

Read and re-read carefully Mr. Lunn's questions and answers on the....

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Resurrection which is the cornerstone of Christian apologetics.

Did The Disciples Steal The Body?
By Arnold Lunn.

Question XI. What is the answer to the theory that the disciples stole the body of Jesus from the tomb?

Answer. If the disciples had stolen the body of Our Lord they would have known that He had not risen from the dead. Is it conceivable that eleven men would enter into a conspiracy to foist upon the world a monstrous and superfluous lie, when the only consequence of lying was inevitable martyrdom? Men will lie to gain power or to steal or to seduce, but men do not lie merely to invite persecution.

We are always in danger of reading our own views into the past. Remember, the Apostles were converts to Christianity, not born Catholics. And their conversion cost them, not only their lives, but a breach with their friends, relations, and church. The break with Judaism meant as much to them as the break with Catholicism would mean to a convinced Catholic.

The belief in the Resurrection had to be adamant in its strength to transform this heterogeneous collection of peasants from converts into flaming apostles of the new faith.

Did Joseph of Arimathea Take The Body?

Question XII. Well perhaps Joseph of Arimathea removed the body from the tomb.

Answer. This is one of the fantastic alternatives invented by skeptics in extremis. Those who prefer fiction to fact should at least try to make their fiction plausible. We Christians base our views on documents and on facts. The modernist feels under no such necessity. "The Empty Tomb," writes that eminent modernist Professor Kirsopp Lake, "is for us doctrinally indefinable." I do admire the simple faith of these modernists. Miracles don't happen, and any explanation must be accepted rather than a miraculous explanation.

Modernism might be defined as a breezy contempt for the old-fashioned notion that theories must be supported with evidence. No evidence has ever been produced for the Joseph of Arimathea myth. And no modernist has ever thought it necessary to suggest any motive which could induce Joseph of Arimathea to connive in a fraud, the only result of which could be the substitution of an upstart religion resting on an illusion for that Judaism to which Joseph of Arimathea was profoundly attached.

I can imagine Joseph of Arimathea deserting Judaism to worship a Risen Christ, but I cannot begin to understand why he should desire to supplant Judaism by the worship of a Fanatic who had failed.

It is not necessary for the Christian to refute every fantastic alternative, for which no evidence is produced. Even fiction has its ratio of plausibility.

Question XIII. Is it not possible that the belief in the Resurrection originated in mass hallucination?

Left in November: 13 Days.

Do you feel sad when you unconsciously hurt a close friend? Can you then consciously slight a loved one in Purgatory? Friends in Purgatory are unspeakably grateful for prayers, and especially for Masses and Holy Communions. Make up for your thoughtlessness these last thirteen days of November.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Thomas Gleason, friend of Bernard Dobbin; Mr. Michael Birmingham, friend of C. G. MacDougald (Alum.). Ill, Louis Meconi (appendectomy); Sr. Mary Joseph.