

The Soldier

Hello. Right now, my name's Cassius, and I'm a soldier through and through.
Both me Dad was, and me Grandad, so it was expected of me too
It hasn't been a bad life, of that there is no doubt
I've been there, done that (and got some medals), so I know what life's about.
At least I thought I did, until something happened that changed my life, and how !
So, settle down and listen up, as I tell you about it now....
I'd been posted out to Palestine, not a place I'd choose to go
It's hot & dry, and a long way from home, but my boss said 'Just go with the flow;
'The people themselves are friendly enough' (he said), but the things I do find quite odd:
Are their rules of life, and to cap it all off they've only got one God !!
I mean, we've got loads to choose from, and the Emperor's one as well
So whatever happens there's someone to pray to, or blame if it all goes to hell !!
But there was this bloke, a preacher they said, he was roaming around the place
Telling stories, and healing the sick, and spreading love and grace.
He'd been wandering about for quite some time and was popular, from what I'd heard
But their Priests said he was blaspheming, or something, which really was quite absurd !
The next thing you know, he's up before Pilate on some trumped-up charge or other
But what I remember as I clapped him in irons, is he just smiled, and called me his brother !
There was something about him I can't describe, a 'presence' that had me in awe
And when they condemned him to die on the cross, he just smiled like he did before.
As I walked beside him on his way up the hill, I asked him why he was so calm
And he told me that by the end of the day, he'd be in his father's arms !
'Your father ?' I asked, 'I heard at your trial that you claimed you are God's only son'
Yet again he just smiled, and said 'Yes; so they say. And my work here on earth's all but done'
Then he looked at me straight and said 'Honour your parents, and worship the one true Lord'
'Follow my teachings and do no wrong throw away your sword....'
And do you know what ? As he hung on that cross, he looked me right in the eye
And you know what he did ? He smiled again it was just before he died.
Me mates all jeered, and laughed as they left, but I couldn't....I stood there and stared
As I realised the horror of what we'd just done to someone who really cared
About all of mankind, and it made me think about what I should do with my life
So I put in for transfer; left the army, and went back to Rome and my wife.
And that fellow I met, Jesus was his name, he changed me, it's fair to say
And although he's now gone, I'll remember that smile until my very last day.