

Conspiracy and Duality of Religion and Science in *Angels and Demons*

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People are indulged in the rat race against time; the idea of conspiracy survives still to capture power. Obsession over religion makes a man to do a blood-freezing plan. The dominance of science over religion made it suppressive and less believed by people. Being much obsessed over Christianity made Camerlengo, the villain to conspire and so he cooked up a story on the re-establishment of ancient brotherhood Illuminati. Illuminati have been used as a medium to bring fear and impact of religion's importance. It's been used to portray science as the evil power. Science and religion are not enemies but rather allies. Science and religion have the dual power of both healing and killing. This paper deals with the conspiracy and the duality of religion and science in Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*.

Introduction

Daniel Gerhard Brown is an American novelist, born on June 22, 1964. His writings most notably 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. Dan Brown is the author of numerous #1 bestselling novels. 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. 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.

A conspiracy theory is an explanation of an event or situation that invokes a conspiracy generally one involving an illegal or harmful act supposedly carried out by the government or other powerful actors without credible evidence” quoted in Wikipedia. Conspiracy fiction in the US reached its high point in the 1960s and 1970s in the wake of a number of high-profile scandals and controversies. In this novel, the villain conspires his dependents and the duality of science and religion can be seen in the novel.

Background to the study

Angels and Demons tell the story of the power struggle between two old enemies: the Vatican and the Illuminati. At the beginning of the story, an Illuminati conspirator steals a canister containing antimatter. And it was hidden inside the Vatican City. The thrilling time lapse from the morning to the day end was drawn in the novel. Robert Langdon was the protagonist trying hard to unlock the codes to save the Vatican City and mass people gathered for the cardinal election. Not only is it a power struggle, but a hint to the popular debate between science and religion. The novel was well structured

with various things such as Illuminati, codes, symbols, churches and the whole Vatican city. The conspiracy of the anti-hero was due to the obsession for power and obsession over religion. And science and religion powers human moves and their activities.

Discussion

Dan Brown handled the theory of conspiracy in the novel *Angels and Demons*. He portrayed the ancient brotherhood of "Illuminati" was reestablished. The popular culture of Illuminati trace was followed in the book. Dan brown employed a trace of Anti-revealed religion and not particularly over a religion that was Anti-Catholicism. But his writings made most of the readers frown over the facts emphasized in it. He characterized the heroes of the novel were devout Catholics and shows equal faith in science and religion. Though Robert Langdon was put under a question of his faith over God, he never says that he was an Anti-Christian. He just makes a clean breast that he wants to acquire faith in God. Being a religious symbologist and possessing an abused view on religion was ambiguous and he was an Ambivalent over religion. *Julius Caesar* and *Paradise lost* possess the theory of conspiracy. Camerlengo Ventresca was the Pope in charge after the deceased Pope was the anti-hero, who deploys a blood-freezing plan to accomplish his dream. His obsession over religion made him a psycho-lunatic to work a mean act. Though he comes with two reasons for the murders, the reason of conversion of the church from modernism and the dominance of science had made religion submissive. In order to make religion to stamp itself remarkably and to bring faith amidst people, He had done it. His reasons were narrow and

being obsessed, he considers the death of the cardinals as sacrifices. Camerlengo expressed his anguish that **“man’s morality was not advancing as fast as man’s science”**.(584) Leonardo Vetra, a priest as well as a researcher strived hard to prove the relation between science and religion and got success in it. He wants to get the approval of the church of the Vatican City to get admittance through. When church itself endorses it, it would get all contemplation from every part of the world. The controversy prevails when once church prohibited experiments breaking the devotion of the religion. And so Galileo was banished. When Camerlengo visits Vetra’s lab and knows about anti-matter. Camerlengo doesn’t want this to happen. He doesn’t want science to overpower religion. And by some way, he came to know that the cardinal fathered a child. This made camerlengo feel that the Pope broke the promise to god. Pope should keep chaste. The voice inside camerlengo the advice of his mother was still flaming **“would you die for your God?”** Camerlengo cried out **“yes! Take me now!”**(580) From this, we can see the adherence of Camerlengo towards religion made him do all the murders by evoking a Hassassin and used the medium of Illuminati to bring fear amidst people and that would bring back the impact of religion's importance.

His obsession for getting the power to rule the city can be seen through his words, the camerlengo’s voice simmered with rage. “May I remind you that when you address me, you are addressing the office? I realize you do not take my position seriously” (175). The conspiracy of camerlengo was also because of his secret crave to become the pope of the Vatican City. And also when he left Robert Langdon helpless in the

chopper while diffusing the antimatter. Camerlengo knows to jump from gliders, but he left Langdon in the chopper and dived in the air.

His door and hurled himself into the night”.

If he was really there to serve people he could have saved Langdon. But he wanted to land like a savior near to the cross statue on the top of the church and it was his only motive.

Camerlengo once refused to indulge inoffensive things. He refused to fire a gun, so the military taught him how to fly a medical helicopter. (217)

His obsession over religion made him do an inhumane act of killing the Cardinals and risking thousands of people's life of the Vatican city. When Camerlengo pretended that he hears God's words and learns the place where the antimatter was placed. And he made a situation believed him blindly. Everyone started to praise him that he got the gospel. The perception of conspiracy can be known in this. Camerlengo has an obsession over authoritative or power. His hidden desire to become the next cardinal was seen when he admits that **"The church needed a leader. Old men do not inspire! Jesus inspired! Young vibrant, powerful.... Miraculous"**.(600) Camerlengo was a young pope of thirties rather than an Old pope, was introduced a pope in charge of the church to Robert Langdon. His desire to become the next cardinal made Camerlengo a conspirator and abducted the lives of the four cardinals, the pope and Leonardo Vetra. Camerlengo's menial desire can be known with the controversy. Once Camerlengo was been put in the military pilot. The obsession of religion and power had made him become a conspirator who used the

Illuminati symbols to divert people and by blaming ancient brotherhood known for development in science and inventors and for anti-Catholicism. When Camerlengo was known to be the Janus, who assigned Hassasin to indulge in all the murders. The secret was revealed. Everyone could feel tachycardia while unlocking the codes. The author employed the device of cliffhanger that made the readers feel the edge of the seat like watching a thriller movie. Camerlengo was informed that he killed his own father with heparin. The pride inside him was scattered down and a serious guilt aroused inside him. And though religious people condemn science, during the conclave, the results were announced by mixing the chemicals with the ballot papers and burnt. There they ignore to accept the bitter truth. And logic on science or fact may win over religious believe at times. Science too has an evil side. That does both good and bad. In the case of heparin that has been the regular dose for the pope. The proportional change can cause trauma. And their science was used as a weapon. In the case of anti-matter, a massive power in the hands of an enemy would devastate. Maximilian Kohler the president of CERN been selfish to keep his popularity not to get contaminated and delays in informing the police. Science remains so difficult to understand for commoners and seems complex where in the case of religion; many secrets were hidden and proved the wrong behalf of the logic. Langdon the religious symbologist professor daringly shares the origin of Christianity to his student crowd, where most of them were Christians. He unlocks that Christianity transmitted from sun-worship, pagan gods, Roman gods, Greek, sun, Mithraicism. Langdon relates the familiar face of God in all of recorded history. **“An old**

man with a white flowing beard”(. Pointing to the hierarchy of ancient gods on the wall though religious beliefs should be persisted. In case of Kohler, he has been denied to have medication as the will of the god. When Langdon found the secret path connecting the Vatican church and the church of illumination, he suspects someone inside the church was the black sheep. Robert Langdon never thought in that satanic position. No one had thought that camerlengo would indulge in this much cruel incident. And visitors from many countries visiting Vatican City that the golden box; has the presence of St.peter, but he was buried two stories under the earth. Though terrible things happen in the world, some people fear for God and thinks twice before indulging in a bad thing. **“Man’s starvation, war, sickness....” “If he loves us and has the power to change our situation, He would present our pain, wouldn’t He?”** The question of **“OMNIPOTENT BENEVOLENT”** arises, when human beings were put in severe trouble. **“What kind of God gives a child fire but does not warn the child of its dangers”** the debate on science textbooks contain lessons on nuclear reaction, but not explaining that whether it was a good or bad idea. Then, people like Kohler condemn religion as he was denied medical aid as the will of God. This scene seems a little doubt on Maximilian Kohler that he would be the master killer. But he was the one who flew rapidly to Vatican City to inform about the conspiracy of Camerlengo. And he uses the Sony RUVI to record the confession of Camerlengo. Here the technology had sprouted with its necessity of evidence. Scientific growth was greatly applaudable and eulogizing one. There the whole plot seems knitted like an attack against religion by science, but

actually, the whole plan was constructed to make people condemn science and acquire more religious beliefs. When camerlengo pretends that he gets the gospel of the spot where the dreadful scientific invention of antimatter at the eleventh hour. Everyone gathered believes that Camerlengo really gets the blessing from God. Even Vittoria reminds her father's words that **“sometimes, Divine revelation simply means adjusting your brain to hear what your heart already knows”**. When camerlengo wants to hoist the plan high amidst everyone without any doubt arising over him. There he employs a dreadful killer and remains as Janus, the commander for him. The second side of priests who gives gospels was like the cat out of the bag from this scenario. When Camerlengo accuses the dead pope fathered a child. Mortati being the Devil's Advocate of the dead pope knows everything about the pope's love affair and haven't disclosed it as a reason to stop the eligible cardinal not to become pope. The Mortati explained that the love of the pope was chaste. The son of the pope was none other than Camerlengo. His mother Mary was the beloved of the pope. They both never broke the vows of the celibacy. At once Mary came across Artificial insemination in an article and endorsed it to the church. And there Pope and Mary gave birth to the holy child. They saw both Religion and Science got mutually growing together in the form of the child. The church prohibited him from being with the woman he loved and his infant. As the stature of the pope will get advanced by years. When we surf about the antimatter in CERN's official website, it mentioned that the fiction *Angels and Demons* has its assertive of antimatter was fully fictitious. From one dimension we cannot

come to the conclusion that science will be always dangerous. Science has the plausible power both to Heal and to kill. Dan Brown had written the book with the title *Angels and Demons* without mentioning particularly over the two different fields. Both science and religion have the dual nature of good and bad. Both fields have Angelic and Demonic qualities as far as analyzed. Thus these were the concepts of conspiracy and duality of religion and science in *Angels and Demons*.

Summation

The world was twined with conspiracy, people deceive others in some situations. And in the war of passion versus obsession, passion undergo various troubles but wins at the end and attains its victory, but obsession finds pleasure by troubling others and gets failed at the end. And in the war of science and the religion, both should be handled with care and with appropriate guidance, overwhelming involvement and miscarries always lead to destructions. The latest humanoid's interview quoting that "Don't worry, If you're nice to me, I'll be nice to you" for the question about destroying humans. Everything in the world starts from us and it depends on how we react to it.

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