

## The Phillips Hypothesis

The Phillips Hypothesis is a genuine, objective "scientific" hypothesis, according to the test proposed by Sir Karl Popper, in that **it can be falsified experimentally**, by observations or physical measurements, **if false!**

Careful readers of Mark Antonacci's exhaustively researched ***The Resurrection of The Shroud: New Scientific, Medical, & Archeological Evidence***, by Mark Antonacci, M. Evans & Company, 2000, already know from page 159 that in the paper by Thomas J. Phillips, *Shroud irradiated with neutrons*, *Nature*, vol. 337, no. 6208 (February, 1989), pp. 594 – 594, a Harvard U High Energy Physics Lab researcher (now on the faculty of Duke U) suggested that the 1988 radiocarbon "age" of 1260-1390 AD could have been mistakenly deduced by neglecting the possibility that the Resurrection of the body of Our Lord had been accompanied by a particle flux.

Indeed, according to Hedges of the Oxford U radiocarbon dating lab, a mere 18% more of Carbon-14 compared to that present naturally would cause a first-century cloth to appear to be only 650 years old!

Such a flux would cause Chlorine 35 to transmute to Chlorine-36, and Calcium-40 to transmute to Calcium-41, though the short-lived radioactive isotopes Cl-36 and Ca-41 essentially **do not occur in nature**, and, as Phillips pointed out in 1989, if either were found in the Shroud it would PROVE that the Shroud had been subjected to a neutron flux!

Moreover, the Iron (Fe-56) in the human blood on the Shroud would have been transmuted into another not naturally-occurring isotope, Chromium-53.

And if the isotopic abundance ratios of the Cl-36, Ca-41, & Cr-53 daughter products in comparison to the parent elements were measured, this would provide **three new and independent datings** of the Shroud!

I am personally already convinced (from the abundant evidences reviewed in Antonacci's book) that according to David Hume's criterion for belief in a miracle, it is belief in a greater miracle to suppose that the Shroud is a Medieval Fraud and that some pre-scientific forger could produce a myriad of physical evidences of authenticity that well-funded modern technology has not been able to come "within light-years" of duplicating!

For more vitally important & essential details regarding the Phillips Hypothesis and other evidences of the Shroud's likely authenticity, see 22 pages of Cover Blurbs, Contents, & excerpts from Antonacci's invaluable book at: <http://www.innoventek.com/AntonacciResurrectionOfTheShroud.pdf>

[but if your internet connection is as slow as mine then downloading these 5.2 MB will take 12.8 minutes!]

If the Phillips Hypothesis were falsified, then other explanations for the 1988 non-first-century radiocarbon "dating" would remain to be considered.

But in the event that the Phillips Hypothesis were confirmed, this would be the equivalent of dropping a hydrogen bomb on the citadel of the secular humanists like Dawkins, whose religion is idolatry of "science" considered solely within the unnecessarily narrow framework of metaphysical naturalism (as exposed in the books of Phillip Johnson).

Also it would expose as an error in the Noble Qu'ran the obscure passage (which uses the word "confused") that seems to confirm the Christian heresy already in circulation at the time of Prophet Mohammed (PBUH) to the effect that, although Jesus was indeed the prophesied Hebrew Messiah, and had been via action of the Holy Spirit miraculously born of the Virgin Mary, and was "the Word of God" and "the spirit of God," and was eventually taken bodily into Heaven where he "sits at the right hand of the Father" and will return as the Father's executor at the time of Final Judgment, he was not actually crucified but it was a mass-delusion induced by God when someone else [traditionally Judas] was crucified but "made to appear" as if it were Jesus.

This is the SOLE important theological point upon which Islam & Christianity are in conflict, but sophisticated Muslims know that various versions of the Noble Qu'ran were in circulation both in written and memorized forms, and that Caliph Othman had them all compared and the "best" one kept while all the others were destroyed, and therefore they could accept "correction" of this SINGLE obscure passage in the Othman Recension of the Noble Qu'ran if the Muslim nuclear physicists accepted the validation of the Phillips Hypothesis.

On the other hand, when I met Shayk Habib Ali Jifri of Yemen, a direct lineal descendent of the Prophet Mohammed [Peace Be Upon Him], he surprised me by asking me (through an interpreter) to "accept Islam [Submission {to God}]" by reciting the Shahada in Arabic after him, and, after I complied, he told the interpreter to tell me that "**WE** [the **Ummah** {world-wide community of Muslims}] are the people engaged in getting the world ready for the Return of Jesus, and I have prayed to Allah to keep you alive until the Second Coming of Christ!"

At age 76 I don't expect that we are THAT close to the End Times [though I may attend an evening course on the Book of Revelation sponsored by my parish], but I do hope to live to see the "**Metaphorical Second Coming**" when the **Phillips Hypothesis is confirmed!**

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