

Reflections on Passover and Easter

The Jewish holiday, Passover, and the Christian, holiday, Easter, is celebrated each year. As we move into this traditional Spring holiday period, I would like to do an inquiry into the deeper meaning of these celebrations, and to uncover their esoteric significance.

Passover, or Pesach, commemorates the miracle that occurred when the Jews, who obeyed God's commandment to smear lamb's blood on their door, were spared a plague that was visited on the Egyptians around them. They were "passed over."

Easter celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, on the third day after his crucifixion—a day Christians call Good Friday.

Our webinar today will draw from our new and old writings on these two themes, God's mercy and protection, and resurrection. We will also explore the 12 offerings that activate the altar center of the Moon Soul or Christ Child nucleus of identity.

Offerings upon the Altar of the Heart

When the Jews put lamb's blood on their doors, they were making one of the twelve sacred offerings. There are many allusions to Jesus in the Christian *New Testament* as the Lamb of God, who "was slain for the sins of the world," as an offering to God.

The male lamb, or ram, is the symbol of the astrological sign, Aries, which begins at the vernal equinox. It is the beginning of the astrological year. It also begins the season of Spring, a time of renewal for the Earth.



These themes of the dawning of new life in Spring, the resurrection of the plants from a state of dormancy to new efflorescence, the awakening of the hibernating animals and the return of the migrating birds, and the turning of the barren landscape into glorious displays of vibrant colors—are a part of background of the Easter holiday—which has its parallel in many other celebrations of Spring seen in different cultures.

The Bible mentions twelve kinds of offerings, which represent repentance, personal dedication to God, and expressions of worship and gratitude for the Divine. These are charted below:

	Animal	Meaning	Sign
1	Sheep, lamb (baby), or ram (male)	Forgiveness of sins committed in ignorance (omission)	Aries
2	Bull (male), ox (castrated male), or calf (baby)	Forgiveness of sins committed willfully (commission)	Taurus
3	Frankincense or incense (burnt offerings)	Consecration of the mind; creating a sacred atmosphere	Gemini
4	Turtle dove or pigeon	Consecration of the heart, Devotion	Cancer
5	Offering of life for the service of God	Consecration of life	Leo
6	Money or tithe	Dedication of wealth to the service of God	Virgo
7	Offering of the first fruits of the harvest	Dedication of labor to God	Libra
8	Drink offering, or wine	Sublimation of hormonal essences	Scorpio

	Animal	Meaning	Sign
9	Song, praise, or thanksgiving	Gratitude	Sagittarius
10	Goats	Forgiveness of the sins of the ruler, asking for blessings for the welfare of the community	Capricorn
11	Anointing with oil	Commission for spiritual or religious office, or empowerment as a king or leader	Aquarius
12	Unleavened bread, fine flour, or loaves and fishes	Placing the attention upon the Moon Soul, union with the vesica piscis	Pisces

The complete work of union with the Moon Soul (sanctification) is achieved through connecting these twelve pathways of evocation. This re-alignment is captured in this invocation:

“I ask for forgiveness for any transgressions (sins) that I have committed unknowingly or knowingly.”

“I dedicate my mind, my heart, my life, my wealth, my labor, and my body’s energy to your service.”

“I offer my gratitude, praise, and thanksgiving for your Presence, and for your many blessings in my life.”

“Guide me to be of service to humanity and the kingdoms of Nature. Empower me to carry out your work among men and for your creatures.”

“I meditate upon your presence upon the altar in my heart, which reveals the truths of your Eternal Law, where your Holy Spirit dwells in Glory, and Beauty, and Unbounded Love.”

Divine Protection

The story of Passover recounts how God protected the Jews from the plagues visited upon others. This demonstration of the Divine Protection for those whom He overshadows is echoed in the saying of Kirpal Singh [a teacher in the lineage of my third spiritual teacher], who said that through the Master's mercy, the karmic sentence of the gallows is experienced as a mere pinprick.

Swami Prabhu Maharaj has given us guidance on this topic in the article, "How Masters Protect the Disciple," which is one of the articles that will appear in our upcoming book, *The Winds of Adi Sat Guru Desh.* I excerpt from this article below.

How Masters Protect the Disciple

"Human thought activates the creative matrix of the Subconscious and Superconscious minds, setting into motion the laws governing Kriyaman Karma. The first protection is the modification and dissolution of those thoughts that would bring harm or injury."

"The social collective brings together those of similar beliefs, values, and aspirations. The second protection controls injury or harm by directing the individual to avoid certain locales, and certain types of relationships."

"The astral plenum is inhabited by hosts of spirit beings, many of which do not have positive intentions. The third protection is the armor of light, which is blindingly bright; this repulses negative entities."

"Numerous toxins and unicellular life forms such as protozoa, bacteria, viruses and rickettsia assault the bio-physiological matrix. By controlling the diet and selecting nutritional and herbal support judiciously, the fourth protection provides optimum health, energy and immunity to the limits the constitution permits."

“The home environment is where the chela must build the foundations of his/her spiritual life. The fifth protection anchors the Light in the chela’s home, and builds a spiritual ashram where the chela can commune with the Masters.”

“The spirit, upon entering the Nadamic stream, encounters dark forces of the unconscious. The sixth protection is the overshadowing by the Guide, who reveals the subtle pitfalls on the path, and assists the spirit to avoid them.”

“The ego, when split off from the overshadowing of the humanizing influences of the Self, and the spiritualizing influences of the Soul can become a living demon. The seventh protection is the anchoring of the Divine Will in the Soul, which empowers the Transpersonal and human octaves of the will to control the ego’s rebellion and passions.”

Passing Over

Doing an inquiry on selected themes is one of the tools of Jnana Yoga. If you will indulge me today, I would like to use an inquiry as a heuristic device to penetrate deeper into the mystery of Passover. [The word, heuristic, means to “aid or guide discovery.”] So let us discover together some of the possible other meanings hidden in the phrase, “Passover,” and some feelings they evoke.

If I’m passed over for a promotion, then I feel irritated at my boss, and I don’t feel appreciated.

However, if a military plane passes overhead, it makes me remember that one percent of our population is dedicating their lives to protect the rest of the people in the USA, and I feel gratitude for their service.

If I pass over a bridge, I am going from one place to another: I’m on a journey.

Now a journey is also a metaphor for different passages in my life. I passed from childhood into adolescence, from adolescence to adulthood, adulthood to middle age, and now I move into the final phase of my life.

Now the Soul has its passage into incarnation and the world of time through conception, embryonic development, and birth; and it exits human life through the portal of death. It makes its passage through life; gathering wisdom and ability through my human experiences and the skills I acquire.

On its own Plane, the Soul, too, is making a journey. It is passing over from one level of the Continuum to another. It passes over the bands of the Subtle Realm into the Planetary, and thence into the Transplanetary, Cosmic, Supracosmic, and Transcendental bands on its journey to Mastery and Liberation.



What does the term, Pass Over evoke in you?

What major obstacles in your personal and spiritual life had you had to encounter? Which of these have you *passed through* and successfully mastered? Which of these have you *passed over* and avoided, and they still remain incomplete?

Do you feel that you have been passed over for opportunity and the good things in life? Or do you alternately feel that the hand of Providence has spared you, and has saved you from much of the misery and travail that others experience? Or is it some of both?

Resurrection

The other theme in the Judeo-Christian Spring holiday celebration is Resurrection, or rebirth. I'd like to share with you some more inspirations on this theme from our Swamis. This article is excerpted from Religions, Cults, and Terrorism: What the Heck Are We Doing?

Reflections on Resurrection

By George A. Boyd © 2005

The celebration of Easter in the Christian faith is believed to mark the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We wish to give our thoughts on this subject.

Animation of the Physical Body

A steady stream of life force directed from the Anandamayakosa vehicle animates the human body. This cascades through the Pranamayakosa, the etheric body of the Metaconscious mind, and the astral body of the Subconscious mind. From the astral body, this current pulses through the silver cord to the chakras of the Subconscious mind, and from there, through the pranic thread of the personal unconscious to the medulla center of the physical body. This continuous flow of life force continues through human life until it is withdrawn at the time of death.

At the time of death, this current is extracted from the physical body, which results in physical death. It is then transferred out through the personal unconscious, resulting in the reliving of life experiences. The phenomenon of the Tunnel of Light that is reported by individuals undergoing near-death experiences is likely the life force retracting into the spinal tube of the Subconscious chakras. The life force is subsequently recalled into the astral body.

This astral body is normally lifted up into the dimensional realms of the astral worlds at the time of death, carrying with it the attentional principle. This is the basis of many religions: believing that some aspect of a human being survives death and remains conscious during that transition.

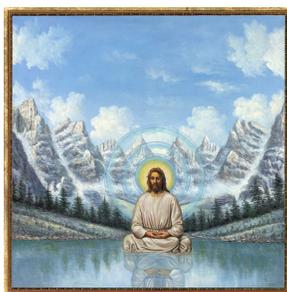
The other work of dying is the retreat of life force from the Subconscious and Metaconscious minds, de-activating the personality of the individual, as it was incarnate in the preceding human life. This deeper aspect of de-animation is through the etheric and Pranamayakosa vehicles, up to the fountain of life force in the Anandamayakosa.

Reincarnation

Reincarnation is the re-energizing of these life force channels to connect with a new physical body. This descent into embodiment connects through the pranic thread of the new physical body and the astral body is realigned with this new form.

In the new life, a new personality is constructed upon the empty shell of the old—in effect, building on the development of the former life. The subsequent life involves a relearning and rediscovery of the innate essence that animated the former life.

On the spiritual path, there are certain stations where an individual gains powers to control the life force. This gives rise to healing ability and, in its consummate stages, the ability to reanimate the physical body from death. This can be demonstrated on the Initiate's own body and the bodies of others.



Beliefs about Resurrection

In the Abrahamic faiths of Christianity and Islam, there is a belief in the resurrection of the dead after a Universal Last Judgment.

Some sects believe in this quite literally, even suggesting that bodies long dead, now decomposed into skeletons, will become animated, crawl out of their graves and will somehow become miraculously reassembled into flesh-and-blood copies of their former selves. [Is this the Zombie Apocalypse?]

Other sects believe that this resurrection will be into a glorified inner form, the vehicle of their ensouling entity as it appears on their band of the Great Continuum of Consciousness. The believer, upon resurrection in this model, awakens to discover him or her self, dwelling in a glorified body in a heavenly realm.

Still other sects describe resurrection as being the action of the Kundalini Shakti, which progressively awakens, revivifies, purifies and activates each vehicle, culminating in the awakening of the vehicle in which the ensouling entity dwells.

This resurrection [via kundalini awakening] confers Enlightenment (the essential realization of the ensouling entity in its own nature), Empowerment (the essential activation of the ensouling entity's abilities), and Gnosis (the essential recognition of the Soul as having immortality and eternality). Viewed in this model, Jesus' statement in the *Bible*, "I am the resurrection and the life" would identify Jesus as an Adept who had full Mastery over the awakening of the Kundalini Shakti.

Immortality and Reincarnation

A model that denies reincarnation and reanimation of a new physical body must therefore look to immortality as

1. Miraculous resurrection (e.g., after a Universal Last Judgment)
2. Survival of consciousness in the astral form
3. Awakening as an immortal celestial form in a heavenly realm

Those traditions that have studied the working of the life force in the inner vehicles, however, do not see reincarnation or reanimation of another physical form as anything other than the working of Nature's more subtle laws governing "lifetronic matter" or "pranic energy."

They further recognize that, in certain universal states of consciousness, the Initiate may demonstrate Mastery over life force to effect healing, or even reanimation of a recently deceased corpse. Adepts perform these works with no more surprise or difficulty than a common man turns on a light-switch to operate a light bulb with electricity.

The Gentle Art of Resurrection

To perform resurrection, the Initiate must have united with the universal pranic reservoir (Pranavam), and have developed the power in the Superconscious mind (siddhi) to direct prana within the Anandamayakosa vehicle of others.

Jesus was one Initiate who allegedly had this power. Masters of other traditions purportedly have also demonstrated this same miraculous ability.

Supposedly, if this siddhi is exercised within seven days under specialized climactic conditions (extreme cold, immersion in humic matter, or desiccation under desert conditions), then the bacterial decomposition of the brain stem and cortex and massive neural cell death may be slowed sufficiently to permit reanimation.

Medical science does assert that if the necessary conditions for cellular life are re-established (respiration, circulation of the blood, and activation of the vegetative centers of the brain stem), it is possible to resuscitate an individual from clinical death. This has been demonstrated again and again.

But this is not always effective. While the lungs may be suffused by oxygen, the blood pumped by machine, and the heartbeat re-started by injection of epinephrine, the individual does not always come back to life, despite these heroic measures.

What mystics and yogis claim is missing in this medical model, is the current of life, the prana. If we can understand this force, learn to harness it, and ultimately control it, the power of resurrection becomes possible.

Themes of Resurrection in the Planetary Initiations

Several themes of resurrection appear in the Planetary Realm Initiations. These are shown below:

Octave	Theme
VII	Soul uniting with the Monad. The emergence of the Adept.
VI	Attention merging with the spirit upon the 4th Nadamic Path. Awakening of a higher love.
V	The Solar Angel ascending into the abode of the Ascended Masters. Assumption of power through the Word.
IV	The Kundalini Shakti awakening the Moon Soul. Conscious rebirth as a child of God. Empowerment of the gifts of the spirit by infilling by the Holy Spirit.
III	The mystery of death and rebirth personified in the life of a savior archetype, e.g., Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the tomb. This esoterically represents the Soul's transition from the Wisdom Plane to the First Planetary Initiation. It is used in exoteric Christian sects to activate the Moon Soul, which is veiled behind this mystery.

Octave	Theme
II	The awakening of love in the human heart, giving rise to new creativity, new relations with others and reformed character. The opening of the 3rd Nadamic Path.
I	The renaissance of Nature in Spring, as efflorescence, awakening from dormancy and the resurgence of beauty and new life. Nature as metaphor.

Sects of the Christian religions have emphasized octaves II, III and IV in their ministry to the minds and spirits of humanity. The awakening of love, the contemplation of mystery and the activation of faith and new power to augment living are central themes of resurrection in these congregations.

The broader perspective of the higher initiations show us that the theme of resurrection is revisited again as the spirit and the Soul make their ascension into Adepthood. Octave V is encountered during the Second Planetary Initiation, Octave VI at the entrance to the Third Planetary Initiation and Octave VII is the culmination of the Fifth Planetary Initiation.

The Spring Equinox, marked by the Sun entering the sign of Aries, has given rise to a wide variety of rites celebrating the Renaissance of Nature. The first full moon in Spring has traditionally been observed as Easter, sacred to Christians around the world. In the esoteric schools, this same astrological marker is known as the Festival of the Christ.

Wayfarers upon the path undergo each of resurrections II through VII. It is important to meditate upon these themes as that you may understand the deeper meaning behind the metaphor of renaissance so beautifully unveiled in the bowers of Nature.

Thank you for attending our webinar today!

