

The Dead Christ

“The Body of the Dead Christ” Hans Holbein, 1521





The face too is fearfully agonized, the eyes half open still, but with no expression in them, and giving no idea of seeing. Nose, mouth and chin are all blue; the whole thing bears such a strong resemblance to a real dead body... (Anna Snitkina, Aug. 1867)



[T]he whole form [of Christ] is emaciated, the ribs and bones plain to see, hands and feet riddled with wounds, all blue and swollen, like a corpse on the point of decomposition.

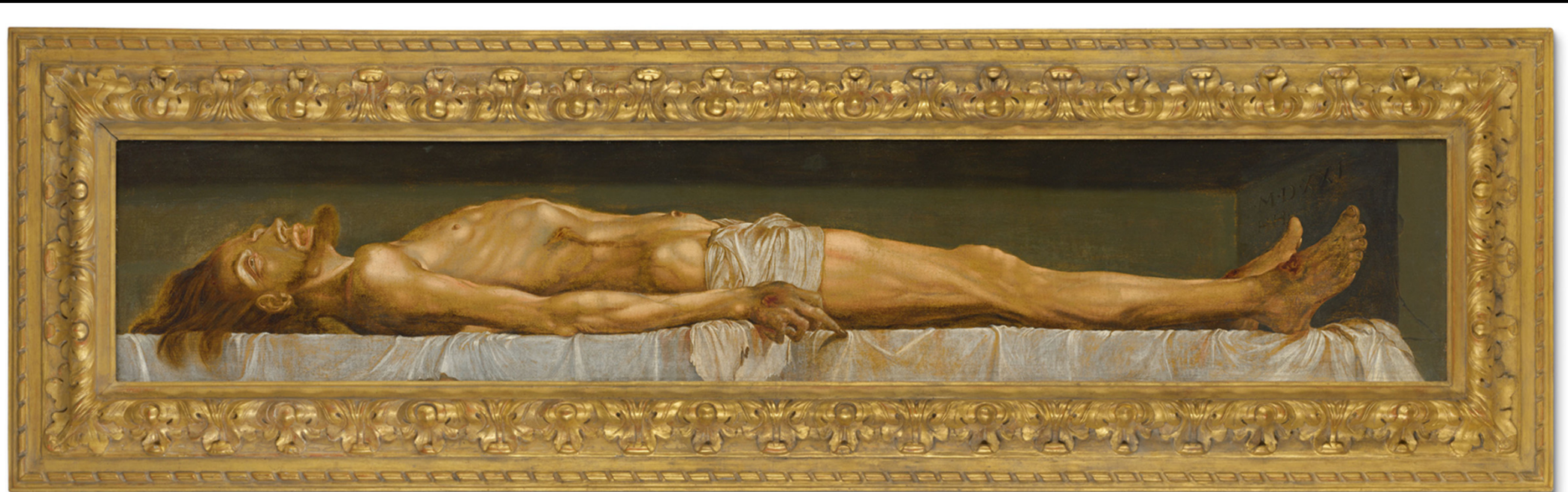
(Anna Snitkina, August 1867)



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“Why, a man’s faith might be ruined by looking at that picture!” (Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*)



The Death of Jesus

- The **reality** of Jesus's death.
- “. . . was crucified, died and was buried.”
 - He died. No really. Really really!

The Death of Jesus

- “He descended to the dead.”
 - Wherever the dead are, he went there!
- The centre of the centre!

The Death of Jesus

- The unbearable silence of Holy Saturday.
- Is that all there is?