

Can DNA end mystery of Shroud of Turin?

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Is it a medieval fake or a relic of Jesus Christ? A new analysis of DNA from [the Shroud of Turin](#) reveals that people from all over the world have touched the venerated garment.

“Individuals from different ethnic groups and geographical locations came into contact with the Shroud [of Turin] either in Europe (France and Turin) or directly in their own lands of origin (Europe, northeast Africa, Caucasus, Anatolia, Middle East and India),” study lead author Gianni Barcaccia, a geneticist at the University of Padua in Italy and lead author of the new study describing the DNA analysis, said in an email. “We cannot say anything more on its origin.”

The new findings don't rule out either the notion that the long strip of linen is a medieval forgery or that it's the true burial shroud of [Jesus Christ](#), the researchers said.

In the study, Barcaccia and his colleagues analyzed dust that they vacuumed from the shroud that contained traces of both plant and human DNA.

The team also sequenced the human mitochondrial DNA (DNA passed from mother to child) found in dust from the shroud. The genetic lineage, or haplotype, of the DNA snippets suggested that people ranging from North African Berbers to East Africans to inhabitants of China touched the garment.

Read full, original post: [Is It a Fake? DNA Testing Deepens Mystery of Shroud of Turin](#)