

About the Resurrection

from *Jesus, Symbol of God* by Roger Haight, Orbis Books, 1999

“What happened to Jesus in and through his death and resurrection is transcendent; it is an eschatological reality that transpired in a region that is not circumscribed by the physicality of the finite world. Jesus was not, as far as we know, transferred to another space and time. Because being exalted is transcendent, the term "resurrection" is symbolic in pointing attention to another order of reality, that of existing within the creator God's own life, which cannot be grasped directly or immediately. Being resurrected is an object of faith-hope: faith, as an engaged commitment to the reality symbolized in the story of Jesus; hope, as openness to the future, and as involving concern about one's own destiny. At their source in the human spirit as such, at the core of human openness to all reality and to the future, faith and hope are identical. Faith in the message of Jesus and hope for absolute being with God form the ground of the recognition of the resurrection of Jesus.

This faith-hope fully engages and is partly driven by the creative side of the imagination. The sheer openness to reality that characterized the human spirit is channeled through the imagination to envisage possibilities that transcend actuality. Here the imagination “sees” real possibilities on the basis of creative extrapolation from the present. In this dynamic sense, faith-hope in the resurrection gains expression as a function of the creative imagination.” P. 125