

Good Friday

This week is the most sacred week in the Christian religious calendar. It began last Sunday which is called Palm Sunday and marks the last entry of Jesus into Jerusalem. He then taught in the Temple for a number of days, and last evening, Thursday, he celebrated the Jewish Passover by having his last supper with his disciples. Today, Friday, called Good Friday, was the day of the crucifixion, and then the week is completed on Sunday, Easter Sunday, with his resurrection.

In some ways we might say that, as seekers, today is the most significant day. Perhaps this is why this tragic day is called Good Friday. It is interpreted in many ways, but the figure of Jesus on the cross marks the helplessness of the ego and its crucifixion or death. But Jesus on the cross with his arms outstretched is not only the symbol of crucifixion and death, it is also the gesture of blessing as well. It marks the great blessing of the death of our ego so that the Spirit within is resurrected in our consciousness.

It is always there. We are not conscious of it, because we have created a false identity which is called the ego. The reason that Good Friday can be called Good Friday is that when we lose the ego, we lose nothing except a falsehood. Our true Self is here now, ever has been here now, ever will be here now. It is that which knows that we have an ego.

Our ego is not what we are. It is an object to us. It is a thought. It is who we think we are. It is, as Gurudev said, a false Mr or Mrs so and so. It is not true. Therefore, Good Friday marks, from this perspective, a blessing: The death of the ego where we find we have lost nothing except a trouble-maker, and we function in the enlightened spirit of the resurrection of Easter.