

DOCTRINE OF THE MIRACLE

by Lester J. Start

Undated

Introduction: Problem of the miracle.

I.

Scientific position destroys it. If it is a violation of law, it is unacceptable - better a mechanism not yet known. Attribute unknown to the bad. - Buddha -

II.

Mechanism is not the only way of understanding universe - see its purpose (Plato). In terms of purpose - miracle is evidence of God's purpose and power.

1) supreme evidence - but not magic.

2) independent of mechanical explanation

sensitivity to the miraculous.

3) power of the spirit.

III.

Miracle of Christ.

1) God breaks into world (mystery).

2) a further dimension for man.

3) world responds to our ideals

4) world reveals purposes of God.

We seek security in a world which is far from secure and try to preserve ourselves by identifying ourselves with the impermanent.

Help us to recapture the glory of Easter in our hearts, for if Christ be risen, but not in us, then there is no light for our darkness, no hope for our fears. Help us to believe that just as Thou didst come as a little child to a world of sin and changed it, so Thy spirit can break through to us and change us. Not by promising us release from the struggle of good against evil, but by giving us the assurance that goodness must indeed reign omnipotent - not by giving us security in a world of things, but by making us secure in the spirit of love which can never lose its own. May we

know that the gentle rule of the Spirit of Christ must break through - we cannot shut him out - that no terror, no destruction, can blot out the light - May we have the assurance of Paul - that neither life nor death. . .

Our Father in heaven, Thou who dost cause Thy light to shine in the darkness, we give Thee thanks for this Lenten season with its assurance that Thou dost indeed touch the world and life of men. We remember with thanksgiving the light of hope which shone over Calvary, and rejoice in the promise it brings that Thy power can and does break through the barrier of our finitude and infuses those who believe in the wonder of Easter with a sense of a new relationship to Thee and a new being in Christ.

We confess, oh God, our need for this assurance. We are creatures of moods, and so often our lower moods rule our spirits. We become depressed with a sense of inadequacy or futility; our efforts seem so often a kind of desperate plodding with no results. Our lives a drab monotony with no cheer. Our resolutions to be faithful are weakened by our doubts and our efforts to be serene sapped by our fears.