

from Max Lucado's book Six Hours One Friday

The Centurion's View of Christ on the Cross:

"It is finished" - Tetelestai - "Paid in full"

The centurion started towards the Nazarene - but after only a few steps he fell - The ground was shaking violently - he fell at the foot of the cross. He looked up into the face of this One near death. Jesus, King Messiah looked down at the centurion and although his hands were nailed & he couldn't reach out His feet were nailed - they couldn't walk toward the centurion. But his eyes were a fire - they were the eyes of God.

Perhaps that is what made the centurion say what he said. He saw the eyes of God. The eyes that didn't turn away at man's failure and didn't flinch at seeing man's futility.

The centurion watched as the eyes of Jesus lifted and looked towards heaven.

"Father, into your hands I entrust my spirit"

The rocks were splitting in the earthquake. The sky had blackened, thunder rolled. The centurion's statement confirmed what everyone witnessed that day.

"Surely this man was the Son of God"

These six hours on one Friday ^{gilt up} ~~are~~ like Mt. Everest on the plain of human history. What do these 6 hours signify? They are the door in time through which eternity entered man's darkest caverns. For the one looking into this side of the tunnel of death, that Friday means deliverance.

The handwriting is extremely faint and illegible. The text appears to be a series of lines, possibly a list or a set of notes, but the specific words and phrases cannot be discerned. The paper is aged and yellowed, with some minor stains and a small tear at the top center.