

DEAD AND BURIED

In the fourth century a young earnest disciple sought an interview with the great and good Macarius, and asked him what was meant by being dead to sin. He said, „You remember our brother who died and was buried a short time since. Go to his grave and tell him all the unkind things you ever heard of him. Go, my son, and hear what he will answer.” The young man doubted whether he understood; but Macarius only said, „Do as I tell you, my son; and come and tell me what he says.” He went, and came back, saying, „I can get no reply; he is dead.” „Go again and try him with flattering words—tell him what a great saint he was, what noble work he did, and how we miss him; and come again, and tell me what he says.” He did so, but on his return said, „He answers nothing, father; he is dead and buried.” „You know now, my son,” said the old father, „what it is to be dead to sin, dead and buried with Christ. Praise and blame are nothing to him who is really dead and buried with Christ.” (Rom. 6:3.)—*Selected*.

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