

Name: Joanna Emery, Author, Canada

Questions:

1. **When** and **how** did you first hear about the Shroud?
Around age 12
2. What interested you about the Shroud?
It is an intriguing, real-life mystery.
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 believe it is real.
4. What, if any, actions did you take after you first encountered the Shroud (e.g., conduct research, contact people involved with it, etc.)?
Yes, I conducted my own research, made contact with other researchers, attended symposiums and read the latest books on the Shroud.
5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years?
Yes, the first time was this past spring, 2010 in Turin.
6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?
I was grateful to be there, to finally see the Shroud with my own eyes. My mind tried to reconcile what my heart believed, that Jesus' body had actually touched this cloth and His image was still there.
7. Have you ever been involved in any scientific study of the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.
No, not scientific although I have asked my father, a forensic pathologist, for his scientific, medical, and personal opinion 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**.
Yes, I have written a book for young people (ages 12 and up) about it as I wanted them to be introduced to the Shroud as I was...I'm concerned that so many youth in North America know nothing about it.

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.

I'm unsure, but I do think it may have to do with Jesus' resurrection (how, I don't know).

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**.

At times, I do feel I have a desire to become more involved with the Shroud but right now, with a growing family, it has been difficult...I hope in the future I can fulfill this call to a greater extent.

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

How the Shroud affects each one of us is deeply personal and individual. For the past decade, I have constantly worn a necklace with a small "Shroud" pendant (just as some people always wear a crucifix or birthstone, etc.). This small item helps remind me of the Shroud and what it means to me. The Shroud connects me to the mystery of suffering, the promise of redemption and the glimpse of eternal life...a reality beyond our world.

Writings/Websites/Blogs:

"Journey of the Shroud: Stories For Young People"
(www.joannaemery.com)