



CREATE: THE CLEARING

Lent, 2024 with Icons Through Western Eyes with Russell Hart

Ash Wednesday, 2/14/24 - The Holy Face

The Orthodox believe that the icon corresponds entirely to the Word of Scripture. That which the Word communicates by hearing, the icon reveals silently by representation.

The Orthodox believe that the earliest icon is that of the Holy Face, reputed to be a life-portrait of the Savior. This legend gives insight into a tradition which may extend back to the time of the Apostles, when an artist attempted to paint Christ's face but was unable to do so because the indescribable light of His face which kept changing through grace. Seeing that the artist was having difficulty, Christ asked for a wet linen towel and when He wiped His face, His features remained imprinted on the cloth.

While the icon preserves the physical peculiarities of the person depicted, it reveals his or her glorified, eternal face; the inner state of the person whose senses have been refined-transfigured through grace.

An icon never strives to stir the emotions, but to guide the emotions, the reason and all the other faculties of human nature on the way to transfiguration.

Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
Look full in his wonderful face.
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace.
~Helen Lemmel