

The Shroud of Turin: an imprint of the soul, apparition or quantum bio-hologram
by Chidambaram Ramesh

I was very pleased to receive a copy of this book for review, as it is the first ever book on the Shroud written and published in India. The title is quite a mouthful, but is a faithful reflection of the book's content.

The first part of the book is a summary of what we know about the Shroud – a very succinct account of the cloth's history (such accounts are almost always much too short in my opinion). The author mentions the Image of Edessa, Robert de Clari and the Sudarium of Oviedo but without too much detail. The analysis of the Shroud includes photography, the bloodstains (denying McCrone's claims, if anyone even remembers them at this stage), the image properties and the various estimates at the man on the Shroud's height. When it comes to carbon 14 dating, the author opts for the Marino/Benford/Rogers reweave theory, so convincingly defended by Barrie Schwartz in the DVD also reviewed in this newsletter.

However, I found myself out of my depth when the book starts talking in great detail about "palingenesis" – an old alchemist theory according to which treating the ashes of a burnt plant gives rise to a ghostly image of the plant itself. The methods and results of this rather strange claim are described in minute detail ... but its relationship to the Shroud image is not explained. Is the author suggesting that the Shroud image is due to palingenesis, if such a phenomenon actually exists?

The book then describes the Shroud image as a quantum holograph, in accordance with the work done recently by Dr. Petrus Soons (who wrote the forward). The conclusion is that "the quantum holographic model is capable of explaining almost all the unique characteristics of the Shroud image" – to which I would answer that "almost all" is not good enough – if we ever discover a truly convincing image formation theory, it would have to explain scientifically and historically ALL the properties of the Shroud, leaving no room for doubt.

All in all, the book is well-written and the author is very modest and humble in his affirmations (and this is something I genuinely appreciate). I have serious doubts about the very existence of palingenesis, and should I be proven wrong in this, about its relevance to the Shroud. Orthodox Christians will object to the author's suggestion that the resurrection body is not physical. But is very interesting to read a book about the Shroud written from such a different point of view from what we are used to.