

The Muse

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CUPPING AND THE OLYMPIC GAMES

By DR. GEORGE GIACUMAKIS

The 2016 Olympics have brought the practice of *cupping* to the attention of viewers worldwide. Cupping is meant to improve circulation and loosen up tissue, muscles, and joints, leaving circular reddish brown marks on the bodies of Olympic athletes. This practice goes back to Eastern Asia, spreading across Asia into Europe via Greece. There is evidence of its practice in Greek sculpture as early as the Hellenistic Period (3rd Century BC).

Now to give you a personal experience with cupping: when I was

a youth growing up in Western Pennsylvania, my mother, who was an immigrant from Sparta, Greece, would place heated drinking glasses (with very heavy rims) on the backs of my sisters, my father (who was an immigrant from Crete), and myself, whenever we had chest colds or other lung ailments. To develop the suction within the glasses, my mother would glue pieces of cotton in the bottom of the glasses, light the cotton with a match, and place the cups on our backs. The fire would suck the air out of the glass and pull up the skin leaving the reddish brown marks on our backs. And you know what, it really worked!



HUNTING FOR ANCIENT SCROLLS

The Israel Antiquities Authority conducted a three week search in May/June of this year in caves on the northwestern cliffs of the Dead Sea, attempting to find any remains of artifacts, especially scrolls, hidden in caves by Jewish rebels some 2,000 years ago. The Israel Antiquities Authority is attempting to stay ahead

of antiquities looters who look for items that they can steal and then sell on the black market.

According to Israeli law, all relics found on land or in the sea belong to the State of Israel. Approximately 100 looters were captured this past year. Most are fined, but some of these looters do spend time in jail. To

access some of the caves, diggers wear climbing gear and descend along a steep path that hugs a rocky cliff. The dust is thick and workers swallow a lot of it. However, the Israel Antiquities Authority does get a number of volunteers to work in these dusty caves. Would you like to volunteer?

WHEN FAITHFULNESS HURTS BUSINESS

Acts 19:23-41 gives us an account of a disturbance breaking out in 1st Century AD Ephesus. Demetrius, an Ephesian silversmith who made silver shrines of Artemis, complained to the city fathers about the Apostle Paul, accusing him of hurting business, not only in Ephesus, but also in other parts of 1st Century Asia. The reason for his criticism: "Paul has persuaded and drawn away a considerable number of people by saying that gods made with hands are not gods." Demetrius is also concerned that Paul's ministry in Ephesus would cause scorn for the Greek goddess Artemis. When following God affects business, who gets upset? — the people amongst whom churches were founded.

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