## THE PLACE OF THE SKULL



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Charles-Nicolas Cochin the Younger (1715-1790) created illustrations for an epic poem by Torquato Tasso (1544-1595) entitled "La Gerusalemme Liberata." The print depicted in this image—called "Mount Calvary," in English translation—may have been made at some later time by Augustin de Saint-Aubin. The original work was contained in a book, described by the British Library, as "one of the most lavish books of the 18th century." Image online via Wikimedia Commons. Click on it for a full-page view.

When Jesus and the crowd arrived at the place of crucifixion, the soldiers <u>stripped him</u> of His clothes and fastened Him to the cross.

Instead of tying Him with ropes, the Roman soldiers drove spikes through His hands and feet. Then they placed the sign Pilate had fashioned, "Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews," at the top of the cross. It was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. (Artistic works often depict the sign as "I.N.R.I" which, in Latin [where "I" and "V" are respectively "J" and "U"], stands for *Iesvs Nazarenvs Rex Iudaeorum*.)

Today historians dispute the exact location of the place where <u>Jesus was crucified</u>. One place is a hill where rock formations look <u>like a skull</u> near a garden tomb. The other is a site located inside the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (which was built over the spot believed to be Golgotha).

While Jesus hung on the cross, He spoke little. When He asked for something to drink, the soldiers put vinegar on a sponge and hoisted it up to him on a stalk of <a href="https://www.hys.org/hys.org/">https://www.hys.org/</a>

Looking down from the cross, He told his disciple John to take care of His mother. And He forgave everyone who had harmed him. When He knew He was about to die, He said:

Father, into your hands I commit my spirit.

## Media Stream



Roman Soldiers Strip Jesus of his Clothes - El Greco

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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Jesus on the Cross - Tintoretto

Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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Golgatha - Place of the Skull

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<u>Jesus Hanging on the Cross - Jan van Eyck</u> Image, described above, online courtesy Web Gallery of Art.

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