The Easter "Passage" to Which We Are All Called

Mario J. Paredes
-2026-

Jews and Christians celebrate the twin Paschal feasts each year—Passover and Easter. *"Pascua,"* a Spanish word meaning *"Easter"* and *"Passover,"* comes from a ***word of Hebrew origin, "pesah," meaning a "leap" or "passage."*** Jews commemorate their "passage" through the Red Sea, their deliverance from Egypt, and all that that event has represented for the Israelites, from the Old Testament through today. With the feast of Easter, we Christians commemorate the principal confession of our faith: the Resurrection of the Crucified One, Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Son of God, and his "passage" from death to life, the victory of good over evil, the triumph of the plan for the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth, from the old to the new, from a life as slaves to a life as children, from the old laws to the fullness of a new law built upon a new commandment: love.

No matter the creed each person professes, Easter is a celebration with deep meaning ***and anthropological and social messages*** of great importance that inspire every human being.

Easter, primarily, teaches us that ***the end is not the end***. If the cross symbolizes suffering, the apparent victory of evil over good, the apparent failure of every human project, and chaos and destruction as each human being's destiny, Easter confesses that disruption is possible and that there is always a new opportunity on earth.

Easter offers us an inverse narrative to entropy, disorder, and chaos. Easter is the celebration of our ***life force***, of recovery from trauma, of resilience, of optimism against pessimism, of meaning against meaninglessness and absurdity. Therefore, Easter invites us all to bet on life, in all its forms and manifestations, on death; even when wars, climate crises, injustices, violence, and all kinds of conflicts and anxieties suggest that all is lost.

If the unjust condemnation imposed on Jesus of Nazareth had been forgotten along with his passion and death on the cross, injustice would have had the last word. Easter is the ***validation of the innocent victim***. Easter represents the hope for the triumph of Truth, of

patient and stubborn persistence in the Truth, the triumph of ethics, and of the best human values over brute force, the vindication of sure triumph, and, in the end, of the best human struggles for man and a better world.

In the north, Easter coincides with the beginning of spring, and both speak to us of the ***rebirth*** of nature and human nature. Of a new beginning, a Pauline "new man" with a new life. Easter affirms the possibility of always reinventing ourselves. No one is condemned to their past. Every man can rise from the grave of his mistakes, his failures, his conditionings in order to start anew, to embark on a new path, a new life in a new society.

Everything confessed and celebrated at Easter contains an ***engine of social change*** against all determinism and fatalism: what seemed impossible to overcome, evil and death, has been defeated. Easter is a cry of protest against cynicism and the tyranny of evil, against all resignation. Easter is the cry of rebellion, of hope against every form of despair. By Easter, every form of unworthy and inhuman life, every form of impoverishment, discrimination, hatred, violence, and injustice can and must be overcome and defeated.

The celebration of Easter rejects an immanent, blind vision of this world and proposes a ***transcendent vision of human life and history***. Easter is the foretaste of the new, abundant, happy, and fulfilling life for which we all yearn. For Easter, the longing for human fulfillment does not fail. *"Life passes through death, but it is not swallowed by it."* (L. Boff). The last word and the ultimate destiny of man is not death, but the most perfect life. For Easter, there are rays of light and new life that penetrate and illuminate our darkness.

But ***Easter still happens in the world today... And we are all called to build a daily and permanent Easter.*** Whenever justice triumphs over injustice, whenever good overcomes evil, whenever truth and hope prevail over corruption and lies, whenever fraternal and supportive relationships prevail over pettiness and selfishness, whenever love, forgiveness, and joy triumph over hatred and sadness: it's Easter.

Remember: the celebration of Easter will always remind us that life has a definitive persistence superior to any form of evil and death and that ***we must all always follow the "passage,"*** spring forward, toward the new, the good, and the best. *HAPPY JOURNEY, HAPPY EASTER!*

Mario J. Paredes is the secretary of the Dr. Ramon Tallaj Foundation. The Dr. Ramon Tallaj Foundation is a non-profit organization that awards scholarships to high-achieving, low-income students who wish to pursue a career in the health field.