

**Name:** Melinda Blade, Ed.D., U.S.A.

## Questions:

1. **When** and **how** did you first hear about the Shroud?

A history professor whom I had as a graduate student in History and Archaeology, the late Dr. James R. Moriarty, III, introduced me to the topic. He was conducting research on the Shroud and I began helping him with that. The topic evolved into aspects of my doctoral dissertation.

2. What interested you about the Shroud?

Part of the mystery to me was the enigmatic nature of the Shroud. Its historical sequence was fascinating and I spent a lot of time correlating it to the Gospel account of Jesus' crucifixion.

3. Do you believe the Shroud is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, a fake relic, or are you uncertain what to believe?

I have done many presentations regarding the Shroud; some have been to adults and many of them have been to high school students. My response to this question (as it always arises) is that as an historian, it can never be proven to be the real Shroud of Jesus, but that as a woman of faith, I believe that it is.

4. What, if any, actions did you take after you first encountered the Shroud (e.g., conduct research, contact people involved with it, etc.)?

I did a lot of research for my dissertation, but interest did not wane following the reception of my doctorate. I read and research the topic frequently. I have stayed in touch with people who have done much more in-depth research than I have done and it is humbling to see the depth of their research and to read their conclusions. I am most gratified by their willingness to share their insights with me.

5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years?

No.

6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?

N/A

7. Have you ever been involved in any scientific study of the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.

No.

8. Have you ever written anything about the Shroud, either factual or fictitious? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.  
My research was contained within a doctoral dissertation. The topic was vetted by the committee and approved by the Dean of the School of Education. It involved an interdisciplinary study of the Shroud and how it could be taught at the secondary level. The work was motivated by my desire to present the topic in an objective manner and to further the information to a broader audience.

9. Do you favor or believe any of the current theories on how the image got onto the cloth? If so please name the theory.

No.

10. Do you feel that you have a calling or vocation to be involved somehow with the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** you to make a commitment to the Shroud and **why**.

Regardless of people's responses to the Shroud, the study of it leads people to question their beliefs and I hope, strengthen their faith. Our faith does not rest on the validity of the Shroud, but it presents opportunities for us to deepen our faith and reflect on the life and crucifixion of Jesus.

Please describe below any other *personal* reflections, experiences, insights, or thoughts about the Shroud of Turin that you would like to share.

Writings/Websites/Blogs: None.