

DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN'S *THE DA VINCI CODE*

Project Report Submitted to

**AYYA NADAR JANAKI AMMAL COLLEGE,
(Autonomous),**

SIVAKASI

in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the
Degree of,

MASTER OF ARTS

in

ENGLISH

By

**P. SAM HEFLIN
(Register No: 17PN35)**



**POST GRADUATE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
AYYA NADAR JANAKI AMMAL COLLEGE**

(Autonomous, affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University,

Re-accredited (3rd Cycle) with "A" Grade (CGPA 3.67 out of 4)

by NAAC and recognized as College of Excellence by UGC and STAR College status by DBT

and ranked 47th National Level in NIRF2018)

SIVAKASI-626 124

TAMIL NADU

APRIL-2019

Mrs.P.Kalayan Sundari M.A., M.Ed,
The Head,
Post Graduate Department of English,
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College,
Sivakasi – 626 124.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this project report entitled “**DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN’S *THE DA VINCI CODE***” being submitted by **P. Sam Heflin (Reg. No.17PN35)**, student of M.A.degree course in English, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi, affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, is a bonafide record of work carried out by him under the guidance and supervision of **Mrs. M. Akila, M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed.**, Assistant Professor in English (P.G.)

It is further certified that to the best of my knowledge, this project report or any part thereof has not been submitted in this University or elsewhere for any other Degree or Diploma.

Place: Sivakasi

Date:

(HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT)

Mrs.M.Akila M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed.,
Assistant Professor,
Post Graduate Department of English,
Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College,
Sivakasi – 626124.

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that this project report entitled “**DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN’S *THE DA VINCI CODE***” being submitted by P.Sam Heflin (Reg. No.17PN35), student of M.A. degree course in English, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi, affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, is a bonafide record of work carried out by him under my guidance and supervision.

It is further certified that to the best of my knowledge, this project report or any part thereof has not been submitted in this University or elsewhere for any other Degree or Diploma.

Place: Sivakasi

Date:

(SIGNATURE OF THE GUIDE)

P. Sam Heflin,
II M.A.English,
Post Graduate Department of English,
Sivakasi- 626 124.

DECLARATION

This project report entitled “**DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN’S *THE DA VINCI CODE***” has been carried out by me in the Post Graduate Department of English, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi, affiliated to Madurai Kamaraj University, Madurai, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in English.

I further declare that this project or any other part thereof has not been submitted in the University or elsewhere for any other Degree or Diploma.

Place: Sivakasi

Date:

(P.SAM HEFLIN)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First I would like to thank **God** for having showered blessings upon me to complete my project successfully.

I wish to express my grateful thanks to our Principal, **Dr. C. Ashok M.Sc., M.Phil., D.Y.Ed., Ph.D.** and **the Management** of Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi, for having provided me the necessary facilities in the department and in the library.

I wish to convey my sincere thanks to **Mrs. M.Akila M.A., M.Phil., B.Ed.**, Assistant Professor, Post Graduate Department of English, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous) Sivakasi, for her very useful and valuable guidance at every stage of this project.

I extend my sincere thanks to **Mrs. P.Kalayan Sundari M.A., M.Ed.**, Head and Assistant Professor, Post Graduate Department of English, Ayya Nadar Janaki Ammal College (Autonomous), Sivakasi, for her immense support in all my deeds.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to all the **staff members** of the Department of English for their help from the beginning till the end.

I am indebted to **my Parents** for their constant encouragement and financial support to carry out my task successfully.

I express my thanks to **my friends** for having provided me the necessary co-operation to finish this project.

Place: Sivakasi

Date:

(P.SAM HEFLIN)

CONTENT

CHAPTER NO.	TITLE	PAGE NO.
1	INTRODUCTION	
2	SUMMARY	
3	DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN'S <i>THE DA VINCI CODE</i>	
4	REVIEWS	
5	SUMMATION	
APPENDIX	BIBLIOGRAPHY & WEBLIOGRAPHY	

ABBREVIATION

THE DA VINCI CODE- DVC

CHAPTER-I

INTRODUCTION

American literature is the literature that are written or produced in the United States and its preceding colonies on the Eastern coast of the present-day United States that are heavily influenced by English literature. The American literary tradition thus began as a part of the broader tradition of English literature.

The revolutionary period is notable for the political writings of Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, and Thomas Paine. Thomas Jefferson's United States Declaration of Independence solidified his status as a key American writer. It was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries that the nation's first novels were published. An early example is William Hill Brown's *The Power of Sympathy* published in 1791. Brown's novel depicts a tragic love story between siblings who fall in love without knowing they are related.

In the mid-nineteenth century, Nathaniel Hawthorne published his magnum opus *The Scarlet Letter*, a novel about adultery. Hawthorne influenced Herman Melville, who is notable for the books *Moby-Dick* and *Billy Budd*. America's greatest poets of the nineteenth century were Walt Whitman and Emily Dickinson. Mark Twain was the first major American writer to be born away from the East Coast. Henry James put American literature on the international map with novels like *The Portrait of a Lady*. At the turn of the twentieth century a strong naturalist movement emerged that comprised writers such as Edith Wharton, Stephen Crane, Theodore Dreiser, and Jack London.

The history of American literature stretches across more than 400 years. It can be divided into five major periods, each of which has unique characteristics, notable authors, and representative works.

The Colonial and Early National Period (17th century to 1830)

The first European settlers of North America wrote about their experiences starting in the 1600s. This was the earliest American literature: practical, straightforward, often derivative of

literature in Great Britain, and focused on the future. A new era began when the United States declared its independence in 1776, and much new writing addressed the country's future. American poetry and fiction were largely modeled on what was being published overseas in Great Britain, and much of what American readers consumed also came from Great Britain.

The Romantic Period (1830 to 1870)

Romanticism is a way of thinking that values the individual over the group, the subjective over the objective and a person's emotional experience over reason. It also values the wildness of nature over human-made order. Romanticism as a worldview took hold in Western Europe in the late 18th century, and American writers embraced it in the early 19th century. Edgar Allan Poe most vividly depicted, and inhabited, the role of the Romantic individual—a genius, often tormented and always struggling against convention, during the 1830s and up to his mysterious death in 1849.

Realism and Naturalism (1870 to 1910)

The human cost of the Civil War in the United States was immense: more than 2.3 million soldiers fought in the war, and perhaps as many as 851,000 people died in 1861–65. Walt Whitman claimed that a great literature will arise out of the era of those four years and what emerged in the following decades was a literature that presented a detailed and unembellished vision of the world as it truly was. This was the essence of realism. Naturalism was an intensified form of realism. After the grim realities of a devastating war, they became writers' primary mode of expression. Samuel Clemens was a typesetter, a journalist, a riverboat captain, and an itinerant laborer before he became, in 1863 at age 27, Mark Twain. He first used that name while reporting on politics in the Nevada Territory. It then appeared on the short story "The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County," published in 1865, which catapulted him to national fame. Twain's story was a humorous tall tale, but its characters were realistic depictions of actual Americans. Twain deployed this combination of humor and realism throughout his writing.

The Modernist Period (1910 to 1945)

Advances in science and technology in Western countries rapidly intensified at the start of the 20th century and brought about a sense of unprecedented progress. The devastation of World War I and the Great Depression also caused widespread suffering in Europe and the United States. These contradictory impulses can be found swirling within modernism, a movement in the arts defined first and foremost as a radical break from the past. But this break was often an act of destruction, and it caused a loss of faith in traditional structures and beliefs. Despite, or perhaps because of, these contradictory impulses, the modernist period proved to be one of the richest and most productive in American literature. A sense of disillusionment and loss pervades much American modernist fiction. That sense may be centered on specific individuals, or it may be directed toward American society or toward civilization generally. It may generate a nihilistic, destructive impulse, or it may express hope at the prospect of change.

The Contemporary Period (1945 to present)

The United States, which emerged from World War II confident and economically strong, entered the Cold War in the late 1940s. This conflict with the Soviet Union shaped global politics for more than four decades, and the proxy wars and threat of nuclear annihilation that came to define it were just some of the influences shaping American literature during the second half of the 20th century. The 1950s and '60s brought significant cultural shifts within the United States driven by the civil rights movement and the women's movement. Prior to the last decades of the 20th century, American literature was largely the story of dead white men who had created Art and of living white men doing the same. By the turn of the 21st century, American literature had become a much more complex and inclusive story grounded on a wide-ranging body of past writings produced in the United States by people of different backgrounds and open to more Americans in the present day. Literature written by African Americans during the contemporary period was shaped in many ways by Richard Wright, whose autobiography *Black Boy* was published in 1945. He left the United States for France after World War II, repulsed by the injustice and discrimination he faced as a black man in America; other black writers working from the 1950s through the 1970s also wrestled with the desires to escape an unjust society and to change it.

Daniel Gerhard Brown (born June 22, 1964) is an American author most well known for his thriller novels, including the Robert Langdon stories, *Angels & Demons* (2000), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), *The Lost Symbol* (2009), *Inferno* (2013) and *Origin* (2017). His novels are treasure hunts set in a 24-hour period, and feature the recurring themes of cryptography, keys, symbols, codes, art, and conspiracy theories. His books have been translated into 56 languages, and as of 2012, sold over 200 million copies. Three of them, *Angels & Demons* (2000), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003) and *Inferno* (2013) have been adapted into films.

Brown's novels that feature the lead character, Langdon, also include historical themes and Christianity as motifs, and have generated controversy. Brown states on his website that his books are not anti-Christian, though he is on a 'constant spiritual journey' himself, and says that his book "*The Da Vinci Code*" is simply "an entertaining story that promotes spiritual discussion and debate" and suggests that the book may be used "as a positive catalyst for introspection and exploration of our faith".

In 2005, Brown was named one of the 100 Most Influential People in the World by TIME Magazine, whose editors credited him with "keeping the publishing industry afloat; renewed interest in Leonardo Da Vinci and early Christian history; spiking tourism to Paris and Rome; a growing membership in secret societies; the ire of Cardinals in Rome; eight books denying the claims of the novel and seven guides to read along with it; a flood of historical thrillers; and a major motion picture franchise."

The son of a mathematics teacher and a church organist, Brown was raised on a prep school campus where he developed a fascination with the paradoxical interplay between science and religion. These themes eventually formed the backdrop for his books. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Phillips Exeter Academy, where he later returned to teach English before focusing his attention full time to writing. He lives in New England with his wife.

Brown's latest novel, *Origin*, explores two of the fundamental questions of humankind: Where do we come from? Where are we going? While on vacation in Tahiti in 1993, Brown read Sidney Sheldon's novel *The Doomsday Conspiracy*, and was inspired to become a writer of thrillers.

He started his work on *Digital Fortress*, setting much of it in Seville, where he had studied in 1985. He also co-wrote a humor book with his wife, *187 Men to Avoid: A Survival Guide for the Romantically Frustrated Woman*, under the pseudonym "Danielle Brown". The book's author profile reads, "Danielle Brown currently lives in New England: teaching school, writing books, and avoiding men." The copyright is attributed to Brown.

In 1996 Brown quit teaching to become a full-time writer. *Digital Fortress* was published in 1998. His wife, Blythe, did much of the book's promotion, writing press releases, booking Brown on talk shows, and setting up press interviews. A few months later, Brown and his wife released *The Bald Book*, another humor book. It was officially credited to his wife, though a representative of the publisher said that it was primarily written by Brown. Brown subsequently wrote *Angels & Demons* and *Deception Point*, released in 2000 and 2001 respectively, the former of which was the first to feature the lead character, Harvard symbology expert Robert Langdon.

Brown's first three novels had little success, with fewer than 10,000 copies in each of their first printings. His fourth novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, became a bestseller, going to the top of the *New York Times* Best Seller list during its first week of release in 2003. It is one of the most popular books of all time, with 81 million copies sold worldwide as of 2009. Its success has helped push sales of Brown's earlier books.

In 2004 all four of his novels were on the *New York Times* list in the same week, and, in 2005, he made *Time* magazine's list of the 100 Most Influential People of the Year. *Forbes* magazine placed Brown at No. 12 on their 2005 "Celebrity 100" list, and estimated his annual income at US\$76.5 million. *The Times* estimated his income from *Da Vinci Code* sales as \$250 million.

Brown's third novel featuring Robert Langdon, *The Lost Symbol*, was released on September 15, 2009. According to the publisher, on its first day the book sold over one million in hardcover and e-book versions in the US, the UK and Canada, prompting the printing of 600,000 hardcover copies in addition to the five million first printing.

The story takes place in Washington D.C. over a period of twelve hours, and features the Freemasons. The book also includes many great elements that made *The Da Vinci Code* a number one best seller.

Brown's promotional website states that puzzles hidden in the book jacket of *The Da Vinci Code*, including two references to the *Kryptos* sculpture at CIA Headquarters in Langley, Virginia, give hints about the sequel. This repeats a theme from some of Brown's earlier work.

Brown's fourth novel featuring Robert Langdon, *Inferno* is a mystery thriller novel released on May 14, 2013, by Doubleday. It immediately became a bestseller. In a 2006 interview, Brown stated that he had ideas for about 12 future books featuring Robert Langdon.

Characters in Brown's books are often named after real people in his life. Robert Langdon is named after John Langdon, the artist who created the ambigrams used for the *Angels & Demons* CD and novel. Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca is named after *On a Claire Day* cartoonist friend Carla Ventresca. In the Vatican archives, Langdon recalls a wedding of two people named Dick and Connie, which are the names of his parents. Robert Langdon's editor Jonas Faulkman is named after Brown's real life editor Jason Kaufman. Brown also said that characters were based on a New Hampshire librarian, and a French teacher at Exeter, André Vernet. Cardinal Aldo Baggia, in *Angels & Demons*, is named after Aldo Baggia, instructor of modern languages at Phillips Exeter Academy.

In interviews, Brown has said his wife, Blythe, is an art historian and painter. When they met, she was the Director of Artistic Development at the National Academy for Songwriters in Los Angeles. During the 2006 lawsuit over alleged copyright infringement in *The Da Vinci Code*, information was introduced at trial that showed that Blythe did research for the book. In one article, she was described as "chief researcher".

The Da Vinci Code is a 2003 mystery thriller novel by Dan Brown. It follows "symbolologist" Robert Langdon and cryptologist Sophie Neveu after a murder in the Louvre Museum in Paris causes them to become involved in a battle between the Priory of Sion and Opus Dei over the possibility of Jesus Christ having been a companion to Mary Magdalene.

The title of the novel refers to the finding of the first murder victim in the Grand Gallery of the Louvre, naked and posed similar to Leonardo da Vinci's famous drawing, the *Vitruvian Man*, with a mathematical message written beside his body and a pentagram drawn on his chest in his own blood.

The novel explores an alternative religious history, whose central plot point is that the Merovingian kings of France were descended from the bloodline of Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene, ideas derived from Clive Prince's *The Templar Revelation* (1997) and books by Margaret Starbird. The book also refers to *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail* (1982) though Dan Brown has stated that it was not used as research material.

The Da Vinci Code provoked a popular interest in speculation concerning the Holy Grail legend and Mary Magdalene's role in the history of Christianity. The book has, however, been extensively denounced by many Christian denominations as an attack on the Roman Catholic Church, and consistently criticized for its historical and scientific inaccuracies. The novel nonetheless became a worldwide bestseller that sold 80 million copies as of 2009 and has been translated into 44 languages.

Combining the detective, thriller and conspiracy fiction genres, it is Brown's second novel to include the character Robert Langdon: the first was his 2000 novel *Angels & Demons*. In November 2004, Random House published a Special Illustrated Edition with 160 illustrations. In 2006, a film adaptation was released by Columbia Pictures.

Contemporary writers

Sidney Sheldon (February 11, 1917 – January 30, 2007) was an American writer and producer. He came to prominence in the 1930s, first working on Broadway plays and then in motion pictures, notably writing the successful comedy *The Bachelor and the Bobby-Soxer* (1947) which earned him an Academy Award. He went on to work in television, where his works spanned a 20-year period during which he created *The Patty Duke Show* (1963–66), *I Dream of Jeannie* (1965–70) and *Hart to Hart* (1979–84). He became most famous after he turned 50 and began writing best-selling romantic suspense novels, such as *Master of the Game* (1982), *The*

Other Side of Midnight (1973) and *Rage of Angels* (1980). He is the seventh best selling fiction writer of all time.

Jonathan Earl Franzen (born August 17, 1959) is an American novelist and essayist. His 2001 novel *The Corrections*, a sprawling, satirical family drama, drew widespread critical acclaim, earned Franzen a National Book Award, was a Pulitzer Prize for Fiction finalist, earned a James Tait Black Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the International Dublin Literary Award. His novel *Freedom* (2010) garnered similar praise and led to an appearance on the cover of *Time* magazine alongside the headline "Great American Novelist"

Michael Chabon (born May 24, 1963) is an American novelist and short story writer. Chabon's first novel, *The Mysteries of Pittsburgh* (1988), was published when he was 25. He followed it with *Wonder Boys* (1995), and two short-story collections. In 2000, Chabon published *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay*, a novel that John Leonard, in a 2007 review of a later novel, called Chabon's magnum opus. It received the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2001 (see: 2001 in literature).

David Foster Wallace (February 21, 1962 – September 12, 2008) was an American writer and university instructor in the disciplines of English and creative writing. His novel *Infinite Jest* (1996) was listed by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 best English-language novels published between 1923 and 2005. His last novel, *The Pale King* (2011), was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2012.

CHAPTER-II

SUMMARY

The novel *The Da Vinci Code* began with the serious murder of Jacques Saunier that happened in Louvre museum. It was did by a monk of opus die named Silas, demanded the location of “Holy grail”(DVC: 331) from Jacques Saunier. After knowing the location of “Holy Grail” from Saunier, Silas shot him and left the museum. Meanwhile Saunier had lied to him the location of “Holy Grail” and wrote four lines on the floor in an invisible ink which can be predicted by a person one who has sound knowledge in symbology.

“13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5

O, Draconian devil!

Oh, lame saint!”(DVC: 65)

He drew a Pentacle on his stomach with his own blood and created the position of ‘Da Vinci’s Vitruvian man’ and placed himself inside the centre of a big circle.

Captain Bezu Fache of the DCPJ appeared in the crime scene. He invited symbolist Langdon in order to find the mystery behind the death of Saunier. Langdon was a famous professor of religious symbology in Harvard University. Being an expert he was called to find the complex code wrote by Saunier. Langdon and Saunier planned for a meeting probably on the day when Saunier was shot dead. To Fache, Langdon explained briefly about the topic which they planned to discuss. It was about Pagan’s symbols especially about the symbols related to Goddesses because Saunier was the best expert in female symbols. Fache immediately said that pagan are devil worshippers and to that Langdon explained the real root of pagan and how they were addressed as devil worshippers by Vatican popes. Fache showed Langdon the secret message written by Saunier. It seemed so complex even to Langdon. Langdon related the posture of Saunier’s to the famous painting ‘Vitruvian man’. Langdon decoded the first two lines of Saunier by rearranging the letters in it. The lines were the perfect anagram of ‘Leonardo Da Vinci’ and ‘Monalisa’. When Langdon shared it with Fache, he too gave many facts about Da Vinci. Langdon was surprised on Fache’s knowledge on Leonardo Da Vinci. Langdon explained the mysterious style in Leonard Da Vinci’s paintings and he himself once presented a lecture on ‘Pagan’s symbols in Leonard Da Vinci’s paintings’. Though Fache

spoke very kindly to Langdon he repeatedly stressed on the fact that any human would write the murderer's name before his death. Langdon didn't realise that he was suspected as a murderer, by Fache.

Silas after murdered Sauniere called his 'teacher' and informed the location of Holy Grail as the Church of Saint-Sulpice in Paris. The Teacher sent him to the church and later they discovered that Silas was cheated by Sauniere. Out of rage he killed sister Sandrine who was the church keeper and informer of Priory of Sion group.

Sophie Neveu, a cryptologist and granddaughter of late Sauniere arrived at the crime scene and told Langdon that he should call the embassy. When Langdon made a call it reached Sophie's answering service. Langdon got confused but Sophie waved at him not to react and just hear what she tells. The message warned Langdon that he was in danger and should meet Sophie in the bathroom. In the bathroom Sophie said that he was monitored by Fache with tracking device Langdon was shocked and asked her to explain clearly. Sophie showed the fourth line in the secret message that was erased by Fache before the arrival of Langdon. The last line of the message was,

“13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5

O, Draconian devil!

Oh, lame saint!”

P.S find Robert Langdon”(DVC: 250)

'P.S' are the initials of her nick name kept by her grandfather which means "Princess Sophie". But Langdon had another way of thinking that it might stand for 'Priory of Sion'. It was an ancient group which preserved the Pagan Goddesses worship tradition.

Langdon revealed the other two lines to Sophie "Leonard Da vinci and Mona Lisa". Sophie had thrown the tracking device out the window into the passing truck and through which she tricked the police officers that Langdon had escaped from the Louvre. As soon as Police officers left the Louvre, Sophie and Langdon rushed to 'Madona of Rocks' painting which was situated exactly opposite to 'Mona Lisa' painting behind that painting Sophie found the key to Sauniere's locker. She managed to get herself and Langdon out of the Lourve. Immediately, Langdon and Sophie went to the Swiss Bank. Langdon explained the history of the Priory of

Sion and their armed force, the knight Templar. Langdon said that the Priory of Sion protected secret document named 'Sangreal' or the 'Holy Grail', Langdon has also published a manuscript on this topic.

In the bank, a security realised that they are the persons who are wanted by Police and he informed about Langdon and Sophie to Police. But Andre Vernet, the Bank's manager who is friend of Sauniere helped Sophie and Langdon to escape from there. Sophie and Langdon opened the vault in the bank Sauniere, before his death. Inside they found a Cryptex which was designed by Leonard Da vinci and crafted by Sauniere. The Cryptex can only be opened with a password. Though Vernet helped them escape Langdon and Sophie from the police all on a sudden he tured against both and demanded the cryptex. But somehow they Langdon and Sophie managed to get away with cryptex. Langdon realised that this was the actual Priory Keystone, the Key to all secrets that the Priory hold.

Langdon and Sophie went to the house of a religious historian called Sir Leigh Teabing in order to ask his help to open the box. Before that, Teabing explained about the Knight Templars, Holy Grail and Priory of Sion. He said that Bible didn't come straight from God but it was compiled by Emperor Constantine. During the fourth century Christianity spreaded to almost all the parts of t Rome and that even made many Pagans turn towards it. So Constantine declared that Christianity should be the only religion to be followed in Rome and he did it to safe guard his Kingdom. After that he formed a 'Council of Nicaea' and framed the Bible, fixed Christmas and Easter dates etc. He said Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene who was of Royal Blood. And they both had a child. Sophie got confused because she believed that Jesus was a Divine being. Teabing showed her the "The Last Supper" art that was painted by Leonard Da vinci and he asked a few questions to Sophie. Through the answers to the questions, Teabing explained the hidden Christian secrets in the art to Siophie. He also added that the Holy Grail actually symbolises Mary Magdalene. Teabing said that, he thought Sauniere and others might have been killed because the church suspected that the Priory was ready to reveal the secret.

That time Silas appeared from behind and hit Langdon on his head and demanded the Keystone. Teabing attacked Silas on his thigh where his punishment belt was stiffen. Sophie kicked him on his face and they tied him up. Police arrived at the castle, but Sophie, Langdon, Teabing and his servent Remy Legaludec escaped through Teabing's private Jet. They came to

an understanding that the poem written on the cryptex referred to the God Baphomet. When they opened the cryptex they found another cryptex with a clue to the tomb where Knight was buried by Pope.

“An ancient word of wisdom frees this scroll
and helps us keep her scatter’d family whole
a headstone praised by tempers is the key
and atlast will reveal the truth to thee”(DVC: 400)

Fache soon found that Langdon and Sophie escaped in the private jet. He made a call to the British police and asked them to surround Teabing. But Teabing tricked the police to believe that there was nobody inside the plane except himself. Then they went to the burial site. Remy released Silas and revealed that he too followed the Teacher. He forced Langdon to give the keystone, but Langdon threatened that he would break it. Remy forced him by having Teabing on Gunpoint and atlast Langdon handed over the Keystone to him. Meanwhile Police suspected Teabing when they found that Sauniere was monitored by Teabing. The Teacher instructed Silas to hand over the cryptex to Remy. The Teacher met Remy on the park and shot him after receiving the Cryptex. Then he called police and turned the crime towards Silas. Police arrested Silas and when he tried to escape, he accidentally shot Bishop Ariganosa, his Idol.

Sophie and Langdon found that ‘Sir Issac Newton’ was the Knight they were looking for and also the Pope was none other than the famous writer ‘Alexandar Pope’. They went to Westminster Abbey where Newton was buried. There they discovered that the Teacher was none other than Teabing. Teabing gave Langdon the cryptex and asked him to find the location with the help of Sophie. Langdon found the password ‘Apple’ and took out the Papyrus secretly. Then he threw the empty cryptex in the air. Teabing had dropped his pistol in order to catch the cryptex before it reached ground. Suddenly, Fache came in and arrested Teabing.

The Papyrus directed Sophie and Langdon to Scotland. There Langdon asked Sophie to tell about her family and grandfather’s secret worship methods. Langdon found that the Bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalane was Sophie. Sophie decided to stay with her brother and grandmother. Back in Paris, Langdon mused over the poem and that lead him to find the exact

location of the Grail. The 'Holy Grail' was found to be the tomb of Mary Magdalene which was situated under the Lourve museum.

CHAPTER-III

DISCOURSE ON CHRISTIAN BELIEFS IN DAN BROWN'S *THE DA VINCI CODE*

People believe something even from ancient times like God, Animals, Nature, Plants, and Space etc. It depends on faith having upon something. Faith was a personal concept that differs from person to person according to their experience and perception. Staunch belief in something is called as faith. So faith also associated with belief.

Due to people's faith in religion they believed in Geocentric Universe. People's faith lies in their beliefs. Beliefs always influence faith and it can also be said that beliefs are the basis for one's faith. Right from the Stone Age people had their own beliefs. Elements like fire, land, water, air and wind were believed to be possessed with supernatural power. They formed the basis for the construction of every religion.

In every religion people place their faith in their Gods and Goddesses. Some worship idols and some do not. But that doesn't measure their depth of faith over their Gods and Goddesses. In all the religions, the Gods and Goddesses rescued or protected their disciples from the five elements of nature in one way or the other. Based on their beliefs people created their idols and worshiped. There prevail so many controversies in the beliefs that sustain in all the religions. Like the faith of disciples, the doubts raised by the atheists too have their own beliefs.

Christianity is the religion that is been in practice by many of the people all over the world. Though it is a religion with their Lord as Jesus Christ on whose name the eras are being segregated as BC and AD, his birth and extinction are also put to debate in Dan brown's most popular and controversial book *The Da Vinci Code*. Dan Brown says,

"I was raised Episcopalian, and I was very religious as a kid. Then, in eighth or ninth grade, I studied astronomy, cosmology, and the origins of the universe. I remember saying to a minister, I don't get it. I read a book that said there was an explosion known as the Big Bang, but here it says God created heaven and Earth and the animals in seven days. Which is right? Unfortunately, the response I got was, 'Nice boys don't ask that question.' A light went off, and I said, 'The Bible doesn't make sense. Science makes much more sense to me.' And I just gravitated away from religion"

This project is an attempt to probe into the Anti-Christ ideas that are given by Dan Brown in his novel *The Da Vinci Code*.

Christianity is a monotheistic religion based on the life and teaching of Jesus Christ. Coming of Jesus as Messiah was prophesized by many prophets in the Old Testament (Hebrew Bible) and that happened during the New Testament period. Jesus is believed as a Divine and Human Messiah who was sent to save the world. It was founded through the life, teachings, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. When he was alive he performed so many miracles and many followed him. But there are only twelve notable disciples of Jesus. Disciples of Jesus spreaded his gospel around Rome after Jesus went to heaven. When disciples did miracles as like Jesus Christ they were named as Christians.

Christianity is particularly noted for its faith in Christ which is the primary component of the religion. During the period of Constantine, Christianity underwent a drastic change in itself and was divided into three major branches. They are Roman Catholics, Eastern Orthodoxy and Protestants with numerous sub-categories. But the traditional and common belief in Christianity is that God exists as father, son and Holy Spirit. The sacred text of Christianity is Bible. It has two parts the Old Testament and the New Testament.

Christians believe that the 'Trinity' that is God as a father, son and Holy Spirit. It is not free separate God, single god in three forms and also believes life after death. Many spiritual experiences in the life of Christ help to give Christians, some idea about eternal life. Prayer is the main source for Christians to communicate with their God. Jesus taught his disciples how to pray. Praying through Mary is considered as the central believe of some churches but praying through Jesus is considered as the Primary belief. `

"Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church"(1 Corinthians 14:4). Church is the holy spot of Christians. They used to go to church every Sunday to worship God. Baptism is sign of commitments to the teachings of Jesus Christ. So it is mandatory that every Christian should Baptized. It varies from church to church, some give it even during infant period but some churches allow it during adolescent age. Eucharist is a Greek word for thanks giving. It is a celebration that Jesus had with his disciples at the last supper.

The core belief of Christianity is summarized in “Jesus died for our sins, was buried, was resurrected and there by offers salvation to all whom will receive him in faith.”(1 Corinthians 15:14) Unique among all other faiths, Christianity is more about a relationship than religious practice. Instead of adhering to a list of do’s and don’ts, the goal of a Christian is to cultivate a close walk with God. That relationship is made possible because of the work of Jesus Christ and the ministry of Holy Spirit.

Dan Brown’s book *The Da Vinci Code* contains many mysterious secrets of Christianity. The introductory part of the book says “all description of documents and secret rituals are accurate”. Here we see what Dan brown said about Christianity, Christ, history and their beliefs.

Dan Brown biggest belief is the paintings of Leonardo Da vinci. He considered it as his base to develop his research about Christianity and at times defend his opinion regarding his writing through it.

“Blinding ignorance does mislead us.

O! Wretched mortals, open your eyes!”(DVC: 309)

These lines spoke about Christian beliefs that were implemented by Catholics. Leonardo indirectly asked the Christians not to believe Catholic priests and their sayings. Dan Brown also described the origin of today’s Bible and Christian worship methods. “The Bible didn’t arrive by fax from heaven. The Bible is a product of man”(DVC:309). So human beings recorded history and later it was translated, modified and revised so the original history was demolished by these acts.

Jesus Christ was a powerful preacher undoubtedly and he was claimed to the throne “The Bible as we know was collated by Pagan Roman emperor Constantine the great” (DVC: 310)

During Fourth century Constantine was baptized in his deathbed by Christian apostles, he was too weak to protest. Later the war between Pagans and Christians attained it peak that created a problem of dividing Rome into two. Christians started to demolish all Pagan statues and temples. Jesus said to be the King of the Jews because he inspired millions and founded new philosophies. His life was recorded by many people around the lands but only “Eighty Gospels”

were considered for inclusion and among them only a few like 'Mathew, Mark, Luke, John' were chosen for inclusion.

Christians forced Pagan to follow Christianity. "Constantine was very good business man"(DVC: 311) he was scared that his power may be vanished by religious war. So in order to unify Rome he declared single religion "Christianity" to be followed in Rome. Comparatively, they were majority than Pagans. He converted Sun worshipers, that mean Pagans to Christianity.

"Kind of Hybrid religion"(DVC: 311) that was accepted by both parties. Pagan religions' beliefs in Christianity are undeniable. "Egyptian sun disk became the halos of Catholic saints"(DVC:311). And virtually all the elements of Catholic rituals the mitre, the altar, the doxology and communion were taken from earlier pagan mystery religion. Nothing in Christianity is original the pre christen god Mithas called the son of God was born on december25, died, and then resurrected in three days. By the way December 25 is also a birthday of Osiris Adonis and Dionysus.

Christianity's weakly holyday was also stolen from pagan religion. Christianity used to honour the Jewish Sabbath of Saturday but Constantine shifted it to Sunday in order to collate pagans worshipping of sun on Sunday for sun god's weekly tribute. Constantine needed to strengthen the new Christian tradition so he formed a council of Nicaea. Many Christian priests were asked to took part in the council and they were debated and voted upon the date of Easter, Christmas and the divinity of Jesus. This is how Christianity emerged during the earlier stage of fourth century. Jesus was indeed a great powerfull man but Constantine took advantage of Christ's substantian influence and importantance to his political career. After that many priests emerged and ruled the people according to their knowledge and power.

Dan brown described 'The Last Supper' painting by Leonardo Da Vinci for the church Santa Maria Delle grazie in Milan. The actual "Holy grail" was not the chalice but a woman. Da vinci attempted to convey this message through his painting the last supper. He was succeed when some scholars find it latterly. Dan brown also considered it as his base to elaborate his idea and at times defend his views too. He said that Jesus and marry Magdalene got married and had a child. He interpreted this through the picture of "The Last Supper" and with some symbols. Even the protagonist in this novel Robert Langdon made an attempt of write

manuscript about Da Vinci's paintings and hidden pagan symbols in his paintings. Being a member of priory of Sion Da Vinci painted this picture during 15th century. He said that Mary Magdalene also one among the other disciples and she was loved by more than any other disciples. For this he quoted some verse from the Gnostic literature especially from gospel of Philip and Mary.

“The companion of the savior is Mary Magdalene.

Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to

Kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended

by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him,

why do you love her more than all of us?” (DVC: 328)

So from this verse Dan Brown strongly says that Jesus was not an unmarried man but a married man with a child. According to Jewish custom, marriage was compulsory and no man should remain unmarried. Jesus belonged to Jewish community. Dan Brown added another shocking fact that Jesus gave the authority of taking charge of the church and leading disciples not to Peter but to Mary Magdalene. He also presented another fact about Mary Magdalene that she was not a prostitute but she belonged to Benjamin community and she was from royal bloodline ‘Sangreal’. The words San Greal, (pronounced “sawn-grey-el”) means Sainted Grail. Brown suggested, however, a subtle respelling “Sang Real” meaning “holy blood.” *The Da Vinci Code* imagined that the legendary medieval search for the Holy Grail was actually a search for the bloodline of Mary rather than the chalice that supposedly once contained Jesus’ blood. In order to reunite Jews and Benjamin community Jesus married Mary Magdalene. So everything said by Roman Catholic were wrong according to Dan Brown.

Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code* novel consists of many mysteries regarding Jesus Christ and Christianity. According to the Old Testament, The holy Bible and the church already existed. The entire novel talked about New Testament, Bible, Jesus’ birth, living, death and church beliefs. But actual fact was the Bible and the churches appeared in the Old Testament period itself. God gave commandments to the Israelites through the great leader named Moses. Moses was a prophet teacher and leader who belonged to 13th century BC. He lived in Egypt and rescued Israelites from slavery. When he was a new born child, his mother kept him in a basket

and put him in the Nile River because Pharaoh ordered to kill all the new born babies in the Israel community. The order was to reduce their population, so that they won't raise against him. Later God anointed him with leadership quality and through him Lord did many miracles in Egypt. Then he rescued Israelites from slavery and led them to Israel for forty decades. During their journey from Egypt to Israel Lord rendered many commandments to the Israelites. Moses was instructed by the Lord at Mount Sinai to build the Tabernacle. It was explained and recorded clearly in the book of Exodus chapter 25 to 31 and 35 to 40

Israelites used to worship Lord in Tabernacle until they reached their Promise land. Later after 440 years, King Solomon, the son of King David built a church of God in Jerusalem. According to the Hebrew Bible, Solomon's temple was the first church that was built in Jerusalem. Israelites used to worship god and celebrated festivals. Later it was demolished by King Nebuchadnezzar II. But again it was replaced by Nehemiah during the 6th century BC. The practice of going to churches and worshipping Lord in the church were already existed in the Old Testament period. And the practice of reading the Bible also existed during the Old Testament period. Even Jesus Christ went to church, preached and quoted some Bible verses in his speech during his life time in this world.

It is not the Roman Catholics who introduced the practice of church going and Bible reading. They altered many things according to their comfort zone, so that they can rule people in the name of religion. Jesus belonged to Jewish community but he also preached and did miracles to every other community people and he asked his disciples to go all over the world to preach Gospels to the mortals of all community, race and nations. Having this as a base and motto, the disciples of Jesus Christ started preaching Jesus Christ principles to the entire world. They went to various places around Rome and preached about Jesus Christ, his miracles and principles. Some noted disciples are Mathew, Thoma, John, Paul etc.

“In Antioch the disciples were first called Christians”(Act11:26).

Like Jesus Christ Disciples preached, did miracles and so they were called as Christians for the very first time. It means that one who possessed the quality of Jesus Christ was called as Christians.

Later in the early stage of fourth century Constantine, the Great, took charge of creating new Christian religion and collapsed many practices of Christianity practice. He formed a hybrid version of religion and named it as Christianity. But actually Christianity is a religion accepts Christ as a savior and the disciples of it were ready to walk along with him and his principles. They were recognized as Christians. Constantine, being a serious Pagan follower was very weak to defend his religion, when Christianity gained importance in Rome. So he declared Christianity as the only religion which should be followed in Rome. But he modified so many things in Christianity like the way of worshiping Lord. He made Mary as superior to Jesus which reveal his influence from Pagan religion. Constantine felt very sad that his religion couldn't match up with Christianity so he had a vengeance and that was reflected when he changed the rituals, worshipping methods and church going. And he handed over the authority to the male chauvinistic personalities. This made Martin Luther King angry. He then protested against Roman Catholic priests and formed new Christian beliefs according to the sayings of Jesus Christ and his principles.

Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* novel consists of several inaccuracies. He said Jesus Christ had married Mary Magdalene and had a child by quoting 'The Last Supper' painted by Leonardo Da Vinci and some verses from Gnostic literature. He also said that Jesus was not a divine personality and not a Son of God, but a normal human being with influential qualities. Here was the place where Dan Brown made a serious mistake. All he said about Roman Catholics their adaptations from various religions could be considered as true but except his comments over Jesus Christ's divinity was the result of voting made in the 'Council of Nicaea'.

"Jesus' establishment as 'the son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicaea". (DVC: 312)

He was trying to say that Jesus was considered as 'the son of God' and divine personality, only after the council of Nicaea in the early fourth century.

The core belief of Jesus Christ's divinity existed even in the earliest churches. "Through the Spirit of holiness was appointed the Son of God in power by his resurrection from the dead: Jesus Christ our Lord"(Roman 1:4). "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form"(Collosians 2:9) These were written by St.Paul(5-64 A.D) who taught the principles of

Christ to the first century world and he was not the one among the twelve disciples. Actually Paul was assigned a task by Rome to arrest early Christians. When he was travelling to Damascus in order to arrest Christians he was interrupted by resurrect Jesus in a great light. He became blind and after three days God restored him through Ananias of Damascus a true Christian. There after Paul began to preach that Jesus was the Jewish messiah and 'The son of God'.

Writings of early first century can be considered as an evidence that people worshiped Jesus as a divine personality and 'the son of God' even before Council of Nicaea declared him as 'the son of God'. Pliny, the Younger, wrote a letter to the Roman emperor Trajan in around 112A.D. In that Pliny said Christians often gathered at some place and used to sing hymns to Jesus that he was 'the son of God'. Pliny says,

"They were in the habit of meeting on a certain fixed day before it was light, when they sang in alternate verses a hymn to Christ, as to a god, and bound themselves by a solemn oath, not to do any wicked deeds, but never to commit any fraud, theft or adultery, never to falsify their word, nor deny a trust when they should be called upon to deliver it up; after which it was their custom to separate, and then reassemble to partake of food but food of an ordinary and innocent kind"

This clearly showed that even non-Christian writings stood as an evidence that people of first century worshiped Jesus and believed him as "the son of God". So the Dan Brown's concept that only after the Council of Nicaea Jesus was considered as "the Son of God" is found to be false idea.

Scientific evidence revealed Jesus as a Divine being and "the Son of God". Ron Wyatt (1933-1999) was an Archaeologist who was well known for advocating the 'Durupinar' site as the site of 'Noah's Ark'. Once he discovered some dry blood on below of the site of Golgatha where Jesus was crucified. He took that blood samples to the best lab in Israel and tested it

"Mr. Wyatt, this human blood only has 23 chromosomes from the mother and one Y chromosome from the Father (everybody has 46 chromosomes equally from the mother and the father). It's not a human male," the lab technicians reported.

"Whose blood is this?" the lab technicians asked.

Wyatt responds tearfully, "It's the blood of your Messiah."

Normally human have 46 Chromosomes 23 from male and 23 from female it will pair into 23. The 23rd pair of Chromosome either has XX (female) or XY (male). But Jesus had only 24 Chromosome among them 23 were X chromosome from Mary and only one Y chromosome was from the heavenly "Holy spirit".

Adam was created by God, "Genesis 2:7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils, the breath of life, and the man became a living being." So he was created with XY Chromosome. Eve was created from Adam's rib bone, "Genesis 2: 21, 22 so the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh. Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man." So she would have both X and Y chromosomes but god supernaturally defused the Y chromosome into Eve and she became a woman. Thus the pre-fall of Y chromosome was placed in the specific egg of Virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit, when Jesus was born. These evidences stood as a proof that Jesus Christ was "the Son of God" and the Bible was not a product of human beings and it was the vision of God upon human beings

Dan Brown strongly believed that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and also he quoted some verses from Gnostic Gospels, especially from Gospel of Mary Magdalene and Philip.

"The companion of the savior is Mary Magdalene.

Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to

Kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended

by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him,

why do you love her more than all of us?" (DVC: 328)

Gospel of Philip said Jesus often kissed Mary Magdalene on her lips and for that he was considered as husband of Mary Magdalene. But the original manuscript had so many pauses and especially in this verse there was no such word related to kiss in the original content. Dan Brown he himself added this word. It could be cheeks, forehead etc, which was the symbolic representation of fellowship. The Gnostic Gospel was founded only in 1945 at Nag Hammadi in

Egypt. It was twelve Leather-bound papyrus codices buried under the ground in a sealed jar. Most of the writings endured some demolition, so there are lots of pauses in it.

The term 'Companion' argued that Jesus would have married man. But the actual text was Philip (63:33-36) "And the companion of the...Mary Magdalene...her more than...the disciples...kiss her...on her..." there are lots of pauses in it Dan Brown added his own words in order to cover his own cooked up story. In case if Jesus married Mary Magdalene no disciple would have argued or complained as Jesus loved Mary Magdalene more than them. And if Jesus had an affair with Mary Magdalene that would be the accusation that was set upon Jesus when he was arrested by Rome. But no one talked or accused him in that way. So all the historical facts lead to the conclusion that Jesus was unmarried.

The 'Priory of Sion' was the another strong point claimed by Dan Brown to defend his opinion regarding Jesus bloodline.

'Priory of Sion' is a real organization, "A European secret society founded in 1099": In 1975 Paris Bibliothèque Nationale discovered parchments known as Les Dossiers Secrets, identifying numerous members of the Priory of Sion, including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Leonardo da Vinci" (DVC : Fact).

Dan Brown himself recorded these things in his book. He said that Sir Isaac Newton and Leonardo Da Vinci etc belonged to the secret society called "The Priory of Sion" because they have protected some major secrets from Roman Catholic Church. Common belief was that they guarded "Holy Grail" used at the last supper of Jesus Christ and his disciples but Dan Brown in his novel "*The Da Vinci Code*" said that the actual "holy Grail" that was not the 'Chalice' but a 'womb' of Mary Magdalene and the bloodline of Jesus. There is inaccuracy in the year on which Jesus and Mary Magdalene lived in the first century but the real organization was established only in 1099A.D then how would they predict the exact bloodline of Jesus without the prior knowledge? and that too there was no technology like today to detect the DNA through test in order to check whether it matched with Jesus DNA. So again there was an inaccuracy in Dan Brown's writings.

Dan brown strived to formulate something not exactly against Christian beliefs but slightly opposite to it. But he failed to acknowledge that people of these days was so advanced

that they could trace the truth very easily. Beliefs are always enriched in controversies and Christianity and its beliefs are not an exception for it.

CHAPTER-IV

REVIEWS

Tony Bradley says, “I am a huge fan of Dan Brown's writing style. There are some who criticize the short chapters and claim that the character development is lacking. But, I am no English major and I don't care for critics. I just want the book to grab my attention and entertain me, and this book did that.

I find the short chapters in Dan Brown's books enjoyable. I think they make it feel more fast-paced as the chapters quickly jump to different areas of the story. I also like the fact that the frequent chapter breaks make it easy to find a stopping point without having to quit in the middle of a chapter.

This thriller focuses on Robert Langdon, a Harvard University professor of symbology, who is in Paris on a speaking engagement. He is awakened in the middle of the night by the French police and implicated in the murder of the Louvre Museum curator.

With some help from a French police cryptographer, Sophie Neveau, who feels that he is being wrongly accused, he manages to escape and together they embark on a quest to find the real killer. That quest leads to clues, puzzles, and riddles that link back to an ancient society tasked with protecting the truth about Jesus Christ and unlock the greatest secret in Western civilization”.

Ron Charles admits, “Dan Brown will publish a special edition of “The Da Vinci Code” for young adults in September. The only real mystery might be what took so long. “The Da Vinci Code,” first published in 2003, remains one of the best-selling books of all time, with 82 million copies in print.

In a statement released today by Penguin Random House, Brown said, It is my sincere hope that this adaptation of ‘The Da Vinci Code’ sparks in young adults the same thrill of discovery that I feel while exploring hidden history and the mysteries of the world we live in.

The novel will be abridged but will maintain the general story about symbologist Robert Langdon and cryptographer Sophie Neveu, who race to unravel a conspiracy that could shake Western culture.

The original hardback version of *The Da Vinci Code* is 454 pages. Given a generation that eagerly breezed through thousands of pages of “Harry Potter” books, it’s not clear why young adults would need an abridged version of Brown’s blockbuster”.

Nerd believes, “Totally dependent on your ‘maturity’ level. I loved this novel! It was so incredibly well researched and I have to say it does make logical sense if you are willing to set aside the fanatic religious views and give it a chance. Really, a great book!”

Gerbil states, “Great book as long as you recognize that it is fiction. This is an extremely well written and researched thriller. Some complained that it was anti-catholic, but it is simply a work of fiction. You can't believe everything in it. It is not a history textbook. That having been said this is an excellent book. Not quite as good as *Angels and Demons*, and not nearly as good as Dan Brown's latest *The Lost Symbol*, but still a great read”.

Sayan Mukherjee feels, “This book offers one school of thought on this subject: the author shows the protagonists engaged in a search for proof that he was indeed a man like any other. The members of the christian organization Opus Dei have been depicted as the antagonists. However it should be clarified that the nature of events illustrated in the book are fictional in nature. Most church authorities have dismissed the depiction of the church in the book as an overuse of artistic license. The book is written in the third person. The plot is fast-paced without being too hurried and is well threaded throughout. The characters are reasonably well sketched and the author chooses to not reveal the identities of the main antagonist until the end. This is very effective in maintaining an aura of suspense and significantly contributes to the gripping nature of the plot. The author has used simple, contemporary English throughout and this fact, alongside the gripping pace makes it a very entertaining read especially for readers who are getting introduced to Brown's work with this novel

This was the first book that I read by the author and it is my most preferred among his works. Extremely entertaining besides being highly informative, this book is excellent for a bit of

an escapist holiday. However, readers who are familiar with Brown's typical plot and character construction may find a repetition of the same slightly wearing”.

Erin Collazo Miller states, “I read *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown years after its initial release, so my reaction is probably different than those who discovered it before the hype. To them, perhaps, the ideas were novel and the story exciting. For me, however, the story was so similar to Brown's *Angels and Demons* that I found it predictable and was able to guess some of the twists early on. As a thriller, it definitely kept me reading at points, but I never got as lost in the story as I would have liked. I would only rate the mystery as O.K. and the ending as somewhat disappointing.

The Da Vinci Code is a thriller, and should be taken as such; however, the premise of the story undermines the tenets of Christianity, thus the novel has stirred up a lot of controversies and spawned several nonfiction works debunking the theories discussed by characters. Does Dan Brown have an agenda other than entertainment? I don't know. He certainly set the stage for controversy with the "Fact" page at the beginning of the novel, which implies that the ideas discussed in the novel are true. (Brown has since backed off the implications of the Fact page on his official website. There are also several points where the tone of the novel is sort of condescending in the presentation of its religious and supposedly feminist ideas. For me, the controversial ideas just came across as annoying in light of the mediocre story”.

CHAPTER- V

SUMMATION

This project consists of five chapters. The first chapter “Introduction” deals with the history of American literature along with prominent writings of notable authors. Authors profile also takes part in it with some notable works. Dan Brown is noted for his thriller novels with focuses on conspiracy theories. The author’s controversial ideas and his mysterious reference are mentioned in this chapter. Contemporaries of Dan Brown are also listed in this chapter.

Chapter two “Summary” narrates the entire story of the novel “*The Da Vinci Code*”. For vivid understanding of the story quotes from the novel are also included and that paves a way for better understanding of this chapter. It contains the entire plot of the novel from the beginning till the end along with thrilling twist and turns

Theme of the novel is portrayed in the third chapter on the topic “Discourse on Christian Beliefs in Dan Brown’s *The Da Vinci Code*”. Common thoughts regarding beliefs, basis of Christian beliefs, Dan Brown opinion on Christianity and Christian beliefs are recorded in this chapter. Inaccuracy in the facts of Dan Brown’s novel *The Da Vinci Code* and some proofs are also included in this chapter.

Chapter four “Reviews” deals with reviews which were given by many people who read and relished this novel. Both positive and negative criticisms of the readers are registered in this chapter. Their overwhelming comments and opinions are recorded in this chapter.

Chapter five is the summation of all the previous chapters. It has short notes about all other four chapters. This chapter also gives ideas for the further analysis that can be carried out in the novel *The Da Vinci Code*. Hence the chapter provides some information regarding several themes on which further research can be made in the same book.

Scope for further Studies

Historical Elements

Historical elements in fictions deal with culture, religion, customs, tradition, origin and record of certain events. In this novel *The Da Vinci Code* there are plenty of historical elements

recorded by the author Dan Brown. Historical elements such as the reign of great leaders or dictators, the ruling systems such as Monarch, Aristocracy, Autocracy and the sorts can be included in fictions. They can both be based on the real incidents or the myths.

Detective Novels

Unlike other types of writing novels, 'Detective Novels' have a different way in its action. In 'Detective novels' the 'climax' will be introduced in the starting point to rise the action. Then the story progresses towards the solution to reveal the mystery of the climax. It uses the 'detective' way that moves from complex to simple. In this novel *The Da Vinci Code* initially the character called Sauniere was shot dead by the stranger. Then the novel probes into finding the reason for his death by unlocking so many mysteries on its way.

Mary Magdalene as a pure Disciple

The term 'pure disciple' refers to the disciple who is pious, innocent and follows good values and instructions of his or her Lord without any question. He or she should not bring any ill- reputation upon the Lord. In this novel *The Da Vinci Code* there are many references that denote Mary Magdalene as a pure Disciple.

Female Characters

Most of the novels are based on male characters. However, the actions of the male characters are based on the female characters. The female characters often play the role of a catalyst and a source of the action. For instance, if a novel is considered to be a game of chess, the female characters will be the queen and the male will be the King. The queen will always be the game changer. Likewise in this novel *The Da Vinci Code*, Sophie, the female protagonist acts as the game changer. She is the catalyst behind the investigation of Langdon who is the protagonist of the novel.

Cryptography

Cryptography, nowadays, has become one of the prime elements of detective, thriller and mystery novels. It retains the tension of the readers all through the novel, while reading. In this novel *The Da Vinci Code*, Sophie appeared as Cryptographer who decoded many codes with

the help of Robert Langdon. Langdon is the professor of Symbology. He is good at decoding symbols. Here in the novel, Langdon with the help of Sophie travels to various places and squeezes his brain to find the clues to decipher his codes. Dan Brown is not fictional while mentioning about symbols. He maintains this style in all of his other books too. This fascinates the readers and make them curious to read all the books of Dan Brown. Hence a study on cryptology can be made on this novel, which needs strenuous research for a fruitful result.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Brown, Dan. *The Da Vinci Code*. London: The Transworld Publishers, 2009.

WEBLIOGRAPHY

<http://read.dukeupress.edu>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Da_Vinci_Code

<https://www.britannica.com/list/periods-of-american-literature>

<http://www.biblearchaeology.org/post/2006/03/06/Fact-and-FictionChecking-the-Da-Vinci-Code-History.aspx>

<https://www.allaboutgod.com/da-vinci-code-truth.htm>

www.biblegateway.com/

<http://thetruthaboutdavinci.com/christian-analysis-of-da-vinci-code.html>

<http://www.apologeticsindex.org/220-da-vinci-code-research-articles>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_the_Apostle

<https://streetapologist.wordpress.com/2013/09/28/pliny-the-younger/>

<https://allsoulsaremine.wordpress.com/2016/04/10/blood-of-jesus-has-only-one-y-chromosome/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Wyatt

<https://thirdmill.org/answers/answer.asp?file=46780>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Nag_Hammadi_library