

(FOR THE CATHOLIC STUDENT AT NOTRE DAME)

(Deceased) mother-in  
law of Dean McCarthy;  
uncle of Bill Fitzgerald (Z).

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(Ill) mother of Frank  
Walerko (Z); Joseph  
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"He Merely Swooned."

Christ did not really die on the cross. He simply lost consciousness for a time, went into sort of trance. When He was placed in the tomb, and was allowed to rest for a number of hours, His body recovered its strength and His mind cleared. Once consciousness returned, He pushed aside the stone blocking the entrance to the tomb and rejoined His companions. Consequently, it was easy for Christ to give the apostles the impression that He had won a victory over death.

Don't be surprised if you find individuals who try to deny the Resurrection of Christ with this argument. It's an old one. It holds no water. Christ received a terrible scourging, sharp thorns pierced His brow, nails penetrated His hands and feet and held Him upright on a cross, a soldier pierced His side with a sword allowing blood and water to run out. These are the facts. How could any man who was so severely wounded and exhausted from loss of blood have the vigor to move a large stone? This stone was a problem for the healthy women who came to anoint Jesus. Scripture says they wondered how they would be able to roll back the stone, "for it was very great." Every honest mind must reject this hypothesis.

"The Apostles Stole The Body."

The priests who hated Christ had placed soldiers on watch at the tomb after the burial of Our Savior. They had not forgotten the prophecy of Christ: When they approached Pilate for a special guard for the tomb they declared: "We have remembered that that seducer said, while He was yet alive, 'After three days I will rise again.'" Christ rose from the dead in spite of the guards. When the guards reported to their employers what had happened, they were bribed and told to spread the lie that the apostles came by night and stole the body while they slept.

A poor argument. St. Augustine spiked it for all time with his counter-argument: "If the soldiers were asleep, what could they have seen? If they saw nothing what is the value of their testimony?"

"Just Their Imagination."

This argument of modern adversaries falls flat. Christ said He would rise from the dead. The apostles had not forgotten that prediction. The Crucifixion placed these men in a state of terrific excitement. They longed so passionately for the return of their Lord and Master that their minds often created a vision of the risen Savior.

The disciples of Our Lord had no "longing" for the Resurrection. The women who came to anoint Christ would never have started for the tomb if they expected the Resurrection. Mary Magdalen accused the gardener of hiding the body. Thomas, the apostle, would not believe until he had put his finger "into the place of the nails," and his hand "into His side." Christ did not appear to a select group. He appeared to hundreds at various times and circumstances. It is not rational to hold that hallucination existed in all these cases. The facts are too cogent. Christ rose from the dead.

Effect On Your life.

If Christ rose from the dead, then His words are true: He is God and His teachings are to be believed and followed. If Christ rose on the third day, then there is a heaven, and after-life of endless joy, a hell for those who die unrepentant, merit for the cheerful acceptance of suffering and the practice of charity to young and old, black and white; The Resurrection proves that your Faith is not in vain. If you are half-hearted in imitating Christ, sit down and reflect on the Resurrection.