



MEDITATIONS FOR LENT by Father Robbie Low

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

The Cross, which overshadows all on the road to Jerusalem on earth and above, is an absurdity to the Jews because the Law dictates that a man who is hanged on a tree is 'cursed' by God. How can this Man be the Messiah then?

To the follower of Mohammed the Cross is, at once, an absurdity, God's prophet (Jesus) does not perish this way – nor, of course, is He the Son of God. In Koranic interpretation there is a substitution of Jesus for another. The Unitarian theology cannot allow the persons of the Godhead to exist never mind suffer in the body of Man.

Strangely, the one place which might have given a sympathetic hearing to this bizarre theology of a 'suffering saviour' is the brutal religion of the old Norse gods. For there Odin, chief of the gods, hangs himself upside down on the great world tree Yggdrasill in order to gain wisdom.

In Christianity the very wisdom Himself hangs on a tree that all may come and know the sacrificial heart of God and His intention for our salvation.

The Cross becomes not only the central and sacred place of our redemption but the very crossroads of human history, the decision place of every mortal journey. In Odin, the hard won wisdom does not prevail. The battle of the end time, Ragnarok, ends in the twilight of the gods.

On Calvary, the battle ends in the victory over the powers of death and Hell, the liberation of fallen Man and the re-establishment of his eternal destiny.

It is for this reason that every altar in Christendom bears the sign of that victory and every celebration proclaims it.

'Lift high the Cross....the love of Christ proclaim.'

Spiritual exercise: Find three words to describe your reaction to Calvary