

## Why are you crying?



*Tears of Christ  
Ex-collegiate  
Saints Cosmas and Damian  
Covarrubias - Spain*

In his well-known book, *The Little Prince*, Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, says that *the land of tears* is very mysterious. These tears that we sometimes hide are the lot of so many of us! And it is good for us to see that Jesus is no stranger to this *land of tears*. True God and true man, he experienced heartbreak at the loss of a loved one.

Indeed, the pages of the Gospel never describe the laughter of Jesus to us. This does not mean that our Savior never laughed, of course, but Evangelists have preferred to emphasize other emotions or attitudes. Thus, we see him cry, several times. One of them concerns the death of his friend Lazarus. Like any man, he expresses his suffering at the loss of the one he loves. Seeing Jesus cry is both overwhelming and consoling. He, the master of Life, weeps like us, before the unjust death that strikes those we love.

Why then does he seem almost surprised at the tears of others? Does he not say to Mary Magdalene, on the morning of the Resurrection, *why are you crying?* Did Jesus become callous and distant? Quite the contrary! He who has shed tears over those he loves knows the cost of tears. By crying, in a way, he comes to take on our tears. He bears them and gives them all their value, their weight of existence and love.

He comes to ask us: *Why are you crying?*

It is up to us to answer him: *I cry, Lord, for the death of a friend, the loss of illusions or anything else... You who cried for your friend Lazarus, Lord, come and change my tears of sadness into tears of joy. You alone can do it, Lord! Give me the deep joy that your resurrection brings to the world!*

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