

LIES AND FALSE ALLEGATIONS IN THE DA VINCI CODE

Introduction: is a novel by Dan Brown a former English teacher and writer of three other books. It is s a murder mystery, a religious exposé and a romance novel all in one. The publishers sold 46 million copies of the book and the film based on this book, made by Columbia Pictures, directed by Ron Howard and released world wide in May 2006, collected more than 250 million dollars in the first week. The novel made such enormous success in English and in its translations in French, Modern Hebrew, Italian and so forth because it is a good piece of escapism, which produces an intriguing cocktail that mixes religion, conspiracy, sex, murder and mystery. In Brown's novel, the term The Da Vinci Code refers to cryptic messages supposedly incorporated by Leonardo Da Vinci into his famous artwork, The Last Supper. According to the novel, Leonardo was a member of an ancient secret society called the "Priory of Sion" dedicated to preserving the "truths" that Jesus designated Mary Magdalene as his successor, that his message was about the celebration of the "sacred feminine," that Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and they had a daughter, that the Holy Grail of legend and lore is really Mary Magdalene - the "sacred feminine," - the vessel who carried Jesus' blood or his child. The book is an attack on the basic beliefs of Christianity as clear from Dan Brown's statement: "...almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false. As are the stories about the Holy Grail ." (p. 235). The It was the Roman emperor Constantine (the first emperor to become Christian, who convened the Council of Nicaea

The truth : The gospels, the letters of Paul, as well as writings and liturgies from the centuries preceding Nicaea give ample evidence that Christian faith was based on the belief that Jesus was the Son of God. The early Christians worshipped Jesus as Lord their God. What the synod of Nicaea Personally, Constantine tended to support the position of the Arians, but he recognized the authority of the bishops in articulating the Christian faith, and the bishops of the Council reaffirmed the traditional Christian teaching that Jesus was fully divine. It was thus the bishops of the Council of Nicaea, by their own free will, who reaffirmed the historic Christian position against Arius and his followers.

Christ's divinity is stressed repeatedly in the New Testament.). Confer also John 8:58-59 and 20: 28 " (Phil. 2:6). The writings of the Church Fathers (and even non-Christian historians) before the time of Constantine show that Christians regarded Jesus as God. E.g. Ignatius of Antioch There are four New Testament Gospels, which are named Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. Bible scholars believe that these were written during the first century in which Jesus lived. The Gnostic gospels are generally believed to have been written later – about 100 to 300 years later. With one possible exception, the Nag Hammadi manuscripts containing the Gnostic writing, “ The Gospel of Philip ” (These Gnostic texts borrowed some elements from

Christianity, including the names of Jesus and his apostles, but these writings are not Christian. In response to these new, false writings the regional churches drew up lists of the authentic books that had been handed down from the apostles. A famous list of the sacred writings from the mid-second century is known as the Muratorian Canon . There were relatively very few “gospels” and other documents with any confirmed link to apostolic times, not 80 gospels as claimed by Dan Brown. By the middle of the second century, Christian writers regularly cited only the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, as well as Paul's letters, as the most reliable sources of information about Jesus' life and the faith of the apostles. " The Bible is a product of man, my dear. Not of God. The Bible, as we know it today, was collated by the pagan Roman emperor Constantine the Great" (DVC p. 231). . The Da Vinci Code” also The claim that is flatly contradicted by an overwhelming amount of scholarship by Christians and non-Christians. The Dead Sea Scrolls were discovered in 1947. They are Jewish documents of the Jewish Essene community , not Christian ones and they do not mention Jesus. In fact, Jesus married Mary Magdalene of the tribe of Benjamin. “Behold the greatest cover-up in human history. Not only was Jesus Christ married, but He was a father. My dear, Mary Magdalene was the Holy Vessel. She was the chalice that bore the royal bloodline of Jesus Christ. She was the womb that bore the lineage, and the vine from which the sacred fruit sprang forth.” (p. 249) “Mary Magdalene was pregnant at the time of the crucifixion...With the help of Jesus’ trusted uncle, Joseph of Arimathea [she] secretly traveled to France , then known as Gaul . There she found safe refuge in the Jewish community. It was here in France that she gave birth to a daughter . Her name was Sarah.” (p. 255). Jesus has descendants in the Merovingian royal family in France .

. Besides, if Jesus had been married, given the frequency with which other relations are mentioned, the marriage would have been mentioned in the canonical gospels as well. Moreover, the early Church was unanimous in regarding Jesus as unmarried.

#6: Mary Magdalene was the Holy Grail for Jesus’ blood and Jesus wanted her to succeed him in leading his followers. There is a secret society known as the Priory of Sion that still worships Mary Magdalene as a goddess and is trying to keep the truth alive. The Catholic Church is aware of all this and has been fighting for centuries to keep it suppressed. It often has committed murder to do so. The Holy Blood, Holy Grail and their children became the ancestors of various European dynasties like the Hapsburgs and the House of Lorraine. These stories are mostly taken from Gnostic gospels. Mary Magdalene is honored as a saint in the Catholic (feast on July 22 nd) and Orthodox Churches . There is no evidence in Church history that Mary Magdalene led any kind of alternative branch of Christianity in competition with Peter. If this were so, and if Peter's branch

was so anxious to suppress her, one might wonder why they would retain the portions of the gospels which describe her as the first to meet the Risen Christ.

and the Acts of the Apostles shows that, right at the start of the Christian movement, Christians replaced Saturday with Sunday as their day of worship because Sunday was the day when Jesus rose from the dead. What Constantine did on March 3, 321 A.D. was to decree Sunday to be a day of rest from work. He did not make Sunday the day of worship for Christians because it was already that from the first century.

Jah In the sixteenth century some Christian writers introduced “Jehovah,” under the mistaken notion that the vowels they used were the correct ones. But “Jehovah” is an artificial name created less than five hundred years ago, and certainly not “ an ancient, androgynous name” from which YHWH came as claimed by Dan brown. : The Church was the guardian of truth from the very beginning and it preserved its scriptures and tradition with utmost care in spite of threats and persecution from outside and conflicting ideas from inside. According to Opus Dei's U.S. communications director, Brian Finnerty the real Opus Dei was founded in Spain

The so-called Priory of Sion is central to the plot of the novel is a modern fabrication, based on a series of forgeries committed by a French con man and which authors of the novel “ Holy Blood Holy Grail” presented as truth and Brown copied. Brown’s idea that the Catholic Church burned at the stake five million women is bizarre. About 20% of the three centuries of witch hunting done by the Catholics Protestants and the Puritans in Northern Europe and elsewhere were men and the total victims of that horrible crime in the history of Christianity was around 50, 000, not millions as alleged by Dan Brown.

11: Fiction is presented as historical fact : It not only misrepresents the Church as a murderous institution but also implies that the Christian faith itself is utterly false. tells us: ³a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh. This is a tremendous mystery. I'm applying it to Christ and the Church.² (Ephesians 5:31 sex really meant to be holy?

SERIOUS QUESTIONS & ANSWERS IN A LIGHTER VEIN

The Da Vinci Code is only a novel. It is not a source of serious information, but it does raise some serious questions.

1. Was Jesus Christ really married?

Yes. Jesus was married to the Church. In the New Testament, Jesus is frequently referred to as the Bridegroom, and St. Paul (1 Cor. 6:17) In fact, the Christian vocation is nothing less than an invitation to the eternal ³wedding supper² (Rev. 19:9) of Christ and His Bride, the Church.

2. Did the Church really create the New Testament?

Yes. Without the Church, we wouldn't know which of the many ancient texts that talk about Jesus were inspired by God; we wouldn't have the New Testament. Jesus Christ directly gave His divine authority not to a group of texts which didn't exist in His time, but rather to a group of men, the twelve apostles and their successors (bishops), who teach in His name and with His authority.

3. Is sex really meant to be holy?

Yes. That's why one of the seven Christian sacraments is called Holy Matrimony (the literal meaning of ³hieros gamos²). Christian marriage and the priesthood are holy and sanctifying vocations approached through special sacraments (Holy Matrimony and Holy Orders respectively). All the sacraments like Baptism or the Eucharist, for instance - are outward signs instituted by Christ to give grace, and, in fact, the ministers of this sacrament are the bride and groom themselves.

4. Did Jesus Christ really leave descendents?

Yes. Jesus is God, and He gave all who believe in Him the power to be God's children. In short, we are His descendents: "See what love the Father has given us so that we might be called children of God and so we are!" "Beloved, we are now God's children (1 John 3:1-2). So forget about the Merovingians. We are the royal bloodline of Jesus Christ: You are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation (1 Peter 2:9).

5. Is our culture really missing a figure of female sanctity?

Yes, in today's world there is such a missing woman. Her name is Mary, and she should be venerated not as the wife of a mortal man but rather as the Mother of God. Happily, she is not hard to find. Hers is the most familiar female face in history, represented in countless works of art. The best place in the world to find grown men and women praying on their knees to a woman, perhaps saying the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, is in a Catholic church.

6. Should we really pray over the bones of Mary Magdalen?

Yes. Saint Mary Magdalen is honored by the countless churches and women named after her and by a special Mass on her feast day (July 22). In fact, for more than a millennium, Christians have made pilgrimages to pray in the Basilica of St. Maximin in southern France

7. Does a Holy Grail really exist?

Yes. The popular story of the Holy Grail is a medieval legend, but a non-fictional Holy Grail can be found on the altar during every Mass.

8. Did a woman's womb really carry the blood of Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

Yes. The womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary contained not only the blood but also the entire body of Jesus Christ for nine months. That is why, when they pray the Hail Mary, Catholics refer to Jesus as the fruit of her womb and praise Mary as a most honorable Vessel.

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