



The One-Body Problem

by Daniel Urdaneta

I recently read a science fiction novel titled “The Three-Body Problem” by Liu Cixin, which has been adapted into a television series. I borrow the title from that book to reflect on what we read in Matthew 27:62–66, where the chief priests and the Pharisees had no problem with three celestial bodies as in the book, but with only one: the body of Jesus.

First, it is essential to understand the context in which this crucial episode of our faith unfolds. Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified on Golgotha, thus fulfilling the divine plan of salvation for humanity. After his death on the cross, his body was placed in a sealed tomb guarded by Roman soldiers, while the Pharisees and chief priests, fearful of his influence and teachings, conspired to prevent any attempt by his followers to steal Jesus’ body.

The Pharisees, filled with fear and desperation, took extreme measures to protect the tomb. They sealed the stone that closed the entrance and posted guards to ensure that no one could access Jesus’ body. In their

minds, they believed they had secured their victory over this man who defied their religious and political authority.

However, as we know, no earthly force can stop the fulfillment of God's will. On the morning of the third day, a great earthquake shook the earth, and an angel descended from heaven, rolling away the stone and striking fear into the guards. It was then that the greatest miracle of all occurred: Jesus rose from the dead.

The disappearance of Jesus' body was not the work of human thieves, as the Pharisees feared, but the result of divine power that conquered death and sin. This transformative event not only validated Jesus' teaching about His own resurrection, but also confirmed His divinity and established the foundation of our Christian faith. It is important to recognize that, despite human efforts to deny, silence, or destroy God's truth, His will shall always prevail. The resurrection of Jesus Christ offers us the hope of eternal life and the promise of redemption for all who believe in Him.

Despite the Pharisees' efforts, Jesus' body disappeared from the tomb. This event is the center of our Christian faith: the Resurrection of Jesus. And this is where I want to bring up the concept of the "Three-Body Problem" by the Chinese writer.

In the science fiction novel, a situation is presented in which humanity faces an extraterrestrial threat. The premise is that a world plagued by internal problems and social conflicts is forced to deal with a crisis that challenges its understanding of the universe. Here, the title refers to the

complexity of predicting the behavior of three celestial bodies interacting gravitationally with one another—a powerful metaphor for the unpredictability and complexity of reality.

We can see interesting parallels between this idea and the Resurrection of Jesus. Although the Pharisees tried to control and predict the fate of Jesus' body, they faced something beyond their understanding and control. The Resurrection of Christ cannot be fully explained or understood through human logic or natural laws. It is a divine event that transcends our limited understanding.

Just as the characters in the novel face the unpredictability of the universe, the religious leaders of the time encountered the unpredictability of the divine plan. Despite their efforts to maintain the status quo and control the situation, they were confronted with the reality that God is above all things and that His will shall prevail. The Resurrection of Jesus teaches us that God's power is greater than any human attempt at control or manipulation. It reminds us that faith goes beyond rational understanding and invites us to trust in the divine plan even when we cannot fully comprehend it.

The Resurrection of Jesus is an event that challenges our limited conceptions and invites us to trust in divine providence. May we find comfort and strength in the certainty that, just as Christ rose from the dead, so too do we have the hope of eternal life in Him.

May God bless us all.