

NAME: Avinoam Danin, Botanist and Author, Israel

Questions:

1. **When** and **how** did you first hear about the Shroud?

Paul Maloney corresponded with me in the 1980s about identifying pollen from the Shroud. Nothing came out of that. In September 1995 Alan and May Whanger visited me in Jerusalem, showed me their photographic work and we carried on together from that date.

2. What interested you about the Shroud?

I discovered several plant images on the Shroud photos and selected the significance values of each to Sindonology.

3. Do you believe the Shroud is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ, a fake relic, or are you uncertain what to believe?

My botanical findings bring it closest to the first part of the first sentence [*that it is likely the burial cloth of Jesus Christ*].

4. What, if any, actions did you take after you first encountered the Shroud (e.g., conduct research, contact people involved with it, etc.)?

I started to conduct research as a result of my contact with the Whangers and people that are involved with it.

5. Have you ever seen the Shroud at any of the exhibitions? If yes, which years?

1998 from 10 meters and in March 2000 from 10 centimeters. In 2010 from 15-20 meters.

6. What did you experience when you were in the presence of the Shroud?

That I saw the plant images without any photographs and that my findings are a fact and not an artifact.

7. Have you ever been involved in any scientific study of the Shroud? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.

Botanical research of the images. I knew that I have more experience and justification to do the study and found honest people to work with (the Whangers,

A. Adler, and at present, P. Soons).

8. Have you ever written anything about the Shroud, either factual or fictitious? If yes, please describe **what motivated** your work and **why**.
I wrote several articles and 3 books (thin) as I have the desire to share my knowledge from the Academic World I come from.

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 do not know if this is the name but – I understand that several kinds of radiation caused the images seen on the Shroud.

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**.
No.

Please describe below any other *personal* reflections, experiences, insights, or thoughts about the Shroud of Turin that you would like to share.
My opinions about the Shroud changed due to collaborative research with Alan and Mary Whanger and with Petrus Soons.

Writings/Websites/Blogs:

<http://flora.huji.ac.il>

A. BOOKS

- Feinbrun-Dothan, N. and Danin, A. 1991. Analytical Flora of Eretz Israel. Cana, Jerusalem. 1040 pp.
- Danin, A. 1998. Wild plants of Eretz Israel and their distribution. Carta, Jerusalem. 212 pp.
- Danin, A. and Orshan, G. (eds.) 1999. Vegetation of Israel. I. Desert and coastal vegetation. Backhuys, Leiden, 341 pp.
- Danin, A., Whanger, A.D., Baruch, U. and Whanger, M. 1999. Flora of the Shroud of Turin. Missouri Botanical Garden Press. 52 pp.
- Danin, A. 2004. Distribution Atlas of Plants in the Flora Palaestina Area. Israel Academy of Science and Humanities, Jerusalem, 520 pp.
- Danin, A. and Guerra, H. 2008. L'uomo della Sindone. Un botanico ebreo identifica immagini di piante della Terra Santa sulla Sacra Sindone. Edizioni ART, Rome, 88 pp.

Danin, A. 2010. Botany of the Shroud. The Story of Floral Images on the Shroud of Turin. Danin Publishing, Jerusalem, 104 pp.

B. REVIEWED PAPERS

Danin, A. 1995a. Man and the natural environment. In: T.E. Levy (ed.) The Archaeology of Society in the Holy Land. Leicester University Press, London, pp. 24-39.

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Danin, A. 2000b. Il mio incontro con la Sindone. Il Telo 1(2): 14-16.

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Danin, A. 2001. Indicazioni floreali per l'origine geografica della Sindone di Torino. Il Telo II (5-6): 12-21.

Danin, A. 2006a. The nature of thorny plants, the images of which are observed on the Shroud of Turin. CSST Newsletter 10 (2): 1-4.

Danin, A. 2006b. "Who is the Man of The Shroud?". Opening of permanent exhibition Notre Dame Center, Jerusalem. 10 (3): 1, 2, 4.

Danin, A. 2007a. Flora of Israel online. CSST Newsletter 11 (3): 1.

Danin, A. 2007b. An occasional look at some plants of the Bible. CSST Newsletter Insert 11 (3): 1-4.

Danin, A. 2008. An occasional look at some plants of the Bible, part 2, and another not mentioned in the Bible. CSST Newsletter Insert 12 (1): 1-4.

Danin, A. 2008b. Botany of the Shroud of Turin, an addition concerning new information after the 1999 report. CSST Newsletter Insert 12 (3): 1-4.

Danin, A. 2008. Botanical findings on the Shroud of Turin and their significance (pp.73-78). Rinvenimenti botanici sulla Sindone di Torino e loro significato (pp. 79-84). Religioni e Sette nel mondo. 2008(3): 73-84; 141-156.

C. PAPERS PRESENTED IN CONFERENCES

Danin, A. 1998. The origin of the Shroud of Turin from the Near East as evidenced by plant images and by pollen grains. III Congresso

- Internazionale di Studi Sulla Sindone "Sindone e Scienza: Bilanci e Programmi alle Soglie del Terzo Millennio" Torino, 5-7 June, 1998.
- Danin, A. and Baruch, U. 1999. The origin of the Shroud of Turin from the Near East as evidenced by plant images and by pollen grains. Abstracts of the 7th Int. Conf. of the Isr. Soc. for Ecol. And Env. Qual. Sci. p. 61.
- Danin, A. 1999. The Flora of The Shroud of Turin. In conjugation with the XVI International Botanical Congress, at St. Louis, Missouri August 2-7, 1999.
- Danin, A. 2001. Floristic indicators for the origin of the Shroud of Turin. In: Second Dallas International Shroud Conference. Dallas, Texas, 25-28 October 2001.
- Danin, A. 2007. Strings and cords from wild plants since 23,000 years ago. XII Congress of OPTIMA in Pisa, Italy, 10-15 September. P.24.
- Danin, A. 2008. Botany of the Shroud of Turin: An addition concerning new information. The Shroud of Turin: Perspectives on a Multifaceted Enigma. Shroud Science Internet Group, Columbus, Ohio, August 14-17, 2008.
- Danin, A. 2010a. Botany of the Shroud of Turin. In: International Workshop on the Scientific approach to Acheiropoietos Images. (IWSAI 2010) ENEA Frascati, Italy, May 2010, P. 15.
- Danin, A. 2010b. Plants of the Bible and botanical findings on the Shroud of Turin. P. 31 In: Conservation and sustainable use of wild plant diversity. *Orthodox Academy of Crete* (OAC) Kolympari, Chania, Greece. May 2010.