

## *Can God Die?*

Warmly, the king said to his Christian vasier (prime minister): “ I love you, I trust you, and I feel satisfied with your advice and wisdom, but the one thing that astonishes me is that you believe that God became a man and that He died for the human race? Isn't that foolish and ignorant?”

The vasier spoke to the king about God's tremendous love and appreciation for man, His longing for man's salvation, and His desire to grant man eternal glory. However, the king could not accept these ideas.

The next day, the king and his vasier were walking in the palace garden. The nanny was walking along side them, holding the baby prince. The vasier snatched the baby away from the nanny and threw him into the deep stream. Without a second thought, the king ran to the stream and was about to dive into the water to save his child. But the vasier stopped him saying, “It is not your child, it is just a doll.”

Then he said to the king “Your majesty, you disregarded your position as a king, wearing the royal crown and the royal gown, and were about to jump into the stream to save your beloved son. Is it possible that you are more loving than God? Why wouldn't God come to the stream of the world, carry us from its waves to save us?”

The king began to realize that God was not the absolute idea of an all-powerful being, but He is also love itself. How then could He not show His love to His children? **After seeing the state of need that His children were in, how could He refuse to descend to their world to die for them?** Only then could He raise them to His divine embrace once again.

### ***THROUGH DEATH HE DESTROYED DEATH!***

St. Ephrem the Syrian likens Satan to a wolf devouring humans one by one until all of humanity loses life by becoming prisoner in his belly. When Satan saw our Lord Jesus Christ as a man, he thought that He was like all other men, so he devoured Him by death. But his belly could not hold Christ the Giver of resurrection and life. Christ destroyed the gates of death and rescued those who believed in Him from eternal death. That is why the Church sings “**by death He trampled over death, and those who were in the graves He granted them eternal life.**”

### ***WHY WOULD SOME REJECT THE DEATH OF CHRIST ON THE CROSS?***

1. Some think that Christians believe in the death of the Divinity. Certainly not! **The incarnate God does not die in divinity but only in the flesh He took.** Death is occurred when the soul departs from the body. The body dies but the soul lives on.
2. Some think that Christ's death on the Cross is weakness. What is not recognized is that He voluntarily died out of His own free will, as He says, “**I lay down My life for the sheep. No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again**” (Jn 10:15,18).
3. Our experience with death is sorrowful and it is often times related to sin and bodily weakness. **But Christ transformed death from being the fruit of sin to being an exceptional work of love.** Through love, He died to break the chains of Hades and to

set us free to ascend to Paradise. His death is our joyful subject. “Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame.” (Heb. 12:2.)

4. The secret of Divine love must be shared. To heal our wounds, God does not use orders to abolish death and forgive humans; He uses His incredible love. He came to share our lives and even our death. He entered the grave to carry us to eternal life.

### ***WHY IS HIS DEATH A NECESSITY?***

The life of our Lord Jesus Christ as pertaining to His birth and His death is like the two facets of our human life, the beginning and the end. This was necessary so that all aspects of His life could be applicable to our lives. St. Irenaeus says: “It was necessary for the power that changes our nature to reach both sides. It was necessary that it touches the start and reaches till the end so that all that’s in between is covered.”

- **Death despised our Lord (the Incarnate God), the Lord in turn despised death making His way to victory.  
He submitted Himself to death willingly, in order to destroy the power of death.  
He carried the cross and submitted to death on it. The moment before He died, He called out and brought death out from Hades! At this instance, death was conquered.  
The divinity hid in the humanity to fight death! So death killed... but then it was killed!  
Death slaughtered natural life, but supernatural life slaughtered it.**

*St. Ephrem the Syrian*

- **As a courageous Shepherd, He took captive the lion that frightened the flock and destroyed the sheepfold. He broke his teeth, took out his claws, shaved his hair, and left him as a toy for kids to play with. It was in this manner that Christ was victorious over death - a source of fear for humanity. He robbed death of its terrifying property.**

*St. John Chrysostom*

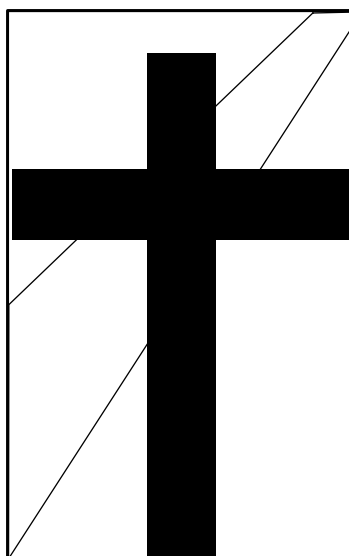
### ***EXTRACTED SWEETNESS OUT OF THE BITTER***

- **He went into the grave as a simple man and came out with the glory of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. As it is written ‘out of the bitter came something sweet’.  
Death is bitter and Jesus is sweet to those who taste Him. So He became a food for all people.**

*St. Jacob of Sarug*

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- **“With Your love, You came to my world, entered my grave with me, so I too wish to carry Your death in my body.” (2 Cor. 4:10).**
- **You shared with me the death of the body to take away the death of the soul and granted me the glorious eternal life.**
- **I feared death and its curse but now I desire it for it is a blessing.  
It is a path to You, my heart’s desire.**



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