

## 14<sup>th</sup> Station of the Cross (Traditional and Modern) - Jesus is Placed in the Tomb



*Taking Jesus' body, the two of them wrapped it, with the spices, in strips of linen. This was in accordance with Jewish burial custom: At the place where Jesus was crucified, there was a garden, and in the garden a new tomb, in which no one had ever been laid. Because it was the Jewish day of Preparation and since the tomb was nearby, they laid Jesus there.*

*~John 19:40-42*

*The Burial of Jesus. Titian (1490-1576. Museo Nacional del Prado*

- What do the tomb and the garden symbolize?
- The garden is a very rich metaphor of feminine space. Consider all the processes that happen in the garden.
- What does the ritual of washing the body, using spices and wrapping the body, signify?
- Once there is integration of masculine and feminine, mother (soul) and son (ego), you are ready to receive New Life – a resurrection/reincarnation/born again - into a higher plane of consciousness of **transcendence**. Now you live in a Resurrection Body. You might be unrecognizable by others as the person you were. As we profess in the Nicene Creed, this only happens after a descent into hell (symbolically 3 days and 3 nights) and have learned to love what has been spurned, rejected, humiliated and abused – only once you have learned to tend to the poorest of the poor within with love are you ready for the next step of life infused with the gifts of Spirit and service to others and able to walk the Via Dolorosa with them too.
- The next step is when the feminine qualities of wisdom and the masculine energies of compassion are integrated and there is another birth – an **ascension**.
- How is the tomb also then, the womb? How do you know this in your own experience?

*Every breath is a chance to be reborn spiritually.  
But to be reborn into a new life, you have to die before dying.  
~ Rumi (allegedly)*

