

THE MIRACLE OF THE GOD-MAN

Mr. Steele:--Your subject today sounds very interesting, Dr. MacRae. I'm sure that if a person did not have a Christian background he would be quite ignorant as to what could possibly be meant by the term "the God-man."

Dr. MacRae:--You are entirely right, Mr. Steele. This is a subject that is unique to Christianity. Other religions have been founded by men who claimed to be great teachers. Sometimes it has been believed that the great teacher was made into a god after his death, but this is altogether different from what Christianity means by its idea of the God-man.

Jesus was wonderful teacher, but the center of Christianity is not the teaching of Jesus. It is not even the marvelous life of Jesus. Christianity holds that Jesus, while being a thoroughly normal man--one who was human in every way--was at the same time actually God, the Second Person of the Trinity. This is clearly a miracle. No man can clearly understand how it could be, but this is what the Bible teaches and what Christians have always believed.

Mr. Steele:--Even those who do not accept this theology generally have a high regard for the person of Jesus Christ.

Dr. MacRae:--Yes, that is right. It is amazing to scan the roster of those individuals who have expressed great regard for Jesus Christ. Goethe, the most universal and finished, but at the same time the most worldly and self-sufficient of all modern poets, calls Christ 'the Divine Man,' 'The Holy One,' and represents Him as the pattern and model of humanity. We think also of the statement that Napoleon made toward the end of his life. Would you please read us a part of it, Mr. Steele?

Mr. Steele:--"Alexander, Caesar, Charlemagne and myself, have founded empires. But on what did we rest the creations of our genius? Upon force! Jesus Christ alone founded His empire upon love: and at this hour millions of men would die for Him. I have so inspired multitudes that they would die for me--but, after all, my presence was necessary--the lightning of my eye, my voice, a word from me--then the sacred fire was kindled in their hearts. Now, that I am at St. Helena, alone, chained upon this rock, who fights and wins empires for me? What an abyss between my deep misery and the eternal reign of Christ, who is proclaimed, loved, adored, and whose reign is extending over all the earth!"

Dr. MacRae:--Similar statements have been made by many people, even by some who were hostile to the entire theology of Christianity. Thus Rousseau said: "Where could Jesus learn, among his competitors, that pure and sublime morality, of which he only has given us both precept and example?...If the life and death of Socrates were those of a sage, the life and death of Jesus were those of a God." Renan said, "Jesus will never be surpassed."

The character of Christ is quite unique. Jesus Christ could face the multitude and say: "Which of you convinceth me of sin?" (John 8:46) In the mouth of someone else these words would sound like extreme egotism. In His mouth, they were perfectly natural because He lived a life that was superior to that of any other man who ever lived. Even those who do not accept the theology of Christ tend to accept His wonderful teachings as the very finest that the world has ever produced. His character is without