

GOSPEL PEARLS

Intelligence should be used well

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Filled with awe and great joy the women came quickly away from the tomb and ran to tell the disciples. And there, coming to meet them, was Jesus. 'Greetings' he said. And the women came up to him and, falling down before him, clasped his feet. Then Jesus said to them, 'Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers that they must leave for Galilee; they will see me there.' While they were on their way, some of the guard went off into the city to tell the chief priests all that had happened. These held a meeting with the elders and, after some discussion, handed a considerable sum of money to the soldiers with these instructions, 'This is what you must say, "His disciples came during the night and stole him away while we were asleep." And should the governor come to hear of this, we undertake to put things right with him ourselves and to see that you do not get into trouble.' The soldiers took the money and carried out their instructions, and to this day that is the story among the Jews. (Matthew 28, 8-15)

If the soldiers were really asleep, how could they have testified that the body of Jesus had been stolen by the disciples? As we know very well, surveillance cameras didn't exist at the time! The evident contradiction demonstrates the Sanhedrin's prejudice towards Jesus which becomes perseverance in their sin, thus blinding their intelligence.

Conversely, the apostles and disciples who were still shaken and fearful following the death of Jesus, are gradually confirmed in their faith in Him. This was firstly because of the testimony of the women and, later, by the verification of the empty tomb and the shroud found intact, but miraculously liberated of Jesus' body. This means that the apostles applied their intelligence to come to believe in Jesus. How do you use your intelligence?