



EASTER EDITION



Dear Friends,

Kathryn and I recently had the pleasure of minding Josh and Seb Huynh while their parents, Kevin and Jenny had a night out. Kevin has been reading C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to the boys. It was my job to read to them the next chapter at bedtime.

We were up to that part of the story where the lion, Aslan has been killed by the Witch. The Pevensie girls, Susan and Lucy, are sad and distraught following Aslan's death, and go to visit the dead lion. They see the stone table upon which Aslan was slain was split into two, and no sign of their beloved lion. When faced with that sight, Susan has a barrage of questions: "Who's done it? What does it mean? Is it magic?"

Unbeknown to the girls, Aslan is just behind them. He responds to Susan's questions: "It is more magic." He then says that the reason he didn't remain dead after being killed by the Witch was because of "the Deep Magic." Aslan explained that when a willing victim who committed no treachery was killed in place of a traitor, "the Table would crack and Death itself would start to work itself backwards."

As I read the story to the boys, I was struck by Lewis' choice of words. The death and resurrection of Aslan is due to "the Deep Magic." Of course, the story of Aslan is based on the Easter story. So, why use the word, 'magic' to explain these strange events?

I suspect C.S. Lewis chose the word, 'magic' deliberately because he wanted to stress that not all things can be explained by human reason or observation. To put it another way, the world is an enchanted place. The inexplicable happens. Neither science nor reason can explain everything.

As Christians, we believe in what Lewis calls "the Deep Magic." That's because we believe in a God who spoke the world into being and whose eternal Son, by taking on our humanity, is both fully God and fully human. Jesus Christ raised the dead, healed the sick, cast out demons, stilled a storm, and walked on water. We believe such things are possible because God is alive and active in our world. That means Christians reject the naturalist assumption that there can be no miracles.

Jesus Christ was raised from the dead because of "the Deep Magic." The resurrection of the Son of God defies and astounds human explanations. Jesus was not simply brought back to life only to die again. Jesus was raised to life never to die again. He was raised with a resurrection body which was of a different quality to his previous body though he was still recognizable and bore the scars from his crucifixion. If you belong to Christ, you too will be raised with the same kind of body when Jesus returns (1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

The resurrection, like the incarnation, is an event in which God directly intervened in human affairs to bring about his purposes. Each event occurred within the course of human history. But they were not the result of nature taking its course or human activity. They are acts from above rather than below. God is the sole explanation.

How are we to respond to the Easter events? When the risen Jesus invited Thomas to place his fingers on his wounds to satisfy himself that he had truly been raised to life, Thomas exclaimed: "My Lord and my God!" (John 20:28)

Thomas' response to the risen Lord Jesus is the only right response. We are to respond with wonder and joy in the belief the crucified Jesus is no mere man. This Jesus is no less than God in the flesh who came to redeem humanity from sin so that we can enjoy eternal fellowship with the Blessed Trinity.

God Bless,
Mark Adams