

CRUCIFIX

A PECULIAR IDEA ONCE TROUBLED A CERTAIN AUTHOR. HE WISHED TO WRITE A BOOK, HAVING ONLY ONE PAGE; ON THIS PAGE THERE SHOULD BE ONLY ONE SENTENCE: THIS SENTENCE SHOULD CONSIST OF ONLY ONE WORD, AND THIS WORD SHOULD SUM UP ALL THAT THE WRITER HAD TO SAY. HE WAS FRETTED FOR A LONG TIME OVER THE PROBLEM, TILL AT LAST HE WAS FORCED TO THE CONCLUSION THAT HIS AIM WAS BEYOND THE POSSIBILITIES OF HUMAN LANGUAGE. WHAT WAS REGARDED IMPOSSIBLE BY THE AUTHOR, HAS BEEN SOLVED BY OUR CREED, SUMMING UP IN THE WORD CRUCIFIXUS REASON AND REVELATION, GOD'S PLAN AND MAN'S DESTINY. CHRIST ON THE CROSS IS A FRAME FOR ALL THE WANDERINGS OF THE HUMAN RACE, FROM THE PREVARICATION OF ADAM AND EVE IN PARADISE, TO THE FINAL STAGES OF THE BLESSED IN HEAVEN AND OF THE DAMNED IN HELL. NAILED TO THE CROSS IS HE WHOM SIMEON FORETOLD TO BE SET FOR A SIGN OF CONTRADICTION. CHRIST ON THE CROSS IS UNTO THE JEWS INDEED A STUMBLING BLOCK, UNTO THE GENTILES FOOLISHNESS, BUT UNTO THEM, THAT ARE CALLED, THE POWER AND WISDOM OF GOD. ON THE CROSS CAME THE HOUR WHEN CHRIST DELIVERED HIMSELF FOR US AN OBLATION AND A SACRIFICE TO GOD, FOR AN ODOR OF SWEETNESS. DURING THIS LENTEN SEASON, LET US STAND WITH RECEPTIVE SOULS, AT THE FOOT OF OUR LORD'S CROSS, THAT WE MAY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE CROSS MEANS TO US, NAMELY THE LIGHT, THAT GUIDES OUR PATH AND THE INSTRUMENT OF EVERLASTING LIFE.