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## NOT DEAD, BUT SLEEPETH

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“Why should it be thought a thing incredible with you, that God should raise the dead?” said Paul. I shall tell you of a man who was raised from the dead. Let me first say however that no one was ever raised from the dead. It was not because Jesus said so that Lazarus lived, but it was because Lazarus lived that Jesus said so. The Master said “God is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto Him,” and he preceded this statement by saying “God is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” Now these men had been regarded as dead for hundreds of years, therefore the point made was that if God was not the God of the dead and was in fact the God of these men, then in spite of all human evidence to the contrary, they could not be dead. Again he said, “The maid is not dead, but sleepeth,” whereupon the onlookers “laughed him to scorn,” but he proved the point by presenting the little maid alive to her father and mother. Science and Health (75) says in furtherance of this point: “Had Jesus believed that Lazarus had lived or died in his body, the Master would have stood on the same plane of belief as those who buried the body, and he could not have resuscitated it” which bears out Jesus’ own statement, “Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.” However lest the reader may think that this man of whom I shall write was in some sort of coma or suspended animation and not dead, let me say that this man was just as dead as Abraham, Isaac, or Jacob, though not for so long a time.

The Christ said, “I am the resurrection and the Life, he that believeth in ME, though he were dead, yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in ME shall never die.” The textbook says on pages 27 and 494: “Jesus said, ‘Destroy this temple (body), and in three days I (Spirit or Mind) will raise it up.’” The “I”, Spirit, Mind or God, will raise up the body. On that occasion when the person had become unconscious in what humanity called death, the Spirit of Christ went marching on and raised the body of Jesus

to life again. Happily it was true that God is not the God of the dead but of the living. We shall see too how on another modern occasion the Spirit of Christ came marching on and raised a man from the dead also.

The man's name was Nehemiah Brewster and he lived with his mother and sister in Flushing, Long Island, a few doors off Northern Boulevard, on Whitestone Road. Today, years afterwards, he is employed by one of the great industries in New York, a perfectly well man and with perfect use of his hand and fingers. One night he was aroused by a noise. He got up and looked out into the hall. Nothing there. He thought he would go into the bathroom, so he walked along the dark hall and stretched out his hand to throw the electric switch, but as he did so, he was seized and grappled with presumably by a burglar, who shoved a gun into his stomach and threatened to shoot if he stopped him from escaping. The young man wrestled with him and refused to let him go, and in the dark both fell downstairs. In the *mélee*, the burglar escaped through the front door but meanwhile the gun exploded and the bullet went through the young fellow Brewster's forearm, blowing out the arteries, sinews and muscles and the blood spurted about like a fountain.

His mother and sister, hearing the noise, went to him, carried him bleeding profusely to the bathroom; his mother bound up the gaping wound and staunched the blood as best she could, while the daughter telephoned for the police—who were unable to do anything inasmuch as the burglar had escaped—to a surgeon and to a Christian Science practitioner. The surgeon came immediately and finding the wound well taken care of did nothing further and returned each day for several days. Meanwhile the practitioner maintained the light of the Christ as well as he knew how to do. Apparently everything was going on all right.

At this time the mother telephoned the practitioner saying the surgeon feared that perhaps some exertion might reopen the arteries and endanger the boy's life, and recommended that he be taken to a hospital and have the ends of the arteries closed, to which the practitioner consented. At the same time he sent this message to her son, which she delivered and which he carried out,

**“Tell your son that when he is about to lose consciousness under the anaesthetic to turn to God and do as Jesus did when he was about to lose consciousness on the cross and say to God, ‘Father into thy hands I commend my spirit.’ ”**

The young man was carried to the hospital and there laid on the operating table, anaesthetized and the wound was opened preparatory to tying the ends of the arteries. At this point the surgeon noticed that the blood had stopped circulating and the boy was dead! He had died of a weak heart on the operating table! Quickly they took the ether from the young man and endeavored to revivify him. Every known thing was done to resuscitate him, but to no avail, and finally they pronounced him dead, laid the body away and telephoned his mother that the boy had died and to arrange to remove the body.

All material streams had indeed dried, the doctors and nurses had given up, hope was gone, every material remedy and device had failed, and humanity had turned away helpless.

It was then that the Soul, the Spirit of Christ, came marching on and unhelped by human hand or personality, vindicated its claim that “I am the resurrection and the Life” and in the course of an half hour or more, the boy came back to life, his mother arrived and took him home. There he completely recovered. Those arteries were never sewn up or tied, and his hand and fingers which the surgeon said could never be used again due to the destruction of the sinews and muscles, became perfectly normal and strong. The young man was well.

**“Now unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”**