## County Medical Examiners "Riggormortis Posthumous Muscular Rigidity"

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The tepid carcass examinately reclines on my table Its peculiar muscular activity, rigor mortis, works in my favor

Determining PMI through rigid, bone-cracking means Postmortem rigidity occurs through the depletion of ATP...

Adenosine triphosphate is required for muscle relaxation

But metabolic activity continues after death and creates a reaction

Lactid acid is spent and exhausts the store of glycogen

Muscles go hard from the abnormal links between actin and myosin...

This maturating stiff...

Becomes quite stiff...

Positioning the corpse can be quite a Herculean task As I bend the crepitating unmalleable limbs with revolting cracks

Obstinate appendages stubbornly give way under my dragoon efforts

My aching muscles are overtaxed and pushed well passed

discomfort...

- ...Paralytic legs, unflexing arms...
- ... Carrion with all its frozen charm...
- ...Unmoving torso, intractable neck...
- ...Deplorable corpse a total wreck...

Between 2 and 12 hours is the solidifying time required

For abductors and adductors to become unyieldingly mired

It will take a day for outstretched extremities to acquiesce

Finally amenable to my adroit limb-wrenching finesse...

The lampooning hu-mannequin's muscle proteins are devoured

As the taciturn body achieves maximal rigor in 12 hours

12 hours more and the muscular fiber grudgingly give way

When the proteolytic enzymes in the lysosomes of

muscle cells escape...

- ...Corpse piquantly olid...
- ...Now maceratedly flaccid...

Barring rare cadaveric spasms, a PMI timeline can be mapped

Factor in environmental variables and the effects they can have

Ripening malodorous remains can speak from the grave

And tell us their time of death by how their muscles behave...

- ...Paralytic legs, unflexing arms...
- ...Carrion with all its frozen charm...
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