

Life & Times of Jesus

The Master Was In Control That Day

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Yes, we see the questions of this heart. Now we would give that which has been withheld that this one might realize the purpose and understand those feels that are inherent within the heart. And we have long awaited opportunity to express that which this heart would wonder concerning those moments that could even pass through the memory in this day when there was the unspoken, but understood promise of the Master Jesus that again they would visit together.

For this is the beloved Gaius, who was a Greek mercenary and in the service of Pontius Pilate, one of those who witnessed the trial of the Christ, and one who even walked with Him toward that hill, the Place of the Skull, Golgotha. And this one stood even on the court of the home of the high priest when the Prophet was so abused. The confusion stood, then, in this heart, and there was the disgust for this nation that he saw as superstitious and emotional, and there was rejection of the Christ Himself.

This one stood in awe of the manhood of the man Jesus, and was impressed by His manner as through the ordeal He was calm and serene. And this one noted with amazement that never did there pass even across His face, nor in His eyes, any look of fear or any temptation toward anger, nor did He ever seem to lose control of the situation. And this one could bear witness, even in this day, that the high priest himself, in facing the man Jesus, was intimidated and frightened, and lashed out, almost as if in self-protection, at a man who apparently stood helpless, but masterfully in control of all that occurred. And this heart, even in this day, bears witness to those words that are not recorded, but this one knows the composure that was the man Jesus as He went before Pontius Pilate. And this one is aware in his heart that the man Pilate had no choice, nor did the others about, for the Christ was in control of all that occurred that night.

This one could remember the journey to the Place of the Skull, only about two miles distant from the place of the trial, and could recall those moments when the wrist of the Master were nailed to the tree, and watched His face in those moments. And it would seem natural for this one to know, though others would deny and not understand, that it was with a smile and blessing on those about that He carried His cross. And unlike those two who were crucified, that He was not held to His cross, but lay Himself on it and willingly spread His arms and accepted the spikes without flinch of pain. And it was in those moments when the spikes were driven through the wrists that they eyes met, for this one deeply searched the face of the Christ for expression of pain or regret. And it was as if in answer to an unasked question that the Christ looked up into his eyes and said, "No, I will not yield."

This one observed as the cross was raised into the air, held over the pit provided, and even dropped into place with the wrists nailed thereto. And he watched for expression of

defeat, but there was none. And again the face of the Christ expressed as He looked upon him, "I am victorious, even in this hour."

It would be known that this one watched and the turmoil of the heart increased as he saw the blessing from the Master pronounced on all those who came about. And he saw the One hanging on the tree reassuring the followers who seemed to suffer more than He. And it was this one who took the reed with a sponge in response to the request of thirst, and dipping it in vinegar and gall for purpose of relieving the pain, he offered it to the lips of Christ. It was with a smile that He refused, as if to say, "I endure pain with no relief."

It was at the cross that the decision was made in this heart that there existed in this man, a Power greater than that he knew. And it was in that moment after the soul had left the body, when the earth began to shake, the sky turned black as pitch, and the waters ran, the graves of the dead were cracked open, and there was much fear in other hearts, that this one stood, looked upon the cross, and vowed to be a servant of Him.

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