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Questions:

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

When I was about 8 years old I read in a tourist guide of the Turin Shroud. I went to Turin (I am from Padua, Italy), but I was very disappointed when I understood that the Shroud was not exhibited to the public in that period. From then I was always interested in the Shroud but from a general point of view.

2. What interested you about the Shroud?

The body image is what interested me more and for this reason in 1996 I began to study it at University level using computer vision.

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 must separate scientific aspects from religious ones.

From a scientific point of view both my researches and the studies performed by the students (of Mechanical Engineering) in thesis with me ALL lead to a confirmation of the authenticity of the Shroud even if, up to now, no sure proof has been evidenced.

From a religious point of view, I am sure that the Holy Shroud is authentic and it is the most important Relic of Christianity. This because, following a precise question of mine, I had a personal "answer" in 1998 in front of the Relic.

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

When I was a boy of eight years old I only took a photo of the Shroud, but in 1996 I began scientific research, which also involved many students and other researchers both from Europe and USA.

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

Yes, if I remember well at least 3 times in 1998, 2 times in 2000, 2 times in 2002, and almost 10 times in 2010. I can add that the best visits were in 1998 and in 2010 in conjunction with a Holy Mass and this last series prepared me very well for my journey to Medjugorje.

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

I again have to separate scientific points of views from religious ones. Sometimes I experienced nothing especially when I was in front of the Shroud as a photographer or as a researcher. But sometimes, when I was as a humble believer, especially during the Holy Masses, my interior sentiments were very strong and not easy to describe in few words.

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

I have already answered to the first question. I am the leader of different scientific groups principally addressed to the understanding of the body image formation. Just this year my University financed a project of mine (54000 euros) for scientific studies on the Shroud.

8. Have you ever written anything about the Shroud, either factual or fictitious? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.

It is not easy to count the many books, scientific papers, and texts written on the TS by me prevalently from a scientific point of view. My web page is an example.

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.

It's a hypothesis, not a theory because it is not yet validated by science. In fact, at this moment, the body image cannot be completely explained nor reproduced by science.

I am, however, convinced that the Coronal Discharge played an important role in the body image formation.

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**.

I can say that, starting from Nice Congress on the Shroud in which I presented my first proposal in 1997, I have had so much material, both of bibliographic and of physical types (all the material free and much without requesting it) and so many requests to work with me, especially from my students, that now I cannot stop my researches. From a certain point of view, this can be seen as a calling.

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

The Turin Shroud is a very interesting object to be studied from a scientific point of view, but it is not only this.

Especially from a religious point of view, it is the material proof of what Jesus

Christ suffered for me and for all the mankind. But there is something more important. After many years of scientific studies and reflections, I see the body image on the Shroud as the photo of Jesus Christ's Resurrection and this image assures me that there is another life after this one. This is the reason why I am pushed to change my objectives of my life.

Writings/Websites/Blogs: <http://www.dim.unipd.it/fanti/Shroud.htm>