

but not to open it? Originator and Bestower of life, His own sacred remains must rot in deadness! Admit the true character and mission of Jesus and we will believe in His resurrection, not because we are compelled to do so by the stern logic of facts, but because we see it to be easily possible and highly probable.

But as we thus speak we are reminded that even in Mary's case conviction did not perhaps come simultaneously with the sight of the empty tomb. And so we should like to mark a third stage in the progress of her belief.

3. She stood at the grave weeping. In such a frame of mind she will gladly grasp at the first truth offered her touching the whereabouts of her beloved Lord. She forgot herself. She forgot even that she was a reasoning being. She looked longingly into the empty tomb; she gazed hopelessly into the darkness, seeing nothing until the rays of truth shone into that darkness, at the sight of which she rejoiced. She stood there weeping, not speculating. She waited for truth; she did not hasten to make it. She watched for light from without; she did not seek by the light of her own reason to illumine all things around. She longed for an explanation and would accept it even from an angel; she did not hasten to invent one. It is by acting in the opposite direction that we fall into error. We ask God for information, and without awaiting or without heeding His answer we hasten to put words into His mouth and suggest to Him that some things cannot be accomplished except in a certain way. And so many honest men have set aside God's explanation of the resurrection and have sought to suggest better theories.

We are told by some that Jesus never was really dead; that he crawled forth from the tomb half dead, pale, bleeding, and sought shelter and mercy from His disciples during the remaining days of his life. But when we remember the frank account given by so many witnesses whose sincerity we cannot doubt, and especially the spear thrust in the side of the crucified One, we can readily dismiss such an absurd suggestion