ is dressed with light, and the light shall submerge the entire universe.

Jesus has risen!

†Ephrem,

Metropolitan of Tripoli, Koura

and dependencies