

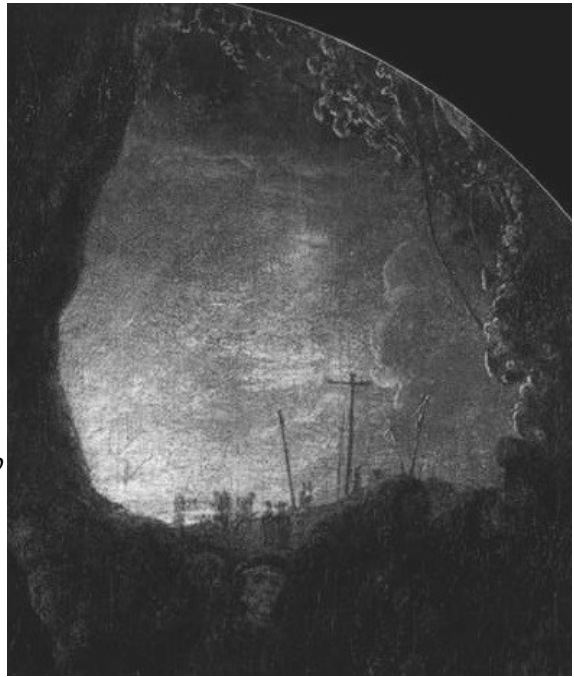
Holy Saturday

Be still, then, and know that I am God. - Psalm 46:11

When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who was also a disciple of Jesus. He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus; then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. So Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen cloth and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had hewn in the rock. He then rolled a great stone to the door of the tomb and went away. Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate and said, "Sir, we remember what that impostor said while he was still alive, 'After three days I will rise again.' Therefore command the tomb to be made secure until the third day; otherwise his disciples may go and steal him away, and tell the people, 'He has been raised from the dead,' and the last deception would be worse than the first." Pilate said to them, "You have a guard of soldiers; go, make it as secure as you can." So they went with the guard and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone.

-Matthew 27:57-66



detail from The Entombment of Christ, Rembrandt

Meditation

On this day we enter the Holy of Holies of prayer through the torn veil of the temple - only to meet God's Silence. Like the top of the intake of breath before exhaling, the day hangs in stillness between moments – between Good Friday and Easter, as between one phase of life and the next. The church calls this God's "Great Sabbath." For us, Jesus is dead and not yet risen. Finding holiness on this day is the great challenge, but it is good practice for the times in our life when God seems absent. -sg

What does the powerful Nothingness mean? For it is meaningful, exceedingly meaningful. It is not just a matter of "waiting." This is a high symbol, indeed the symbol to which everything else has led. All the exercises of Lent, all the concentration of Holy Week, all the final abandonments of Good Friday are intended to bring us to this Great Nothing. It is our way of pointing to that which cannot be said; this is why the Word is gone. There is no object outside us on which we may fasten. Nothing to observe, nothing happening, nothing to do. Our usual, finite, comparative, means-to-end activity is suspended. We are in the presence of the Infinite; we are in fact in the Infinite.

*- Beatrice Bruteau 1930-2014
The Easter Mysteries*

The most beautiful words, those that give the most genuine help, are often born in a silence filled with suffering. Silence is the glowing furnace of the word, the forge of true speech and sensitivity.

-Ladislaus Boros 1927-1981

Prayer

O God, Creator of heaven and earth: Grant that, as the crucified body of your dear Son was laid in the tomb and rested on this holy Sabbath, so we may await with him the coming of the third day, and rise with him to newness of life; who now lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen