

Mass Thurs. of St. Elizabeth, p. 1052. --Ill, grandmother of Tom Doody (Car.)...

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...mother of Martin McGinnis (Lyons); mother of John Goncher (Car.); Sr. Mary Vincent.

Mass Hallucination?
By Arnold Lunn.

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

Answer. People have a glib way of talking about "collective hallucination" as if cases of collective hallucination had been proved beyond all reasonable doubt. Normal people under abnormal conditions and abnormal people under normal conditions suffer from hallucinations, but I do not think that alienists can produce from all the records of hallucination a single example of a collection of normal people being simultaneously affected by a persistent hallucination.

I remember having experienced intermittent hallucinations while I was searching a Pyrenean peak for the body of a friend who had been killed climbing. Again and again I thought I saw a body lying on the rocks or fancied I heard the cries of other members of the party announcing that they had found him. But these hallucinations never lasted. The body faded into the rocks, the shouts into silence. Moreover, note this difference. I was looking for and expecting to find the body of a friend, whereas the disciples were not expecting to see Christ. The disciples on the walk to Emmaus did not even recognize Our Lord when He appeared to them.

And finally note this. We do not need to appeal to the records of the risen Christ in the four gospels for the empty tomb, an objective argument suffices to establish our case. A corpse cannot be "hallucinated" out of a tomb. But if the skeptic appeals to those records, to those records he shall go. Only those who suffer from the collective hallucination of modern skepticism will find it possible to deny the fact that the records in question carry conviction as the evidence of eye witnesses to objective fact.

It is worth mentioning that my friend Mr. Cyril Joad dismissed "collective hallucination" as an incredible explanation. Mr. Joad is an able man and nobody can read his attempt to meet the evidence for the Resurrection in our controversy; Is Christianity True? without realizing that he was acutely aware of the difficulty of the skeptical position. If any Catholic readers of these lines feel the need to reinforce their faith on this supreme issue, I recommend them to read Mr. Joad's half-hearted attempt to discredit one of the best-attested facts in history.

Question XIV. What about the discrepancies in the accounts given in the Gospel record?

The Feller Me Mudder T'inks I Am.
By Will S. Adkin.

Whilst walking down a crowded city street
the other day,
I heard a little urchin to a comrade turn
and say:
"Hi, Chimmie, lemme tell youse, I'd be
happy as a clam,
If only I was the feller dat me mudder
t'inks I am.
She t'inks I am a wonder, and she knows
her little lad
Could never mix wit' nuttin' dat was ugly,
mean or bad,
Oh, lots of times I sit and t'ink how nice
'twould be, gee whiz,
If a feller was de feller dat his mudder
t'inks he is."