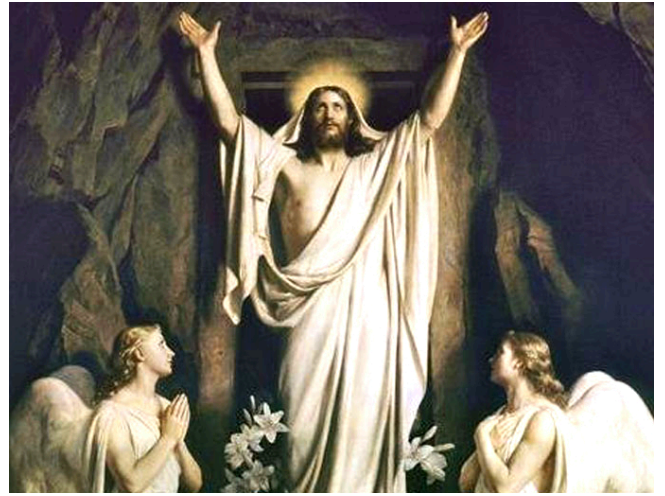


THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST?



Today, March 8, 2024 is The Feast of the Five Holy Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Though He sustained hundreds or maybe thousands of bodily injuries, micro, small or big as described by the mystic visionary, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich in her book, “The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, historians and biblical scholars always mention only the five major wounds of our Lord, the nail marks of each of His hand and foot (4) and the His pierced right chest. Actually, the lance of Longinus, according to her, did come out of the left side of Jesus but what was only counted was the actual entry wound on the right chest. On the feast of today, we need to delve into what might actually be the greatest miracle of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

WHICH IS THE GREATEST MIRACLE OF OR LORD JESUS CHRIST?

Since His Resurrection and Ascension, the Church fathers even the various sects that acknowledge Him as God but heretically adds and subtracts to His teachings and the Scriptures, and also oppose vehemently the Roman Catholic church He founded, say that Our Lord’s greatest miracle is His Resurrection. Indeed, it was until now. To make sure that we present our case properly and to the edification of all, let us first define what a miracle is.

WHAT IS A MIRACLE?

In this **modern confused culture** where ancient words have now different meanings, mostly **contrary to its original connotation**, where what was previously **right is now wrong**, where **perversity and its acceptance is normal**, where nature especially **human**

gender is changed to what a person feels his/her tendency is, where **history is changed** to deny the truth of the past and present a more acceptable non-existent event/events, where **true news is obfuscated** to present liberal, progressive and modernistic lies, subjective teachings and propaganda, whereby it reaches the point of ‘**cultural and generational brain-washing**’, we need to define miracle for what it truly is.

The “Miracle on Ice” of the Lake Placid, New York Olympics of 1980, has been mentioned a million times to the point that the uninitiated would think it really was one, true miracle. To refresh some memories or for those who are too young to know, the U.S. hockey team composed of college players beat the Russian team in the semi-finals and won the gold medal in the finals. The rest of the Olympic hockey players of other countries were professionals or semi-professional. So the country thought that was a miracle. Since all things come from God, then it might be also called a “gift from God to the U.S.A.” But there was nothing extraordinary except the depth of experience and ages of the combating participants, and the fact that the U.S. had not won any medal since 1972 (silver medal). This event was nothing more than God’s generosity to this country. So using the term miracle is very inappropriate.

A secular definition of a miracle states, “A surprising and welcome event that is **not explicable** by natural or scientific laws and is therefore considered to be the work of a divine agency.”¹

A bible definition states, “An event in the external world **brought about by the immediate agency or the simple volition of God**, operating without the use of means capable of being discerned by the senses, and designed to authenticate the divine commission of a religious teacher and the truth of his message” (John 2:18 ; Matthew 12:38)²

The Scriptures count 34 miracles³ Our Lord performed throughout His earthly mission. They were classified as:

- Healing miracles (curing of physical impairments and illnesses)
- Exorcisms (casting out demons and unclean spirits)
- Nature miracles (calming storms, feeding multitudes.)

¹ Oxford Languages

² <https://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/miracle>

³ <https://catholicidentity.bne.catholic.edu.au/scripture/SitePages/Miracle-stories-in-the-gospels.aspx?csf=1&e=sePJAl>

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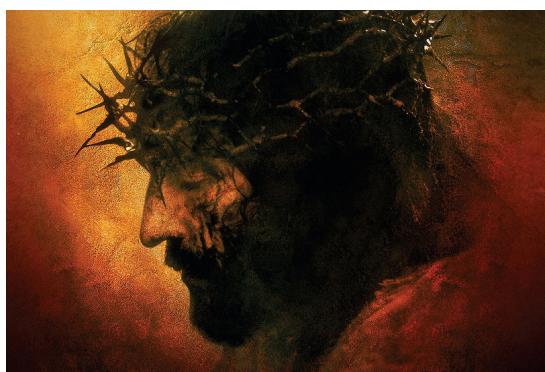
- Restoration miracles (raising the dead, restoring to life)⁴

But above all these spectacular events, the greatest one He performed would have been **His Passion**. Why the Passion not the Resurrection?

THE RESURRECTION

On the third day after His burial, Jesus resurrected from His death and started appearing to His disciples. The Resurrection is considered as His greatest because it affirmed that He is God Who came down from Heaven to be born as a man in order to appease the Divine Justice and open Heaven again for mankind. This was truly an event beyond description for many witnesses saw Him for forty days after His resurrection. But as always, **the false news makers, the ancestors of our current news fakers**, were already born during those days so they spread fake news about the apostles making this up. The Resurrection happened because Jesus got back His divinity, which He gave up before His Passion. **So He performed the miracle as the Man-God that He is.**

THE PASSION



When Jesus was arrested in Gethsemane, according to Bl. Emmerich, **He gave up His divinity** and allowed only **His human nature** to endure all that would be inflicted on Him. That is why He trembled and **sweated blood** when He saw what would transpire to Him all the way to Calvary. Divine Justice demands that man who disobeyed God in Eden would have to undergo chastisement of the type that would appease God and restore Heaven to man's entry. So He has to suffer in His own human nature **without the ineffable insulation of divinity**. This was attested to by St. Peter, "Christ therefore **having suffered in the flesh**, be you also armed with the same thought: (1 Peter 4:1) Also, "Who His own self **bore our sins in His body** upon the tree:" (1 Peter 2:24)

Let us review **the totality of the pain and suffering** of Our Lord to see whether this might have been His greatest miracle.

⁴ Idem

St. Elizabeth, Queen of Hungary, with St. Matilda and St. Bridget, wishing to know something of the Passion of Jesus Christ, offered fervent and special prayers, upon which there appeared to them Our Lord Jesus Christ who spoke to them and related that:⁵

- that the number of armed soldiers were 150;
- those who trailed me while I was bound were 23.
- The executioners of justice were 83;
- the blows received on my head were 150;
- those on my stomach, 108;
- I was beaten on the body 6666 times;
- beaten on the head, 110 times.
- I was roughly pushed, and at 12 o'clock was lifted up by the hair;
- pricked with thorns and pulled by the beard 23 times;
- received 20 wounds on the head;
- thorns of marine junks, 72;
- pricks of thorns in the head, 110;
- mortal thorns in the forehead, 3.
- I was afterwards flogged and dressed as a mocked king;
- wounds in the body, 1000.
- The soldiers who led me to the Calvary were 608;
- those who watched me were 3, and
- those who mocked me were 1008;
- The drops of blood which I lost were 28,430.

A single drop of blood is 42-87 microliters.⁶ Taking the higher number, 87 µl, Our Lord lost 2.47 liters of blood (28430 X 87 = 2,473,410 µl, that is half of what the average adult has in his body, i.e. 5 liters. According to the experts, **if you lose more than 40 percent of your blood, you will die.** This is about 2,000 mL, or 0.53 gallons of blood in the average adult.⁷ We took the higher number because His wounds were so severely inflicted and covered most of His body that Bl. Emmerich said, "His whole body was like a single, gaping wound." His blood was oozing blood like grapes in a winepress.

⁵ <https://motherofmercychapter.com/Prayers/Pieta%20Book.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S037907381300090X#:~:text=>

⁷ <https://www.healthline.com/health/how-much-blood-in-human-body#howmuch-blood-can-you-lose>

BLOWS TO JESUS' HEAD

He received **150** blows on the head and was beaten on the head **110** times. *[General observation shows that **an untrained person** can deliver above **750 newtons** of **punch force** with **150 psi** (pound per square inch) of pressure in ideal conditions. In contrast, **an elite boxer or mixed martial artist** can go as high as **5000 newtons** and **800 psi**.⁸ (A newton is the force needed to deliver one kilogram of force at the speed of 3 meters per second or **2.2 lbs** force delivered at **9 ft/sec**.)]*

The violence inflicted on Our Lord's head would have to be delivered with maximum force by each individual perpetrator for they are all trained-to-kill soldiers and **they do not hold back** on the impetus of the blow or injury to be inflicted. *[Calculating the average of a punch force: $(750 + 5000) \div 2 = 2875$ newtons or **475 psi**.]* He could have received **431,250 newtons** or **71,250 psi** from the 150 blows to the head! These all cause **traumatic brain injury**.

Traumatic brain injury⁹ can have wide-ranging physical and psychological effects. Some signs or symptoms may appear immediately after the traumatic event, while others may appear days or weeks later.

Mild traumatic brain injury

The signs and symptoms of mild traumatic brain injury may include:

Physical symptoms

- Headache
- Nausea or vomiting
- Fatigue or drowsiness
- Problems with speech
- Dizziness or loss of balance

Sensory symptoms

- Sensory problems, such as blurred vision, ringing in the ears, a bad taste in the mouth or changes in the ability to smell
- Sensitivity to light or sound

Cognitive, behavioral or mental symptoms

- Loss of consciousness for a few seconds to a few minutes

⁸ <https://www.omnicalculator.com/sports/human-punch-force>

⁹ <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/traumatic-brain-injury/symptoms-causes/syc-20378557>

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- No loss of consciousness, but a state of being dazed, confused or disoriented
- Memory or concentration problems
- Mood changes or mood swings
- Feeling depressed or anxious
- Difficulty sleeping
- Sleeping more than usual

Moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries

Moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries can include any of the signs and symptoms of mild injury, as well as these symptoms that may appear within the first hours to days after a head injury:

Physical symptoms

- Loss of consciousness from several minutes to hours
- Persistent headache or headache that worsens
- Repeated vomiting or nausea
- Convulsions or seizures
- Dilation of one or both pupils of the eyes
- Clear fluids draining from the nose or ears
- Inability to awaken from sleep
- Weakness or numbness in fingers and toes
- Loss of coordination

Cognitive or mental symptoms

- Profound confusion
- Agitation, combativeness or other unusual behavior
- Slurred speech
- **Coma** and other disorders of consciousness

The traumatic brain injury He received would have to be the **fatal kind**. For each blow He received from the knuckles of those soldiers would have to be of the ‘**knockout punch**’ variety. How many knockout blows to the head and face kills a man? In boxing, they usually stop the fight when the other boxer is without any defense or just about ready to fall. Usually it does not take more than **one to five solid punches** to knock out another boxer. Talking of knockout punches, in the history of boxing, a chronicler did count more than 2,000 deaths since 1890¹⁰ due to knockout blows that caused traumatic brain injuries.

¹⁰ <https://howtheyplay.com/individual-sports/Death-in-the-Boxing-Ring>

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Based on the above given symptoms and effects, Our Lord should have died already due to brain damage. He received **150 blows to the head!** But He moved on!

BLOWS TO JESUS' BODY

Our Lord received **108** blows to the stomach and was beaten on the body **6,666** times. Again, the force of these blows and beatings would have to be of the maximum impetus for they wanted to hurt Him so much. He received **310,500 newtons** or **51,300 psi to the stomach!** To His body a total of **19,164,750 newtons** or **3,166,350 psi!** This much force applied to a live bull or cow would have severely **injured or killed** that huge animal much less a human being.

Blunt abdominal trauma (BAT) results when severe blows are inflicted to one's abdominal area or close to it. The spleen and liver are the most commonly injured solid organs. Injuries to the pancreas, bowel and mesentery, bladder, and diaphragm, as well as retroperitoneal structures (kidneys, abdominal aorta) could also occur.¹¹

A severe one punch **blow to the liver** could also **cause death** as evidenced by the death of Rafael Rodriguez of Mexico when he received a solid left hook from Gaby Sanchez, also from Mexico in a bout on 26 June 1960.¹²

Deaths caused by ruptured spleens **are possible and do still occur**, even at the top trauma centers.¹³

All his abdominal organs had been physically compromised due to the violence He received. The biomedical condition and chemistry of His body, the body of man, that He Himself designed with it's synchronized organization and processes, were all thrown skewed from the violence inflicted by the same man, whom He loved so much. His body functions were on the verge of collapse, but He moved on!

THE FLAGELLATION OF OUR LORD

The night before He was beaten to a pulp, He now has brain damage, and possibly a ruptured spleen and damaged liver. His kidneys might have been compromised too,

¹¹ <https://www.uptodate.com/contents/initial-evaluation-and-management-of-blunt-abdominal-trauma-in-adults/print>

¹² St. Louis Globe-Democrat 28 Jun 1960, page 16

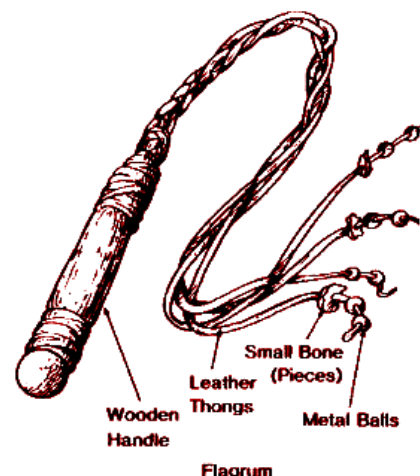
¹³ www.webmd.com

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together with pulverized intestines. **He should be dead!** But He moves on to fulfill the Scriptures.

Now He goes through the gamut of Pilate and the others. To please the enemies of Our Lord, Pilate sends Him to be flagellated (scourged). Let us get some ideas what this hideous corporal punishment is and what it does to the victim.

Scourging,¹⁴ called verberatio by the Romans, was possibly the worst kind of flogging administered by ancient courts. While the Jews administered whippings in the synagogues for certain offenses, these were mild in comparison to scourging. Scourging was not normally a form of execution, but it certainly was brutal enough to be fatal in many cases. A person certainly **could be beaten to death** by the scourge if that was desired. Its purpose was not only to **cause great pain**, but to humiliate as well. To scourge a man was to beat him worse than one would beat a stupid animal. It was belittling, debasing, and demeaning. It was considered such a degrading form of punishment that, according to the Porcian (248 B.C.) and Sempronian (123 B.C.) laws, Roman citizens were exempt from it. It was, therefore, **the punishment appropriate only for slaves and non-Romans**, those who were viewed as the lesser elements in Roman society. To make it as humiliating as possible, scourging was carried out in public.



The instrument used to deliver this form of punishment was called in Latin **a flagellum or a flagrum**. This was much different from the bullwhip that is more common in our culture. It was instead more like the **old British cat o' nine tails**, except that the flagellum was not designed merely to bruise or leave welts on the victim. The flagellum was a whip with several (at least three) thongs or strands, each perhaps as much as three feet long, and the strands were weighted with lead balls or pieces of bone. **This instrument was designed to lacerate**. The weighted thongs struck the skin so violently **that it broke open**. The church historian Eusebius of Caesarea recounts with vivid, horrible detail a scene of scourging. He says, "For they say that the bystanders were struck with amazement when they saw them **lacerated with scourges even to the innermost veins and arteries**, so that **the hidden inward parts of the body, both their bowels and their members, were exposed to view**"¹⁵ (Ecclesiastical History, Book 4, chap. 15).

The victim of a scourging was bound to a post or frame, stripped of his clothing, and beaten with the flagellum from the shoulders to the loins. The beating left the victim bloody and weak, in unimaginable pain, and near **the point of death**.

¹⁴ <https://www.truthmagazine.com/archives/volume44/v440106010.htm>

¹⁵ The description of Bl. Emmerich was correct, **"His body is a big gaping wound!"**

HOW DID OUR LORD ENDURE ALL OF THESE IF HE DID NOT HAVE HIS DIVINE POWER?



He, Himself, taught us how to do it. “And Jesus answering, saith to them: **Have the faith of God.** Amen I say to you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain, Be thou removed and be cast into the sea, and shall not stagger in his heart, but believe, that whatsoever he saith shall be done; it shall be done unto him.” (Mark 11:22, 23)

Yes, He commanded all His body’s organs and their ancillary systems to take Him to Calvary so as to fulfill all the prophecies! He should have been dead right after they beat Him up in the dungeon the night before, yet He moved on. They flogged Him 39 times, yet He moved on! Oozing with copious amounts of blood, lacking oxygen to all His vital organs, unimaginable pain dulling His senses, He moved on! **No divine shield, no heavenly insulation** from injuries and physical destruction. No man would have lived through all this brutality. He looked more like a walking slaughtered animal than a man (**Isaias 23:2,3**) but He willed His body to the Cross and still hung there for three hours! He did all this as a simple human being without any help from His heavenly Father.

But Bl. Emmerich mentioned that an angel sometimes gave Him some sort of liquid to drink that seemed to resuscitate Him. Maybe, it is like an **‘instant stem cell liquor’** for only the stem cells could renew the human organs and parts so He could get to Calvary. We do not know but He, as a man, overcame the laws of human bioengineering, which He, Himself established. All these torture and horrific pain in order He to save man and appease the Divine Justice which our first parents violated.

Would this not be **the greatest miracle of Jesus?** In the Resurrection, He got His divinity back and used His divine power to put Himself together. **But in the Passion, He, The Man, did it as a plain human being.**

Either way, we owe Him the following sentiments each time we see a Crucifix or in The Credo and The Angelus (when we genuflect at these words: **“And the Word was made flesh”**) since He died for the collective sins of mankind, theirs and ours:



We thank Thee, Lord Jesus, for dying for us.

Forgive us for what we have done to Thee.

May we learn to love You as much as You deserve.

Thank You, Lord! Thank You!