

THE SECRET OF THE ROLLED-AWAY STONE

Mk 16,1-7

For Personal Prayer

I RAISE MY EYES... (Psalm 121)

*I raise my eyes toward the mountains,
from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.*

*God will not allow your foot to slip; your guardian does not sleep.
Truly, the guardian of Israel never slumbers nor sleeps.*



*The Lord is your guardian,
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
By day the sun cannot harm you, nor the moon by night.
The Lord will guard you from all evil,
will always guard your life.
The Lord will guard your coming and going
both now and forever.*

For Personal Reflection

“Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?” (Mk. 16:3) This was the big question on Easter morning—a question that has recurred continually throughout human history. Laden with spices, the women went to the tomb of Jesus early in the morning so as to “end” his story with the most dignity and honor possible. But the light of dawn tinging the horizon was already a sign that a new time was beginning—an unprecedented time: the time of God! God intervenes in our lives when we no longer dare to hope, when we come face to face with our weakness, when we are no longer able to welcome the surprises that the future holds. In actual fact, none of us is able to remove the “stone”—no matter what it is—that blocks us. It only rolls away when we dare to “raise our eyes”....

“But when they looked up, they saw that the stone—which was very big—had already been rolled back” (Mk. 16:4). The secret of the rolled-away stone lies in the phrase “to look up” (from the Greek *anablepo*: to raise one’s eyes; to regain one’s vision; to go beyond appearances). Our horizon expands only when we have the courage to look up, that is to say, to look to God. Only then does the impossible become possible. Only then does looking become seeing and the invisible, visible. Only then is death transformed into life. Only then is a casual encounter transformed into love. The very gaze of Jesus speaks volumes to us: “Looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, ‘Ephphatha,’ that is, ‘Be opened’” (Mk 7:34).

