

GOSPEL PEARLS

The two arms of the cross

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If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. (Luke 9: 23)

And Jesus said to his disciples, "The Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised." And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily

and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will save it. For what does it profit a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself? (Luke 9: 22-25)

The cross has two arms. If we submit to God's Will, Jesus takes his place on the other arm of our cross and makes it feel less heavy, just like a shared yoke. May we offer up our sufferings to the Lord so that He can help us bear them with fortitude.