

## **EASTER SUNDAY**

**(Mk. 16:1-6) TRACK D 046b**

[Poem Vol. 5, pp. 705-6; Gospel Vol. 10, pp. 243-5]

***(Mary Magdalene is organizing the other women disciples to go with her to the sepulchre to attend to the Body of Jesus. She says to her sister Martha:)***

« ...I will go ahead and have a look. You will follow me with Johanna. I will stand in the middle of the road - should there be any danger - and you will see me. And we will come back. I can assure you that the guards, seeing this (she shows them a purse full of money) will let us do everything... »

(The Magdalene leaves quickly, Salome and Susanna set out along a different road, while Martha and Mary of Alphaeus go separately to Johanna's house...)

It is at this moment that the short but strong earthquake takes place, creating a panic again in the people of Jerusalem, still terrorised by the events of Friday. The three women... remain in [Johanna's] large hall, among maidservants and servants who are howling and imploring the Lord, afraid of new shocks...

The Magdalene, instead, is just on the border of the path to the kitchen garden of Joseph of Arimathea, when she is caught in the powerful and harmonious roar of this heavenly sign. And in the faint rosy light of dawn... a very bright light appears and descends like an incandescent wonderful globe, cutting the calm air in a zigzag course.

Mary of Magdala is almost grazed and thrown on the ground. She bends for a moment whispering: « My Lord! » Then she straightens up like a stalk after the wind has passed by, and she runs towards the kitchen garden even faster.

She enters the garden quickly, and goes towards the sepulchre in the rock - as fast as a bird that is fleeing and looking for its nest. But no matter how fast she runs, she does not arrive before the heavenly meteor, which acts as a lever and as a flame on the seal of lime (placed as a reinforcement for the heavy stone) or before the final crash as the stone door collapses. This causes a shake that joins to the one of the earthquake, and although of a short duration, it is so violent that it knocks the guards down as if they were dead.

When Mary arrives, she sees the useless jailors of the Triumphant One thrown on the ground like a sheaf of mown corn... She falls on her knees saying: « Alas! They have stolen Him! » She is really disconsolate, and weeps like a girl who, being sure that she would find her father whom she was looking for, instead finds the house empty.

She then stands up, and runs to go to Peter and John...

In the meantime Susanna and Salome, after leaving their companions and reaching the walls, are caught in the earthquake. Frightened, they take shelter under a tree and remain there, torn between their desire to go to the Sepulchre or to run to Johanna's house. But love overcomes fear, and they go towards the Sepulchre.

Still frightened, they enter the garden and see the senseless guards... and they see a bright light come out of the open Sepulchre. Their fright increases and reaches its climax

when, holding each other's hand to pluck up courage, they peep in from the threshold and into the dark sepulchra cave. They see a bright and most beautiful creature, smiling kindly and greeting them from the place where it is standing. It is leaning on the right hand side of the anointment stone, which, grey as it is, disappears behind so much incandescent brightness. They fall on their knees, utterly astonished.

But the angel speaks to them gently: « Be not afraid of me. I am the angel of the divine Sorrow. I have come to rejoice at its end. The sorrow of the Christ - His humiliation in death - is over. Jesus of Nazareth, the Crucified Whom you are looking for, has risen from the dead. He is no longer here! The place where He was laid is empty. Rejoice with me ...»