Besides these mutual associations with body, blood, or head of Jesus and linkage with Joseph, both Grail and shroud share rituals and a "secret," deriving from the most probable etymology of "grail": Latin gradalis or "by degrees." In Grail rituals the secret was its gradual revelation, to any knight allowed to experience it, of a series of changes, from infant Jesus to crucified Jesus. If the Grail held the actual blood of Jesus, any further secret was superfluous, anticlimactic, and artificial. In Edessan and Constantinopolitan rituals, the image on the burial shroud was revealed to congregations only gradually, by raising it (accordion style, I surmise), section by section. Texts describe it as beginning as infant Jesus and becoming the entire crucified body. Is the icon's secret the basis of the Grail's secret?"
Pre-Test for the Holy Grail

1. T  F  The wine served at many parties, Sangria, actually is named after the Holy Grail.
2. T  F  Joseph of Arimathea, part of the Sanhedrin, may be responsible for moving the grail.
3. T  F  There are at least three stories about the Holy Grail's rediscovery.
4. T  F  Catholics believe the cup offered at Mass contains the body and blood (and soul and divinity) of Jesus.
5. T  F  Galahad was Lancelot's son.
6. T  F  Parsival discovered the Grail.
7. T  F  Galahad discovered the Grail.
8. T  F  "I thirst" is what the Fisher King says to Parsival.
9. T  F  "I thirst" is what Jesus said on the cross.
10. T  F  In Mark, Jesus asked if the apostles thought they could drink from the cup He was offered.
2. A rather “Interesting” One...

“A common idea joins Joseph’s New Testament (NT) and his medieval legendary roles: his association with the body of Jesus. In the NT he provided the burial sheet that enclosed Jesus’ bloody corpse; and in 12th-13th c. romances he was the first guardian of the Holy Grail, variously given out as a dish holding a communion wafer (i.e., body of Jesus), as the cup that had contained the blood of Jesus consecrated at the Last Supper or dripping from his crucified body, finally as a Dysgl (Celtic for “dish”) bearing a bleeding head.

This paper explores the evidence that begins in the 4th c. for the survival in Edessa (today Urfa, Turkey) and later in Constantinople of a bloodstained burial sheet, widely considered throughout the Byzantine and Syriac Middle Ages as the very cloth Joseph of Arimathea bought for the burial of Jesus. This eyewitness literary evidence persistently relates that the sheet also bore a faint impression of Jesus’ crucified body. A 6th c. text calls this cloth a sindon, NT word for burial shroud, and a tetradiplon, suggesting that it was seen folded in eight layers.

The documents attesting this full-body image migrated westward by the 8th c. Latin accounts of the Edessa cloth-icon remark how this awe-inspiring object had been kept hidden away in treasuries, and shown to the masses only rarely and amidst mysterious ritual. Thus there were relatively few individuals, East or West, who actually experienced this cloth first hand, who knew precisely what it was, or read these Latin accounts.
The Wedding...

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there.

Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine."

(And) Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come."

His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it.

And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now."

John: 2: 1-11
The Second Cycle

Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade!!!

Three Virtuous, Valiant brothers find and protect the Cup. One remains to stand guard.

The Cup of a Carpenter heals a Son's Father...(For the record, that is loaded with imagery).

The Third Cycle

Monty Python and the Holy Grail Camelot Morte d'Arthur The Once and Future King (The Sword in the Stone)

The Family Tree!

- “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” (Luke 23:34)
- “Amen I say to thee, this day thou shalt be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:43)
- “Woman, behold thy son... Behold thy mother.” (John 19:26-27)
- “My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?” (Matt. 27:46)
- “I thirst.” (John 19:28)
- “It is finished.” (John 19:30)
- “Father, into thy hands I command my spirit.” (Luke 23:46)

For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus, on the night he was handed over, took bread, and, after he had given thanks, broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

In the same way also the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. 

1 Corinthians 11
The Holy Grail
Also Known As...
The Cup of the Last Supper
The Cup of the Crucifixion

“One day as Bran the Blessed was hunting in Ireland upon the shore of a lake, he saw come forth from it a black man bearing upon his back an enormous caldron, followed by a witch and a dwarf. This caldron was the instrument of the supernatural power of a family of giants. It cured all ills, and gave back life to the dead, but without restoring to them the use of speech—an illusion to the secret of the bardic initiation.”

Renan

What did Bran see on the man’s back?
Could this be the Grail?
Are there other stories about the dead rising...beyond the Easter story?

The Fisher King (1991)

Parry: Jack--I may be going out on a limb here but you don't seem like a happy camper. [pause] Did you ever hear the story of the Fisher King?
Jack: No.
Parry: It begins with the King as a boy--having to spend a night alone in the forest to prove his courage so that he could become king. While he was alone, he's visited by a sacred vision. Out of the fire appears the Holy Grail, the symbol of God's divine grace. And a voice spoke to the boy, "You shall be the keeper of the Grail, that it may heal the hearts of men." But the boy was blinded by greater visions, of a life filled with power and glory and beauty...And in this state of radical amazement, he felt for a brief moment not like a boy, but invincible...like God. And so he reached into the fire to take the Grail. And the Grail vanished. Leaving him with his hand in the fire, to be terribly wounded.
Now, as this boy grew older, his wound grew deeper, until one day, life for him lost its reason. He had no faith in any man, not even himself. He couldn't love or feel love. He was sick with experience. He began to die.
One day, a fool wandered into the castle and found the king alone. Being a fool, he was simple-minded, he didn't see a king, he saw a man alone and in pain. And he asked the king, "What ails you, friend?" The king replied, "I'm thirsty. I need a some water to cool my throat." So the fool took a cup from beside the bed, filled it with water, handed it to the king. As the king began to drink he realized that his wound was healed. He looked at his hands, and there was the Holy Grail that which he sought all his life! And he turned to the fool and said in amazement, "How could you find that which my brightest and bravest could not?" And the fool replied, "I don't know. I only knew that you were thirsty." Very beautiful, isn't it? I think I heard it that a lecture once...I don't know...a professor...at Hunter.
The Original Ending:
   Falls naked at the Monk’s feet.
Monk review Parcifal’s life... “Oh, yeah, you’re That guy!”
   “What are you looking for?”
It’s right there...
   • Happiness
   • Meaning
   • Truth

Later, though:
   The man covered in festering wounds.
   “I thirst”

Girl: “The grail serves...
   the Fisher King
   Jesus.
IMPULSE! (Have you read, “How the Irish Saved Civilization?”)
Tristram (Tree Stand) and Iseolt
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight

What Cup?
“Cup” of Mark...The Cup of Christ

1. The Last Supper
   Bread: “This is My Body”
   Wine: “This is My Blood”

2. Joseph of Arimathea (Wandering Joseph)...Cup to Catch Jesus’ Blood during Crucifixion

3. Cup that fell from Heaven by Neutral Angels during the War in Heaven.

Synthesis: All Three/One Cup

Cup has the power to HEAL in all stories...brings the dead back to life.
Resuscitation versus Resurrection

Three “Cycles” of the Story...
Cycle One…My Favorite.

The Movie “The Fisher King”
The Movie “Excalibur”
The Book “He”

The Question of Hamlet:
Are you up to your destiny?

In the background of this story is the Medieval Proverb: “To Search for God is to insult God.”

Parsi: Innocent
Ful: Fool (Carnival... Feast of Meat; Festival...Feast of Fools. Time changes meanings)

Parcival, Persifel. Mother (Heart’s Sorrow) raises him in forest in “Woodsman’s Clothes), yet he is a knight by Birth...why?

The six legged Gods and Mom’s advice:
1. Don’t ask questions.
2. Be nice to women.

Boom!
Camelot
Red Knight
Quest

Boom!
Fisher King (Excalibur makes Arthur the Fisher King, not that way in the stories)
The Wound (Salmon, Moslem Knight?)

Whom does the Grail Serve?
I dunno...

Boom!
All Gone and the World Dies
Twenty years of death, mud and ridicule.
Finally, he gives up, runs away.