

Rupintojelis - Worrying Christ Statue

Christ sitting on a rock or stool, bent over, supporting his head with his right hand, the left hand on his knee, a crown of thorns on his head showing drops of blood, his face full of worry.

The Lithuanian people, who for centuries have suffered war and foreign occupation, are very fond of the image they have come to call Rupintojelis, the Worrying Christ. The image first appeared in Europe in the middle ages. It is seen in a variety of settings, ranging from forest chapels to tree trunks. It has come to symbolize for the Lithuanians a contemplative, pensive Christ who holds the entire world in his heart and whose heart goes out to all people.

Some say the pose represents Jesus' anticipation of his crucifixion, after his scourging and crowning with thorns. Others say it depicts Christ after the resurrection and not yet ascended. One Polish legend says Christ travelled through the world with his crown of thorns. Tired from his journey, he sat on stones near the road and wept. This statue means many things to many people, but all can see in it God's endless compassion and care.