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Body of Jesus Disappears

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In what appears to be a bizarre case of grave robbing, the body of Jesus of Nazareth has disappeared. Police are baffled and the city is filled with rumors as authorities try to account for the empty tomb.

Last week, in highly publicized events, Jesus (33) was arrested, tried and crucified. Late Friday afternoon his body was laid to rest in a tomb belonging to Joseph of Arimathea, a member of the Sanhedrin. Claiming to be the "King of the Jews," Jesus was condemned by the Roman authorities for political insurrection. Jewish leaders, however, noted that the real motivation for his execution was blasphemy: he claimed to be the Messiah, the Son of God. Both Jewish and Roman leaders hoped that the execution would put an end to the turmoil surrounding his life and ministry. But now public agitation is greater than ever!

The trouble began early Sunday morning when friends of Jesus went to the tomb with spices to anoint the body. Eyewitnesses state that the stone was rolled away and the body was missing. Though Jewish authorities had placed a guard at the tomb, all of the soldiers were apparently asleep when the events occurred.

When asked about the incident, Caiaphas, the High Priest, had no comment. In a prepared

statement, the Temple's Chief Correspondent said simply that the disciples had stolen the body. When asked about a possible motive for such a crime and how all the guards could have been asleep, he too had no comment.

The story took a bizarre twist when some eyewitnesses gave a different explanation for the missing body. "There was no grave robbery," said Mary Magdalene. "Jesus rose from the dead. He is alive and I've seen him." Other reports of "Jesus sightings" are under investigation by our staff.

Simon Peter, the leader of Jesus' disciples, was contacted on Monday and confirmed the resurrection theory. "We're not talking about a spirit or a hallucination," he said. "I've spoken with Jesus, touched him and watched him eat some broiled fish. He is definitely alive. The evidence will convince anyone honest enough to want to know the truth."

As rumors continue to circulate, people are rapidly lining up on both sides of the issue. The city is deeply divided and passions are running high. One astute observer was quoted as saying, "Neutrality on this matter is impossible! It is as if everyone is forced to choose one side or the other. There is enough evidence to make faith possible but not enough to make it inevitable. Jesus is either the living Lord or a dead imposter."

The case remains open.