



April 17, 2022

"Return of the Gardener"

John 20:11-18

The Power of Allusion

Supposing Him to be the gardener: John 20:15

See the garden allusion also in John 18:1, 19:41

The Garden of Eden allusion web

Separation of God, failed human destiny

The Return of the Divine Gardener

By virtue of His resurrection, Jesus is shown to be God: Romans 1:4

God the Creator is back in the Garden

The swinging-sword cherubim no longer guarding access to Life

Notice the reversal from the story in Genesis 3

The Divine Gardener speaks recognition into being: "Mary!"

The source of Life is available again to her and to us

The Return of Adam the Gardener

By virtue of His perfect obedience, Jesus proves Himself the second Adam: 1 Cor 15:45

He perfectly fulfilled what humanity is supposed to be

The Devil-usurped authority (see John 14:30; Luke 4:6) is back in human hands

The resurrection of Jesus is the first fruit of the new creation: 1 Cor 15:23

The healing of the entire cosmos will follow! (see Romans 8:20-21; 2 Peter 3:13; Rev 21: 1-5)

My God, Your God, My Father, Your Father, tell my brothers: John 20:17

We are invited to join the new human creation with Jesus!

The Way, the Truth, and the Life: John 14:6

Jesus is the source of Life and both models the way to reach it and enables us to reach it

Fullness of life comes by leaving the old creation and being born into the new creation

Do not cling to me (John 20:17): do not hold on to what is passing away

Easter is not about avoiding death but overcoming death by going through it

Clinging to Jesus, the ascended Death-Overcomer Who brings us into the new!

Every baptism paints this picture!

How? By laying ourselves in the wheelbarrow of the Divine Gardener/Second Adam

Death of the old creation happens in layers as does being clothed in life

I should be glad of another death.

But had thought they were different; this Birth was
Hard and bitter agony for us, like Death, our death.
We returned to our places, these Kingdoms,
But no longer at ease here, in the old dispensation,
With an alien people clutching their gods.
I should be glad of another death.

Eustace and the Dragonskin

"Then the lion said — but I don't know if it spoke — You will have to let me undress you. I was afraid of his claws, I can tell you, but I was pretty nearly desperate now. So I just lay flat down on my back to let him do it.

"The very first tear he made was so deep that I thought it had gone right into my heart. And when he began pulling the skin off, it hurt worse than anything I've ever felt. The only thing that made me able to bear it was just the pleasure of feeling the stuff peel off. You know — if you've ever picked the scab of a sore place. It hurts like billy-oh but it *is* such fun to see it coming away."

"I know exactly what you mean," said Edmund.

"Well, he peeled the beastly stuff right off — just as I thought I'd done it myself the other three times, only they hadn't hurt — and there it was lying on the grass, only ever so much thicker, and darker, and more knobbly-looking than the others had been. And there was I smooth and soft as a peeled switch and smaller than I had been. Then he caught hold of me — I didn't like that much for I was very tender underneath now that I'd no skin on — and threw me into the water. It smarted like anything but only for a moment. After that it became perfectly delicious and as soon as I started swimming and

splashing I found that all the pain had gone from my arm. And then I saw why. I'd turned into a boy again. . . ."