The Shroud of Turin: Medical and Scientific Evidence Behind the Burial Cloth and the Death of Jesus

Salvatore Mangione, MD

The Shroud of Turin is the alleged burial cloth of Jesus and one of the most studied artifacts in human history. Since its first historical appearance at the end of the 14th century it has baffled scientists, irritated skeptics and awed believers. Carbon dating from 1988 dated the linen to 1260-1390, yet recent evidence suggests that measurements were actually carried out on a medieval re-weave. In this talk, Dr. Mangione will review the medical and scientific evidence behind the linen, and what this evidence can tell us about the death of Jesus.

Salvatore Mangione, MD, is an Associate Professor of Medicine at the SKMC of Thomas Jefferson University in Philadelphia, where he also directs the Humanities and History of Medicine courses. He is a clinician-educator with a long interest in physical diagnosis, medical history, community service and the role of the humanities in medicine. His innovative programs and engaging teaching style have been recognized by multiple teaching awards, and his work has been featured in the New York Times, the Los Angeles Times, the Wall Street Journal, the BBC, CNN, NPR, and Forbes. Dr. Mangione has also been involved in asthma education, creating (and directing for six years) The AsthmaBUS™, a red doubledecker he bought in London in 1999, shipped to Philadelphia, and eventually outfitted so to provide asthma education and screening for 15,000 middle-school children. For this he received the 2001 American Institute of Architects Award for most innovative exhibit, the 2003 World Asthma Day community service award from Philadelphia, and the 2004 Governors Community Service Award by the Chest Foundation of the American College of Chest Physicians. Dr. Mangione has been an invited speaker at many national and international meetings, especially in regard to the use of visual arts for the teaching of observation. He's the author of the book Secrets in Physical Diagnosis and the recipient of the 2022 Nicholas E. Davies Memorial Scholar Award of the American College of Physicians for Scholarly Activities in the Humanities and History of Medicine.

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