

Bruh Popes

By Alex Taft



When we think of the pope today we think of sweet old Pope Francis and guys wearing comedically large hats, but not every pope has executed their role as expected. Indeed, in the history of the papacy, we've had some quite wacky fellas take the seat of Vicar of Christ. In fact, one could even label some of their actions as certified "bruh moments". This, my friends, is a tale about some of history's popes that make you say "bruh", the "Bruh Popes". We'll start with my personal favorite bruh pope: Pope Stephen VI. You see, Stephen VI really didn't like the previous pope, Pope Formosus. The reasons for him hating Formosus are very complicated, so to save everyone from having to read an in-depth essay about medieval politics I'm just going to leave it at "he didn't like him very much." He hated Formosus so much that after assuming the Papacy, Stephen VI had Formosus's dead and decomposing body dug out of the ground so he could put it on trial. Yes, he literally put a dead body on trial in the Vatican Palace so he could accuse it of all the things he hated him for and denounce his legitimacy as a pope. Documents from those who attended the trial describe that Stephen VI even had servants nod Formosus's head in agreement as it was being accused. After the trial ended, three of Formosus's fingers were cut off and his body was thrown in the nearby Tiber River. After drifting down the river for some time, a fisherman saw and recovered his body after he supposedly saw it "performing magic tricks". The body, now weeks old and in a horrible state of decomposition due to drifting down the river, was promptly returned to the Vatican and

re-buried. Aside from the guy who put a dead body on trial, my second favorite Bruh Pope is Pope Alexander VI, who would put horses in heat next to his male horse in front of the Vatican Palace and watch them aggressively mate. For some reason this was just the most hilarious thing in the world to him, so he would just stare at the display from his balcony while hysterically laughing to the point of tears. Now that's the kind of life I want to live. Finally, there's Pope John XII, who just straight-up murdered people. Yep, he personally stabbed people who worked under him that he didn't like to death. That's about all there is to that. Dude's wacky. Now that we've learned about some of history's Bruh Popes, we can all be thankful that Pope Francis is a pretty chill guy.