

## PASSION, DEATH AND RESURRECTION

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Soon Christians will celebrate Easter. We form one third of the world's population, and if we become attuned to the cosmic implications of the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus, we will bring a saving and hope-filled message to our Common Home.

Contemplation of the passion cannot be only a private devotion between Jesus and ourselves. We form one Body of creation, we are children of the earth; all of us are inter-connected, and Jesus, the divine One, is at the centre. His passion, death and resurrection must radiate out through us to all creation. *'We bless you, because by your holy Cross you have redeemed the world.'*

So when we see Jesus enduring his agony we must also see our sisters and brothers who are enduring their own passion: they are now the crucified. We must help to take them down from their crosses and enable them to walk free.

Jesus died to bring freedom to everyone. Christians must *'go and do likewise'*. He fought against every form of domination: sickness, demonic possession, hunger, poverty, hatred, exclusion, social rankings. He challenged the domination of the weak by the religious, political and financial leaders of his day. He fought against the dominion of evil and of death itself, and won a radical victory. Our dream must be in line with his: a domination-free world, a civilisation of care, a true community of common wealth in which all is shared. The glory of God will be achieved only when every person on the planet is enabled to become fully alive.

But not only every *person!* Mother Earth is also enduring its passion. We, the human species, are causing that passion by wiping out other species, by poisoning our oceans and by making our earth a giant rubbish dump. We are called at this holy time to *com-passion* with Nature as it endures its own agony in the garden of our Common Home: we need to feel its anguish as we feel the anguish of Christ. We must no more dominate but rather revere Sister Earth as an equal, not a slave.

Hope is an Easter gift: every move we make to protect our Common Home and bind up its wounds gives a hint of the full resurrection of the Planet. Across the world peoples of all creeds and none are playing their part to restore Earth to health. Easter illuminates everything: it is light for the world. May we be converted so that instead of death we bring life to our Common Home.

*'Let him Easter in us'* – G M Hopkins