

1

00:00:00,046 --> 00:00:14,650

This series presents information based in part on theory and conjecture.

2

00:00:14,650 --> 00:00:20,411

The producer's purpose is to suggest some possible explanations, but not necessarily

3

00:00:20,411 --> 00:00:36,896

the only ones to the mysteries we will examine.

4

00:00:36,896 --> 00:00:45,818

Locked in a cathedral in Turin, Italy is the Holy Shroud.

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00:00:45,818 --> 00:00:49,699

Thousands of pilgrims have journeyed from around the earth to view what they believe

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00:00:49,699 --> 00:00:53,980

is the burial cloth of Jesus Christ.

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00:00:53,980 --> 00:01:01,903

Today, scientists are using modern technology to investigate the authenticity of this ancient

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00:01:01,903 --> 00:01:02,903

relic.

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00:01:02,903 --> 00:01:09,385

A young skeptic, however, has come forward with a claim he can prove the Shroud is a

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00:01:09,385 --> 00:01:12,986

fraud.

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00:01:12,986 --> 00:01:27,589

Is this the face of Christ or a forgery perpetrated by some unknown genius?

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00:01:27,589 --> 00:01:33,791

Three and a half million people came to Turin, Italy in late 1978.

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00:01:33,791 --> 00:01:39,353

Each day, they lined up patiently in the hot sun, waiting for one brief glimpse of the

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00:01:39,353 --> 00:01:47,755

most controversial relic in all of Christianity, the Holy Shroud of Jesus Christ.

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00:01:47,755 --> 00:01:52,876

While they waited in the streets of Turin, vendors hawked cheap imitations of the face

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00:01:52,876 --> 00:01:59,398

on the Shroud.

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00:01:59,398 --> 00:02:05,280

This commercialism was reminiscent of the Middle Ages, when phony fragments of the true cross

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00:02:05,280 --> 00:02:09,521

were peddled all over Europe.

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00:02:09,521 --> 00:02:15,522

The Shroud would be displayed for six weeks and then locked away for a half century or

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00:02:15,522 --> 00:02:16,523

longer.

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00:02:16,523 --> 00:02:21,564

It was literally a once in a lifetime opportunity.

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00:02:21,564 --> 00:02:28,926

The Holy Shroud, an old piece of linen, 14 feet three inches long, between the stains,

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00:02:28,926 --> 00:02:36,288

burn marks and patches, the image of a man, his hands crossed in death.

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00:02:36,288 --> 00:02:39,529

The image on the Shroud is extremely faint.

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00:02:39,529 --> 00:02:43,050

It tends to fade into the weave of the cloth.

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00:02:43,050 --> 00:02:52,172

Blood stains at the head and at the hands are hard to see.

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00:02:52,172 --> 00:02:57,114

Before the cloth was damaged by water and fire, however, the image must have been much

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00:02:57,114 --> 00:03:02,395

easier to make out as this reconstructed copy shows.

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00:03:02,395 --> 00:03:12,598

A professor of theology from Chicago's Loyola University, the Reverend Francis Phyllis, had

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00:03:12,598 --> 00:03:17,319

to wait 30 years for his first glimpse of the relic.

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00:03:17,319 --> 00:03:23,161

He was already a renowned expert on the Shroud, having studied the only material available,

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00:03:23,161 --> 00:03:25,701

photos and documents.

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00:03:25,701 --> 00:03:30,502

It was a stunning experience to see the Shroud beyond anything I've ever had in my life.

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00:03:30,502 --> 00:03:34,704

I've heard of people having stunning experiences, but I know now what people mean when they

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00:03:34,704 --> 00:03:36,624

say I cannot describe it.

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00:03:36,624 --> 00:03:42,906

The most surprising element of the Shroud is that these stains are faint, vaporous, gaseous

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00:03:42,906 --> 00:03:47,027

like, and the farther away you get, the more clearly you see the Shroud.

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00:03:47,027 --> 00:03:51,108

I had the privilege of seeing it inches away, which most people didn't.

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00:03:51,108 --> 00:03:59,230

And I can tell you, when you're on top of the image, you see practically nothing.

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00:03:59,230 --> 00:04:05,432

In 1978, Phyllis was in touring with a select team of American scientists.

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00:04:05,432 --> 00:04:11,834

They performed many tests on the Shroud, attempting to determine how the print of a body got onto

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00:04:11,834 --> 00:04:15,315

this old piece of linen.

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00:04:15,315 --> 00:04:17,675

Could it be the actual body of Christ?

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00:04:21,396 --> 00:04:26,397

The early history of the Shroud is hidden in the Gospels and in old legends.

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00:04:26,397 --> 00:04:31,679

Several times, the Bible refers to the burial linens of Christ.

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00:04:31,679 --> 00:04:35,960

One passage in particular has mystified scholars.

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00:04:35,960 --> 00:04:42,322

Mary looked into the tomb and saw two men in white cloth with the body of Jesus head

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00:04:42,322 --> 00:04:51,204

laying, a description of the double image on the Shroud, perhaps.

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00:04:51,204 --> 00:04:55,965

The burial cloth could have been draped like this, producing separate images of both the

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00:04:55,965 --> 00:05:00,767

front and back of the body.

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00:05:00,767 --> 00:05:06,208

The legend of Veronica may be a clue to the early existence of the Shroud.

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00:05:06,208 --> 00:05:11,850

Veronica took pity on Jesus' sufferings and wiped his face with her veil.

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00:05:11,850 --> 00:05:18,251

Miraculously, an image of his face appeared on the cloth.

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00:05:18,251 --> 00:05:23,293

The words Vera Icon mean true image.

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00:05:23,293 --> 00:05:28,574

And when the Shroud is folded in a certain way, it looks exactly like the traditional

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00:05:28,574 --> 00:05:32,175

image of Veronica's veil.

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00:05:33,135 --> 00:05:38,137

Yet, there is no historical record of Veronica.

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00:05:42,138 --> 00:05:46,219

Edessa is a small town in Turkey.

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00:05:46,219 --> 00:05:51,900

Legend says that Thaddeus, one of the first disciples, took a miraculous image of Jesus

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00:05:51,900 --> 00:05:54,421

to the king of Edessa.

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00:05:54,421 --> 00:05:59,663

The king was cured of leprosy and converted to Christianity.

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00:05:59,663 --> 00:06:08,305

Then, during a wave of persecution against the new religion, the cloth vanished.

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00:06:08,305 --> 00:06:15,307

Four centuries later, workmen repairing the city gate made a startling discovery.

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00:06:15,307 --> 00:06:22,749

Sealed into the wall, the miraculous image had remained untouched for 400 years.

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00:06:22,749 --> 00:06:29,230

Stories of the miraculous image of Jesus filtered back to Europe and actually prompted the crusades.

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00:06:29,270 --> 00:06:34,312

Of course, no single historical object can be held responsible for the hysteria which

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00:06:34,312 --> 00:06:37,953

sent thousands of knights and children off to the Middle East.

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00:06:37,953 --> 00:06:43,394

But they had one goal in mind, capture the Holy Land and bring the famous religious relics

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00:06:43,394 --> 00:06:45,115

back to Europe.

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00:06:45,115 --> 00:06:48,876

The crusaders sacked Constantinople in 1204.

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00:06:48,876 --> 00:06:55,437

However, the Shroud, with the image of Christ, had again vanished.

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00:06:55,437 --> 00:06:59,799

About 600 years ago, the Shroud shifted from legend to history.

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00:06:59,799 --> 00:07:05,680

In 1352, it was discovered in Lyres, France, but there is no record as to how it came

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00:07:05,680 --> 00:07:06,681

to be here.

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00:07:06,681 --> 00:07:16,683

The linen was almost destroyed one night during an accidental fire in a nearby church.

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00:07:26,086 --> 00:07:31,407

The image itself was barely touched by the fire.

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00:07:31,407 --> 00:07:37,449

The Shroud finally came to rest in the Cathedral of St. John in Turin, Italy and is now kept

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00:07:37,449 --> 00:07:42,330

under triple lock and key in a steel and asbestos box.

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00:07:42,330 --> 00:07:48,092

Fearful of further damage, church officials allow it to be shown only once or twice a

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00:07:48,092 --> 00:07:52,093

century.

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00:07:52,093 --> 00:07:59,095

The face on the Shroud may be a clue to the remarkable consistency of Christian art.

82

00:08:06,256 --> 00:08:10,818

The Gospels say not a single word about the appearance of Jesus.

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00:08:10,818 --> 00:08:15,979

We would expect artists to portray him in a million different ways, but this is not the

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00:08:15,979 --> 00:08:19,980

case.

85

00:08:20,100 --> 00:08:25,902

Teachers learned from their masters and the masters in turn learned from their teachers.

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00:08:25,902 --> 00:08:31,543

Even the most brilliant detective should become lost in a tangled web of art history extending

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00:08:31,543 --> 00:08:38,545

back for 2,000 years.

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00:08:38,545 --> 00:08:45,547

Was there a single original source for the face of Jesus? Was it the face on the Shroud?

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00:08:58,390 --> 00:09:03,112

The Shroud would probably have been all but forgotten except for an amazing discovery

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00:09:03,112 --> 00:09:06,593

in 1898.

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00:09:06,633 --> 00:09:12,514

Secondo Pia, a lawyer and amateur photographer, was given permission to make the first photo

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00:09:12,514 --> 00:09:17,236

of the Holy Relic.

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00:09:17,236 --> 00:09:21,837

He was overly cautious, knowing he wouldn't have a second chance.

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00:09:21,837 --> 00:09:28,839

In the morning, the Shroud would again be locked away for many years.

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00:09:29,839 --> 00:09:36,841

He worked very late that last night of the exposition.

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00:09:41,762 --> 00:09:47,084

Alone in his dark room, Pia waited nervously for an image to appear on his glass plate

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00:09:47,084 --> 00:09:54,085

negative.

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00:09:59,847 --> 00:10:05,849

At first, he thought something had gone wrong.

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00:10:06,769 --> 00:10:10,130

His negative didn't look like a negative.

100

00:10:10,130 --> 00:10:17,132

Secondo Pia said, I was the first man since the apostles to see our Lord's actual face.

101

00:10:17,372 --> 00:10:24,374

His discovery was to trigger intensive scientific investigation.

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00:10:25,374 --> 00:10:31,375

In the 20th century, we all recognized the look of a photographic negative.

103

00:10:31,375 --> 00:10:37,377

Light and shade are reversed. Faces have a strange appearance.

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00:10:37,377 --> 00:10:42,378

A print made from the negative looks normal.

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00:10:42,378 --> 00:10:48,380

The most puzzling fact about the Shroud of Turin has not yet been explained by science.

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00:10:48,380 --> 00:10:53,381

The image on the cloth looks just like a photographic negative.

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00:10:53,381 --> 00:11:00,383

The eyes seem open and staring, like a medieval icon.

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00:11:00,383 --> 00:11:06,385

When we take a picture of this image, however, a wealth of accurate detail suddenly appears.

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00:11:06,385 --> 00:11:12,386

The eyes are seen to be closed in death.

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00:11:12,386 --> 00:11:18,388

The body contours become clear.

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00:11:18,388 --> 00:11:23,389

In other words, the Shroud itself is a sort of photographic negative

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00:11:23,389 --> 00:11:27,390

dating from centuries before the invention of photography,

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00:11:27,390 --> 00:11:33,392

before anyone had seen or even imagined what a negative image would look like.

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00:11:33,392 --> 00:11:37,393

The Shroud is something like the corpse in an egg at the Christie Mystery.

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00:11:37,393 --> 00:11:40,394

You've got it on your hands, whether you like it or not, you've got to explain it.

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00:11:40,394 --> 00:11:44,395

If you don't like it, then you have to explain what put the marks there.

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00:11:44,395 --> 00:11:47,396

And remember, not just photographically negative marks,

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00:11:47,396 --> 00:11:52,397

but also the transferred blood stains from the very spoons in this man's body.

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00:11:52,397 --> 00:11:55,398

Using life-sized photos of the Shroud,

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00:11:55,398 --> 00:12:05,401

anatomists reconstructed the face of the figure.

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00:12:05,401 --> 00:12:13,403

He was the report 5'11 and weighed 180 pounds.

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00:12:13,403 --> 00:12:18,404

Christian art has always shown nail wounds in the hands of Christ.

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00:12:18,404 --> 00:12:25,406

The Shroud, however, seems to indicate blood spurting from the wrist.

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00:12:25,406 --> 00:12:31,408

Pathologists set out to test both versions of the crucifixion.

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00:12:31,408 --> 00:12:39,410

Experimenting with cadavers, they drove nails into the palm and hung the body from a scale.

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00:12:39,410 --> 00:12:43,411

They were surprised to find that flesh in the palm simply tore away,

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00:12:43,411 --> 00:12:49,412

unable to support the weight of the body.

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00:12:49,412 --> 00:12:54,414

Then they experimented with nails through the wrist.

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00:12:54,414 --> 00:12:59,415

Here, the tendons and ligaments could easily support the weight.

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00:12:59,415 --> 00:13:03,416

The Shroud image was accurate.

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00:13:03,416 --> 00:13:06,417

Even the U.S. Air Force contributed,

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00:13:06,417 --> 00:13:11,418

utilizing sophisticated computers which can enhance faint images.

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00:13:11,418 --> 00:13:16,420

Scientists produced a three-dimensional portrait of the Shroud face.

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00:13:16,420 --> 00:13:25,422

Color of a cloth image is like a scorch, produced by a miraculous burst of heat or radiant energy.

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00:13:25,422 --> 00:13:30,423

As of the moment, we have to take the word of the experts in physics and related sciences

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00:13:30,423 --> 00:13:36,425

who think the best theory from the electronic experimentation would lead to some type of radiation.

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00:13:36,425 --> 00:13:43,427

Joe Nicol, an artist and private investigator, claims he can prove the Shroud is a fraud.

138

00:13:43,427 --> 00:13:50,429

It's a simple technique using simply hot water and cloth and a lower leaf or bar relief,

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00:13:50,429 --> 00:13:54,430

which during the 14th century in France were commonplace.

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00:13:54,430 --> 00:14:01,432

Every artist could whip out these bar reliefs for the church architecture.

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00:14:01,432 --> 00:14:10,434

What you do is you mold the cloth while it's hot and while it's wet to the bar relief.

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00:14:10,434 --> 00:14:18,436

And to do this, you begin to use your fingers to press and force the cloth to the features

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00:14:18,436 --> 00:14:24,438

so that it begins to take on the relief of the features.

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00:14:24,438 --> 00:14:33,440

And as you continue to work this, say after you get a good start on it, perhaps every half hour or so as it begins to dry,

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00:14:33,440 --> 00:14:40,442

when you finish, you will have the cloth tightly molded to the bar relief.

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00:14:40,442 --> 00:14:44,443

It will fit it rather like a mask.

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00:14:45,444 --> 00:14:51,445

Since the Gospel of John refers to the burial spices, myrrh and aloes,

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00:14:51,445 --> 00:14:57,447

and since aloes has a potent staining property, I decided to try that.

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00:14:57,447 --> 00:15:02,448

I first tried just the aloes and it's a little too potent, tends to smudge.

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00:15:02,448 --> 00:15:06,449

So if you tone it down with the myrrh, it works beautifully in about a 50-50 mixture

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00:15:06,449 --> 00:15:13,451

and it does not penetrate the fibers of the cloth, just as the imagery on the Shroud does not penetrate the fibers of the cloth.

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00:15:13,451 --> 00:15:21,453

A homemade dauber, cotton, piece of cloth, piece of tape, just applied very sparingly

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00:15:21,453 --> 00:15:32,456

and just very, very lightly began to stroke down the plaque.

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00:15:33,457 --> 00:15:42,459

With this experiment, Nicol produced an image of similar color and tone to the face on the Shroud.

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00:15:42,459 --> 00:15:49,461

His final test was to subject his image to the process of negative positive photography.

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00:15:49,461 --> 00:16:02,464

The results divide into about three categories.

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00:16:02,464 --> 00:16:06,465

Under technique, it allows the artist to view his work as he progresses.

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00:16:06,465 --> 00:16:11,467

It's consistent with the opinions of two official Shroud commission members

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00:16:11,467 --> 00:16:15,468

that it was an artistic printing technique, probably using a model or molds.

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00:16:15,468 --> 00:16:18,469

And of course it's consistent with 14th century technology.

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00:16:18,469 --> 00:16:23,470

The pigment is a light brown color, deceptively similar to a scorch.

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00:16:23,470 --> 00:16:28,471

It doesn't penetrate the fiber bundles and doesn't leave brush marks.

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00:16:28,471 --> 00:16:30,472

It doesn't look like a painting.

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00:16:30,472 --> 00:16:36,473

Under imagery, of course, it's a perfect negative produced in an era that had no foreknowledge of photography.

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00:16:36,473 --> 00:16:40,475

You needn't desire a negative image, it simply automatically produces a negative image.

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00:16:40,475 --> 00:16:47,476

Altogether, there are more than 50 points of similarity between this technique and the imagery on the Shroud.

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00:16:47,476 --> 00:16:49,477

I think it's conclusive.

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00:16:49,477 --> 00:16:54,478

This is wrong on at least two dozen counts, of which I can mention only a few here.

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00:16:54,478 --> 00:16:58,479

First of all, there were 3,000,000 people at Turing during the exposition.

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00:16:58,479 --> 00:17:01,480

Again and again, people in the crowd commented,

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00:17:01,480 --> 00:17:07,482

now I can see forgery is so impossible because these marks themselves are so gaseous, so hard to see.

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00:17:07,482 --> 00:17:12,483

Then we would say, why would any medieval forgery put nail wounds here in the wrist

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00:17:12,483 --> 00:17:16,484

contradicting the medieval tradition that the nail had been in the palm?

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00:17:16,484 --> 00:17:21,486

Still another factor, we must not forget that Dr. Max Frey, the Swiss criminologist,

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00:17:21,486 --> 00:17:27,487

took off the Shroud 48 different pollens, microscopically identified,

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00:17:27,487 --> 00:17:32,488

and 13 of them come from plants that are botanically identified that are indigenous,

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00:17:32,488 --> 00:17:37,490

native that is only to ancient Palestine and growing in Israel right now.

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00:17:37,490 --> 00:17:44,492

In October 1978, a chance arose to resolve this question of forgery.

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00:17:44,492 --> 00:17:50,493

30 American scientists were given four days of uninterrupted access to the Shroud.

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00:17:50,493 --> 00:17:57,495

No motion pictures were allowed, but these stills were taken while the scientists were utilizing techniques

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00:17:57,495 --> 00:18:05,497

such as X-ray, infrared, ultraviolet, and minute particle sampling.

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00:18:05,497 --> 00:18:09,498

Their results will certainly generate more controversy.

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00:18:09,498 --> 00:18:17,501

Unfortunately, the one test which could eliminate the possibility of forgery has not been allowed.

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00:18:17,501 --> 00:18:23,502

Radiocarbon measurement could show how old the cloth of the Shroud is.

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00:18:23,502 --> 00:18:27,503

The only hitch, you have to burn a piece.

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00:18:27,503 --> 00:18:33,505

In Rome, Contessa Marie Antoinette Nicastro, an advisor to church officials,

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00:18:33,505 --> 00:18:37,506

was shocked by the American scientists' request.

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00:18:37,506 --> 00:18:43,508

They asked us to experiment carbon-14.

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00:18:43,508 --> 00:18:48,509

Contessa believes the Shroud is vitally important to both science and faith,

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00:18:48,509 --> 00:18:54,510

but the permanent loss of such a large sample would be too great a sacrifice.

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00:18:54,510 --> 00:18:58,512

The scientists' request was denied.

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00:18:58,512 --> 00:19:07,514

A solution to this impasse between the church and science was recently proposed by a nuclear physicist from Rochester, Dr. Harry Gold.

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00:19:07,514 --> 00:19:14,516

The conventional technique would need a piece of cloth about the size of a man's handkerchief,

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00:19:14,516 --> 00:19:20,517

whereas our technique could do it with a single thread about eight inches long.

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00:19:20,517 --> 00:19:28,520

Dr. Gold has adapted a nuclear accelerator to date extremely small samples of organic material.

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00:19:28,520 --> 00:19:32,521

He feels he has already proven the accuracy of this technique.

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00:19:32,521 --> 00:19:40,523

We got a sample of Egyptian mummy cloth, linen cloth, which is similar to the Shroud material,

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00:19:40,523 --> 00:19:45,524

and its historical date is known, and it was also dated by the conventional technique,

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00:19:45,524 --> 00:19:52,526

and we measured it and we got an age of 2,050 years with an error of about plus or minus 80 years,

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00:19:52,526 --> 00:19:59,528

and that agrees with both of the other measurements, so we feel pretty confident we can do it.

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00:19:59,528 --> 00:20:09,531

Is the Shroud 600 years old and therefore a forgery, or 1,900 years old and possibly authentic?

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00:20:10,531 --> 00:20:19,533

Never before have church officials sacrificed even the smallest piece of a holy relic for scientific testing.

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00:20:19,533 --> 00:20:27,535

However, a new wave of open communication is sweeping through the church, led by Pope John Paul II.

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00:20:27,535 --> 00:20:34,537

The ultimate decision to burn a piece of the Shroud may rest with this man.

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00:20:34,537 --> 00:20:39,539

The Shroud, safely locked away, is once more out of reach.

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00:20:39,539 --> 00:20:43,540

It is not expected to be seen again for at least another generation.

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00:20:43,540 --> 00:20:51,542

Perhaps in the time of our grandchildren, we will discover if the Shroud is the burial cloth of Christ.

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00:20:55,543 --> 00:21:00,544

Can there be scientific tests as for the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ?

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00:21:00,544 --> 00:21:06,546

As for the resurrection, I think we should note that the resurrection of Jesus is a dogma of Christianity

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00:21:06,546 --> 00:21:10,547

that by definition is a miracle and therefore beyond human comprehension.

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00:21:10,547 --> 00:21:15,548

No scientific law could be involved in that case. That is a question of religious faith.

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00:21:15,548 --> 00:21:21,550

As for the crucifixion, however, this is a historical fact subject to our own laws of human life,

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00:21:21,550 --> 00:21:27,552

and therefore the Shroud can be used to give us evidence of a crucified Jew 2,000 years ago.

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00:21:27,552 --> 00:21:31,553

And of course, mathematically, this would lead to the identification with Jesus Christ.

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00:21:31,553 --> 00:21:39,555

The disciple Thomas was the first skeptical scientist. He asked for proof of the resurrection. Jesus obliged.

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00:21:39,555 --> 00:21:46,557

And then reminded him, blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

217

00:21:48,557 --> 00:21:54,559

Coming up next in search of continues with an exploration to find the remains of John the Baptist.

218

00:21:54,559 --> 00:22:01,561

Then, agents hunt for the brilliant mastermind of a mass convict escape on FBI, The Untold Stories.

219

00:22:01,561 --> 00:22:06,562

Log on at veterans.com, a new website brought to you by The History Channel.

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00:22:06,562 --> 00:22:11,563

Veterans.com, a place where veterans, their families and others can connect, share stories,

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and pass on the legacies of all American veterans.