***UNDISCIPLINED CORPSES* T**

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Perinde ac cadaver, "well-disciplined like a corpse," is a phrase attributed to Saint Ignatius of Loyola in the middle of the 16th century. In 1961, Adolf Eichmann—the lieutenant colonel of the SS—defended himself during his trial in Jerusalem, using this same motto. The officer argued that the Jewish genocide was simply and plainly the result of obeying orders from above. "Well-disciplined like a corpse" refers to this idea: blindly and silently obeying one's superiors. In military terms, it is about "due obedience" or "acts of service"—matters that are not questioned. They are orders, and orders are to be obeyed. Period.

Paradoxically, there is nothing less disciplined than a corpse. A lack of discipline is the defining characteristic of many eminent corpses. Corpses are buried, exhumed; then they are buried and exhumed again. They are subject to all kinds of trafficking, legal and illegal trade, and they are the subject of worship, fetishes, and magic. They are also political property. To harbor a dead body or hide it is a matter of the State. Death is not the owner of its corpse. Inert bodies, nevertheless, are never still; they incessantly move, they come and go, and sometimes they have the gift of ubiquity. Some have a quite irritating habit of appearing in the form of ghosts and revealing great truths. Although it is certain that the dead do not leave the living in peace, it is also true that the living do not leave the dead in peace either.