

I wrote chapter five of How Jesus Became God today; there will be nine chapters altogether. In this one I am talking about the visions of Jesus that the disciples had. I think they really had visions. Whether that's because Jesus really appeared to them or because they were hallucinating is the difference between believers and unbelievers, and as a historian, I don't feel particularly inclined to judge one way or the other. As a non-believer, of course, I, well, don't believe it. In any event, I think it's important to put visions of Jesus in the context of other kinds of visions, and here I have a short section on visions claimed (and documented) for the Blessed Virgin Mary.

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Also of relevance to our reflections is that visions of revered religious figures from the past are one of the best documented kind of visionary experience. Here I can speak just briefly about the "appearances" of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and visions in the modern world of Jesus himself.

### The Blessed Virgin Mary

René Laurentin is a modern-day Catholic theologian and expert on modern apparitions, who has written many, many books on the topic. He has a degree in philosophy from the Sorbonne in Paris, and two PhDs, one in theology and one in literature. He is not your average intellect. And he deeply and sincerely believes that Mary - the mother of Jesus who died 2000 years ago - has appeared to people in the modern world and continues to do so. Here I give just two examples from his writings.

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