

# The Life That Conquers Death

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Keyword for Disciples: *I rise, and from the plane of mind I rule.*

The Flame of the Eternal, always burning;  
The Fire that is never extinguished;  
The Light that conquers shadows;  
The Life that conquers death.

Such is the message of Easter, a time of joy and hope, because Christ, the divine Son, is reborn among us. The Festival of Easter is the Festival of Resurrection, and it contains the symbolism of Life ever present, Life that is One yet variable in its diverse forms – inexhaustible, regenerating, in synch with cosmic order.

Easter marks the beginning of a cycle of events, behind which lies the influence of the energies and forces that carry divine Purpose. These events occur simultaneously in both the occult and the manifest worlds, and in this way, in a parallel fashion, all creation witnesses the presence of the all-encompassing One. Each year, in accordance with the Law of Cycles, the Sun awakens Earth from its winter sleep at the Spring Equinox. Darkness and cold are replaced by light and warmth. Nature becomes joyful with flower buds and colors, as if it were grateful for the breath of new life. Although Spring occurs at different times in each hemisphere of Earth, for the planet as a whole it is signaled by the sign of Aries, the portal of the Zodiac, which marks the arrival of Easter, the portal of life.

Aries is an important cosmic influence, linked to the Christ and His resurrection. This constellation transmits divine Will and is the initiator that opens a new cycle of manifestation. It is the left arm of the Cardinal Cross in the heavens, the cross of transcendence, of the risen Christ, of the Father, the manifestation of the divine. Aries is the expression of the purifying fire that destroys the lower and thereby liberates.

Aries represents the exalted place of the Sun, the Spirit, and the fall of Saturn, the Lord of Karma, in a clearly symbolical relationship to Christ's resurrection: Spirit rises, liberated from material bonds and from the laws that govern the material world. From the cosmic realm our mundane world emerges. The energy of Life flows continuously throughout, characterized by periodic impacts, provoking expansions of consciousness and producing consequent effects on the different planes of manifestation.

Aries' impact on Life is so significant that it is a great celebration – the Festival of Easter. This festival is the first in a series of twelve important dates occurring throughout the year. The first three in this series – Aries, Taurus and Gemini – are spiritual events of special importance for humanity, but all twelve offer exceptional opportunities for a clearer line of communication between the world of effects and the world of causes, between ourselves and our Creator.

During the Easter Festival the resurrected, living Christ is recognized as the Teacher of humanity and the head of the Spiritual Hierarchy. We recognize the unbreakable tie that the Creator maintains with His creation, that of the Father with His Son, and the vital importance of the Son as an expression of the only possible way to return to the Father's breast: "I and the Father are one" (John:10.30); "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John:14.6).

Beyond the poetic or mystical content of these sentences lies the meaningful essence of a teaching that will only come to those who can understand it as the “word of God,” to those whose awakened intuition can process and assimilate it on the higher planes of consciousness in order to make it come alive for them. Christ has to become a living being, reality itself, so that He becomes the path of return and the abundant life of the Self. This Life must be understood as an eternal continuity, defeating the deceptions of illusion, glamor and maya in any of their forms of expression. We merge with this Life as we move along the path of return in compliance with the supreme Law. Such is the message that Christ gave us twenty centuries ago when, during the course of three years and in the person of His disciple Jesus, we witnessed by His example each of the steps that lead to immortality.

Much has been written about the presence of Jesus Christ on Earth: a cosmic event of such influence that it has divided history into before and after; it has initiated profound changes in humanity’s consciousness and pointed the way to never before imagined spiritual possibilities for humanity. Nevertheless, such writings – with honorable exceptions – have been limited to historical and religious narration, a predominantly mystical vision of Jesus Christ, His disciples and His work, or – according to rationalist minds – the presentation of a being who is basically human, a social agitator, a rebel commander, and who is subject to the limitations and faults of an unredeemed personality.

Only through an intuitive reading of the Holy Scriptures, especially in the light of esoteric teachings, can we come close to the true significance of the events that came to pass during those three years in which we witnessed the public life of a great spiritual Teacher, an Initiate in the cosmic mysteries whose drama was enacted in public view so as to make us participants in its meaning. Humanity at that time was not prepared for comprehending such deeds. For that reason, during the course of 2,000 years, the message has remained in the realm of the occult, mediated through interpretations limited by ignorance and Piscean attitudes. At the end of the Piscean era and the beginning of the Aquarian, we see emerging a new interest in understanding Christ’s message now that we have reached a sufficient mental development. We are urged forward by the need to discover the divine that exists at the heart of the human family.

We are now capable of a new understanding of Christ’s message thanks to the spiritual Teachers who have come forward and whose teachings contain the keys to an interpretation that is adjusted to the essence and transcendence of the happenings of our time. They teach us that our spiritual search ought to be conducted by cultivating the higher qualities of the mind and the development of the intuition, and not through pure devotion. They urge each aspirant to transcend the ordinary, to understand the deeper meaning of events and things, to interpret them and arrive at knowledge. Such is the Law, and for that reason we strive to transcend our ignorance and enter this sublime world of causes.

Thus, as we look at the culminating event of those three years, the Resurrection, we are inclined to understand it as the fundamental reason for all that took place at the time, because the message that encapsulates the Christ’s sojourn on Earth is the message of Life Eternal. From that point of view we see revealed the mystery of Life that negates death, the Light that emerges from darkness, the manifest that is born of the unmanifest. There we have proof of the unity of All. There the illusion of separate worlds is dispelled, the illusion of inexistence, un-beingness and nothingness as concepts of negativity and emptiness. Life emerges triumphant; the Christ-like life illuminates humanity’s path, showing us the future, offering via His life an example of a potential future, a future that is realizable and inevitable.

With the Resurrection, a mission was accomplished simultaneously in both the objective and subjective worlds. Each perceptible event in the world of effects had behind it the cause, the goal, the Laws, Supreme Will. The protagonist in the objective world was a Teacher, recently arrived in the world of human beings, Who manifested in Himself a mastery of Christ consciousness that can only come from the pure spiritual realm. Divine Will is achieved on two levels: at the same time as the Master Jesus publicly undergoes the first five initiations, Christ undergoes the third through the seventh initiations. Jesus Christ is simultaneously the one who transcended the human condition and ac-

quired the privilege of entering the Higher World and the illuminated Being who already dwells in that world by right and divine recognition. That duality converted into Unity is a demonstration of the synthetic capacity of divine Will, and is a stimulus for us to break the rigid patterns that prevent us from comprehending the totality of the One. By presenting Himself to us as a man “born of woman,” and by living His life in our world, showing us the steps that make up the path of return, and reliving the vital crises that mark each stage, Jesus Christ not only taught us about discipleship, but He also demonstrated it as a possibility for humanity. He made us understand that that divinity expressed in Him is also our essence and can be manifested if we follow His example.

During those three years we were shown, one by one, the milestones to be completed on the path of return: the conquest of maya, glamor and illusion in order to transform the personality into the perfect vehicle for the Soul (Birth and Baptism, first and second initiations); the fusion of the Soul and personality in the Transfiguration, or third initiation; and the supreme sacrifice of the Soul, dissipated by divine Will, and the beginning of monadic rule in the fourth initiation of the Crucifixion and apparent Death.

Interpreting the message behind these events, we believe that by sharing with us His experiences Jesus is showing us the path and the stages of realization possible for humanity. He shows us the work that must be completed as incarnate Souls in order to arrive at that expansion of consciousness in which, by having built the Antahkarana – the mental bridge between the higher and lower self, we will enter those realms of the monadic world upon the disappearance of the Soul and the causal body. Each one of these life experiences was demonstrated by the divine Envoy in full sight of humanity, who in some way participated in them from the first to the fourth initiation.

But the culminating moment, the Resurrection, took place without any human witnesses. It was an intimate act inherent to the pure spiritual Being that transcended the limitations of matter and the dual consciousness of the incarnated Son. It revealed that initiation is something exceptional, something that transcends the strictly human condition and that belongs to a higher realm. Behind the teachings about the Resurrection there is a meaning that goes beyond our capacity to understand. Nevertheless, we can't help feeling attracted by that prodigious event that crowns all the public activity of the divine Son. In the intimacy of a closed, dark cavern, an event is gestated during three days that will affect forever our planetary life: the son of man is immortalized as the divine Son. The prototype of the human race, our paradigm, has completed His mission and declares our essential divinity.

Clearly it isn't an event unrelated to humanity. Because even though it takes place in intimacy, suggesting that such a sublime event belongs to a level higher than our daily world, it happens in a place “hewn in the rock” (Matthew 27:60), in the Earth, our habitat, in the density of matter. This important symbolism not only pertains to the human being as a planetary being, but it reminds us of the spiritual condition of matter, a condition that will be liberated throughout a long evolutionary process.

Darkness is the guardian of the essence of the unmanifested One – the point of gestation, of proceeding forth and returning, the center of maximum balanced tension, the “divine darkness” from which light emanates. The darkness that is pure spirit, according to the Master Djwahl Khul, foments the processes of the Revelation, the fifth initiation for Jesus: “This vision concerns the Reality lying beyond any hitherto sensed or known”; and the seventh initiation for the Christ: “freedom from the hold of the phenomenal life of the seven planes of our planetary Life.” (R&I, p. 686)

This double initiation, in which both protagonists experienced expanded consciousness simultaneously, marked the achievement of the main mission They had to bring about according to divine Will: to prove the eternal existence of Life in spite of any apparent limitation. The experience of the previous three years was condensed into these three days. Each expansion of consciousness translated into an initiatory state that created the necessary tension to refine the lower manifestations and bring them to the synthesis of the spiritual Being.

Work on the three levels, personal-Egoic-spiritual, has been accomplished. The triple personality has been harmonized with the Soul and later fused with it. The Monad has accomplished its synthetic work of destroying the causal body, the Soul, which has completed its own mission, and it remains as a nucleus of consciousness that, on reaping what has been sown, flowers in the spiritual Being.

The triple divine qualities of Will-Love-Intelligent Activity are manifested in the mystery of the subjective facts and in the objective events demonstrated to us. As the Tibetan teaches, “Christ did not rise out of a rocky sepulcher and reassume His discarded body.... Christ passed through the seventh initiation of Resurrection and returned back to His original state of Being – to remain there throughout all the eternities. This is the true and final resurrection.” (R&I:730) Also, “The Master Jesus arose out of the tomb; the chains of death could not hold Him.... The consciousness of the Universal Life is His.” (Ibid.) This latter phrase describes to perfection His sublime state.

Such facts should not be separated but understood as part of a single context, because the message is: Life is One, although it manifests on different planes; Life evolves – which explains the different levels – and we, as human beings, are part of that evolution. Thus we have the emphasis on Christ’s example and the teaching we must follow, the teaching that He transmitted up till the end of His mission, opening for us the Path of Higher Evolution in accordance with divine Will.

The message of Christ and His Resurrection must be assimilated into each one’s consciousness, made one’s own, understood and lived. Otherwise our path will end in front of an empty sepulcher. Thus, even though we may not be ready to experience the sacred act of the Resurrection, we see, via one who underwent it, proof that it is indeed possible and is something that, as sons of the Father, we will also someday be able to achieve. Three times Christ clearly demonstrated to His disciples that He had conquered death and that He, Son of the Father, was the Life. He communicated this to them when “He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:22)

Christ presents Himself to us as a Son of the Father, as our Older Brother who goes before us to show us the way. Along the way He shows us that we are an important link in the evolutionary chain and introduces us to the world of relationships, demonstrating the eternal rule of the principle of Love that He represents and that He so frequently emphasized to His disciples.

Love is continuity of Life; it contains all that exists, a global tapestry of threads of energy whose beginning and end is the Creator, the One Cause. In that Life each one of us has his or her place within an invocative-evocative system, an ascending set of steps that rise from the dense world of matter up to the divine. It is a hierarchical world where each kingdom is succeeded by a higher kingdom, where the human kingdom is an important link.

When we accept Christ as our prototype, we know that to attain such status requires reaching ever-higher levels of consciousness, and we understand the world of relationships as governed by a lifting process directed toward a Center. We also accept the existence of a Hierarchy of Masters who have transcended our kingdom and reside in the spiritual realm. The recognition of Their existence links us to Them and orients us definitively toward a higher level in the world of relationships. In this way we play our role as intermediaries between the kingdoms that we have left behind and that kingdom whose door is waiting for us to open it. Such is the assigned task of the human kingdom in the restoration of the Plan

Christ waits for us at the doors of this higher kingdom, since – according to DK – His seventh initiation still remains to be completed. This will occur at His second coming. The cycle that began 2,000 years ago in the sign of Pisces must now end in the sign of Aquarius. The mystery must be revealed. Humanity, as a planetary center, must know how to reap what was sown during that long-ago Spring. The Christ consciousness must flower in each one of us. In that way we will always keep the flame of Life burning, and we will be able to be “the stone upon which Christ will erect His Church.”

