

Doctors Speak About Crucifixion



“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”
Matthew 27:46

- As a rule, victims did not endure crucifixion serenely.
- According to Cicero:
 - Many victims became ravening madmen long before they were mercifully released by death.
 - It was often necessary to cut out their tongues in order to put a stop to their screams and curses.
- From many victims, death would come in about twelve hours. For others, several days.

DR. HOWARD A MATZKE, PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

“Crucifixion resulted in severe pain because the body was hanging on the nails through his hands. It also placed a considerable stretch on the muscles which are very important in breathing. Crucifixion thus prevented normal expiration of the breath, for it held the chest expanded.

“Impaired breathing results in the decreased oxygen supply to the muscles. These in turn accumulate an excess amount of lactic acid. Severe tetany follows. These are muscle spasms comparable to cramps.

“To alleviate the pain of severed nerves and the muscle spasms, the victim would try to push himself up by using the nails through his feet as a brace. Within a few minutes, the pain in the feet would become unbearable, and the body would sag again.”

DR. RICHARD R. PARLOUR, HEAD OF A PSYCHIATRIC CLINIC IN CLAREMONT, CALIFORNIA

“To endure with dignity the agony of this lingering death, together with the various humiliations and other hardships that accompanied it, would require superb powers of self-control . . . To conquer this death without losing one’s personal integrity would seem to require devotion to something supra-human.”

