



November 26, 2023

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:20



Dear Friends;

Some years ago, the famous English botanist and militant atheist, Richard Dawkins, was on a Swedish talk show. The host asked Richard, *"What is the most common misconception about evolution?"* Dawkins responded, *"That it is a theory of random chance. It obviously can't be a theory of random chance. If it was a theory of random chance, it couldn't possibly explain why all the animals and plants are so beautifully ...well designed."*

He went on to say that Charles Darwin did not believe in random chance. *"What Darwin did was to discover the only known alternative to random chance, which [he thought] was natural selection."* Dawkins left a door open to something intelligent behind the evolutionary process!

The Feast of Christ the King celebrates Jesus as the design which God had in mind, when God created the first humans *"in the divine image and likeness"* (Genesis 1:26-27) God does not have a body, but Jesus does. There is an old philosophical dictum that says, *"The first thing thought of is the last thing to occur."*

Take for example, baking a cake. You first think of the cake. But then you must gather all the ingredients, mix them, and bake them. Eventually the first thing that you thought of emerges from the oven. As Christians, we say that God first thought of an incarnate Son, Jesus and in the fullness of time Jesus was born.

The body that was Jesus is the fruit of billions of years of the chemical, geological, and biological evolution. The universe teaches us that all is interconnected. We ignore that interconnection to our own peril. And the direction of evolutionary creation is revealed in the resurrection of Christ.

In our reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Paul is addressing a community that does not believe in the bodily resurrection. But Paul emphatically stresses the central significance of the resurrection of Christ. Not only Christ but us as well. When he refers to the Risen Christ as the "first fruits" he means that what God has done for Jesus, God can and will do for us.

Creation is headed toward transformation and new life. Jesus will conquer the forces hostile to authentic human existence, and creation that sustains life. Resurrection pertains to the body, as nourishment, clothing, healing, and the like. Our passage from the Gospel of Matthew exhorts us to care for the bodily existence of each other. Because in our present bodies (and I include here all life) lies hidden a future transformed existence.

The Risen Christ who appears in the middle of human history, assures us that God is leading us somewhere good and positive, all the crucifixions to the contrary. God has been leading us since the beginning of time, but now God includes us in the process of the unfolding universe. We are meant to be a new creation and a new kind of human being. Christ is the Divine Radiance at the beginning of the Big Bang and the alluring Love that draws us into a positive future. We have come from Love, and are enveloped by love, as we move toward ever more inclusive Love in Christ, the King of the Universe!

Viva Cristo rey!

fr Ron

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