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Big Words

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Big Words

"Alleluia" and "resurrection" are not every-day words found in the common media; they are only used in relation to some specific religious celebrations. They are not lengthy words, but for those who not only use them, but also reflect on them, their grand-sized meanings, both rational and affective, will become apparent.

Not everyone enjoys singing out loud in public, even in a church service. But for most, saying or singing "alleluia" with no least sense of joy, would be similar to saying "thank you," but with a frown: contradictory, a disconnect between word-meaning and intention. Alleluia is, at best, an expression of both gratitude and praise directed to God. Though we could use the word in non-religious contexts of joy, alleluia is a kind of "place-holder" for inserting any one of the whole range of possible human responses to the perceived goodness of God that we might experience.

We might speak or sing alleluia in some forms of ritual communal worship where written texts are used, but having become accustomed to its usage, we are free to use the word in spontaneous personal utterances both within and outside of formal religious contexts. Where some of us might say "wow," or "awesome," we might as readily say "alleluia!" Depending upon who is with us at the time, and our estimate of how they might interpret our manifestation of joy, we might select one or other word. When it is a matter of internal words that only we perceive, we tend to use those that best express our feelings.

While we can freely use "alleluia" in whatever context we choose, "resurrection" has only one meaning and one use in the entire universe. Science has much to say about the "Big Bang" as a unique event, the start of the universe. But the physical sciences have nothing to say about either the origin of the "Big Bang" or the Resurrection of Jesus. There are no video recordings of either event, but there are many witnesses in this present age who can say with assurance that however the universe began, it exists because Love chose that it would be, and that one and only one person, Jesus Christ, fully human and always God, died a human death and rose in the same divine power of Love: "The Resurrection."

The days pass seemingly the same both for those who believe in creation and those who do not; for those who accept Jesus as God and human who was killed but is forever alive, and those who do not. And however much people like to prove that they are right, we have no coercive reasons for believing or not believing. However, we have a capacity to detect, notice, and agree with some thoughts that are accompanied by feelings of peace,

accord, refreshment, and even transcendence. And by that same capacity, we can detect, notice, and disagree with some thoughts that are directly connected with a slight tightness and hardening of heart, and also a diminishing sense of our value and of everyone else's. As a way of confirming what we have learned through careful observation of our interior movements, we could entertain the opposite thought in mind, and take note of whatever affective movement it elicits within us.

We can try a simple experiment: How do we feel, if we quietly allow these words some space in our minds: "Alleluia, Christ who was dead is alive." We might even be able to peacefully entertain the thought of "Resurrection."