

10th Station of the Cross (Traditional) - Jesus is stripped of his garments



“The soldiers [...] took Jesus’ garments and made four parts, one for each soldier; also his tunic. But the tunic was without seam, woven from top to bottom; so they said to one another: “Let us not tear it, but casts lots for it to see whose it shall be.” This was to fulfill the scripture, “They parted my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots.” So the soldiers did this.”

~John 19:23-24

Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo (1727-1804)
The **Spoliation of Christ**, 1772,
Museo Nacional del **Prado**

In this text they divided the clothes into 4 parts. What do you think the number four represents? What do you think is the meaning of the under tunic that was without seam and so left whole? What does it mean that this happened so as to fulfill the prophecy?

Although the pictures often depict Jesus with a loincloth, this is not how actual crucifixions happened. The point was to torture and humiliate someone to make a very horrible example to deter others from inciting anything against the Roman rule. Jesus would have been stripped naked of all his outer pretensions very literally.

- At a symbolic level, what kind of garments do you have? How do you clothe your True self?
- In other words what are your defenses and your outward presentation to the world at the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual levels?
- How do you live in disharmony with yourself?
- How is the outward presentation different to the inner truth of who you are?
Start searching for all the dissonances between your outer garments and your inner suffering. You have been taught to clothe yourself and hide this from the world. You have been socialized to live a split and dissonant life.
- How were you taught, and what were you taught? Look at your real, literal clothing – it will give you a clue. This might have changed over the years. What do the garments of projection, denial, caretaking, perfectionism, anger, rebellion etc. look like?
- How is this conveyed not only in your clothing choices, but your body language?
- What naked truth do you wish to conceal from others and yourself?
- How have you been stripped naked in your life, down to the bare essentials?
- What are the bare essentials under the outer presentation?

Why do I talk about the benefits of failure?

Simply because failure meant a stripping away of the inessential.

*I stopped pretending to myself that I was anything other than what I was,
And began to direct all my energy into finishing the only work that mattered to me.”*

~J.K. Rowling