

Jesus Christ; resurrection or resuscitation!

Zahid Hussain Khan, MD, FCCM¹, Seyed Amir Hossein Javadi, MD, PhD^{2,3}

¹Department of anesthesiology and critical care,
Imam Khomeini hospital complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences,
Tehran, Iran

Email: khanzh51@yahoo.com

²Department of neurosurgery,

³Brain and spinal injury repair research center,
Imam Khomeini hospital complex, Tehran University of Medical Sciences,
Tehran, Iran

Email: javadi1978@yahoo.com

Corresponding author:

Seyed Amir Hossein Javadi, MD, PhD
1419733141, Keshavarz Blvd., Imam Khomeini hospital complex,
Neurosurgery department,

Email: javadi1978@yahoo.com, Tel: +98-9126049012

Abstract

Background: the Gospels state that Jesus rose in body and spirit after he was crucified and laid in tomb. The quality of resurrection however has been interpreted differently in both the historical documents and in the new testaments itself. The possibility of resuscitation seems to be more logical than resurrection, which is scientifically acceptable.

Methods: The evidence in new testaments and historical documents were reviewed along with medical aspects.

Results: After careful consideration, interesting clues could be clarified, which indicate exact and scientific decision makings at that day. First, the wine vinegar could have contained the anesthetic agents, which made Jesus fully unconscious coupled with shallow respiration. Second, Jesus was soaked in huge amount of plants, which had possible curative and resuscitative effects. The plants also included some unknown kinds provided later by accompanying women, which could have been the herbals used for postoperative care by Romans. If the body was not resuscitated and revived, it would have turned into rigor mortis with no hope whatsoever for resurrection. The peak of rigor mortis usually occurs within 12 hours after death reinforcing the belief that Jesus should have been resuscitated much before that time.

Conclusion: Such preparation in a close tomb would definitely explain the possibility of resuscitation. There is no doubt that Jesus had an intense suffering while being raised to the cross and after crucifixion. This juvenescence of Jesus after crucifixion gives credence to a feeling that Jesus underwent resuscitative measures by the plethora of herbal ingredients that he had been provided while laying in the tomb.

Keywords— *Jesus, resuscitation, resurrection, crucifixion, rigor Mortis, Myrrh and Aloes*
Introduction (Heading 1)

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Introduction

According to the Christians' belief, Jesus Christ was crucified and resurrected after death. But this traditional belief has been questioned ever since it had been aired. ¹ The quality of resurrection however has been interpreted differently in both the historical documents and in the new testaments itself.

There is no doubt that Jesus had an intense suffering while being raised to the cross and after crucifixion. Probably the reality of Jesus's rise will never be clearly unveiled. The aim of this

narrative study was to unveil the scientific truth about Jesus's fate.

Methods

Literature search pertaining to the crucifixion of Jesus was made in the Gospels, Bible and historical narratives. Scientific scenarios according to the suggested theories in the medical literature and bygone sayings of the inhabitants were utilized for arriving at a possible conclusive answer for this mystery.

Results

Three theories could be proposed according to the academic pursuits and survey. First, the wine vinegar could have contained the anesthetic agents, which made Jesus fully unconscious coupled with shallow respiration. Second, Jesus was soaked in huge amount of plants, which had possible curative and resuscitative effects. Third, if the body was not resuscitated and revived, it would have turned into rigor mortis with no hope whatsoever for resurrection. Peak of rigor mortis usually occurs within 12 hours after death reinforcing the belief that Jesus should have been resuscitated much before that time. However; the process should be different from the steps of primary survey applied today for resuscitation.

Discussion

As reported, Jesus was taken to the cross; and given vinegar mingled with myrrh or gall to drink. But when he tasted it, he refused to drink it due to its bitter taste. Jesus was crucified and after several hours of hanging, he asked for water [1]. A sponge was soaked in wine vinegar and raised to the lips of Jesus on a stalk of plant (Figure 1). After a while, Jesus Christ was dead. The soldiers standing by pierced Jesus's flank with a spear to confirm his death. Thereafter, Joseph of Arimathea took down the body and transported it to a close tomb and soaked it in a large amount of different spices which are named in Bible as Myrrh, Aloes and some other kinds brought by some local women. Just on the day after the regular weekly Sabbath, the tomb was found empty and Jesus had risen.



Figure 1- A- The Roman soldier pushes a sponge on a reed up to Jesus' lips. James J. Tissot, "I Thirst" (1886-1894), B - Roman Posca.

According to perceived beliefs and medical records death would come only slowly to most of the crucified, usually only after several days [2]. Surprisingly, Jesus died within six hours while on the cross, which does not appear scientifically valid and is strange [3]. After careful consideration, interesting clues could be clarified, which indicate exact and scientific decision makings at that day. First, the wine vinegar could have contained the anesthetic agents, which made Jesus fully unconscious coupled with shallow respiration. Such agents in ancient Roman times included sedative drugs [4]. The analgesic of choice was powdered opium (*Papaver somniferum*) mixed with wine. Furthermore, powdered mandrake (*Mandragora officinarium*) in a draft of wine was found in Italy in those times [4]. Postoperatively, the herb of choice to control inflammation was turmeric (*Curcuma longa*) and rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), which could have been employed for resuscitative purposes as well (Figure 2) [4].



Figure 2- Mandrake, turmeric and rosemary plants.

Second, Jesus was soaked in huge amount of plants, which had possible curative and

resuscitative effects. The plants also included some unknown kinds provided later by accompanying women, which could have been the herbals used for postoperative care by Romans. Myrrh and aloes were used to reduce the smell of the decaying body [5]. Seventy five pounds suggests a quantity that might be used at a royal burial. The compound was inserted in the wrappings as they wrapped each limb and the body with linen (Figure 3).

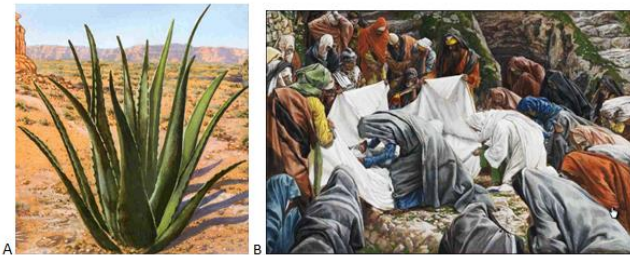


Figure 3- A- Aloe vera plant, B- The holy virgin kisses the face of Jesus before it is wrapped in strips of linen.

Myrrh is the resinous gum of the bush *Balsamodendron myrrha* [6,7]. Myrrh is used for soreness, swelling and inflamed gums (gingivitis). It has both anti-inflammatory and antibacterial effects [8]. Aloes probably refer to the strong aromatic, quick-drying juice of the Aloe vera or Aloe succotrina. It is warm and aromatic that prevents blood stasis, disperses swellings and alleviates pain with three to ten grams in decoction (Figure 4) [9,10].



Figure 4- Myrrh and *Balsamodendron myrrha*.

Such preparation in a close tomb would definitely explain the possibility of resuscitation. A crucified person would inevitably suffer from several pathologies including fluid loss, asphyxia, heart failure, acidosis, hypovolemic shock, pulmonary embolism and myocardial infarction [2,3]. Such conditions would clearly result in loss of consciousness and thus require resuscitation. If the body was not resuscitated and revived, it would have turned into rigor mortis with no hope whatsoever for resurrection. Peak of rigor mortis usually occurs within 12 hours after death

reinforcing the belief that Jesus should have been resuscitated much before that time [11]. However; the process should be different from the steps of primary survey applied today for resuscitation [12].

Conclusion

There is no doubt that Jesus had an intense suffering while being raised to the cross and after crucifixion. Probably the reality of Jesus's rise will never be clearly unveiled. The Gospels state that Jesus rose in body and spirit after he was crucified and laid in tomb. This juvenescence of Jesus after crucifixion gives credence to a feeling that Jesus underwent resuscitative measures by the plethora of herbal ingredients that he had been provided while laying in the tomb.

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Disclosure-Conflict of interest

The authors *declare that they had no conflict of interest.*