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ELEMENT OF MYSTERY IN DAN BROWN'S THE DA VINCI CODE: A MYSTERY DETECTIVE NOVEL

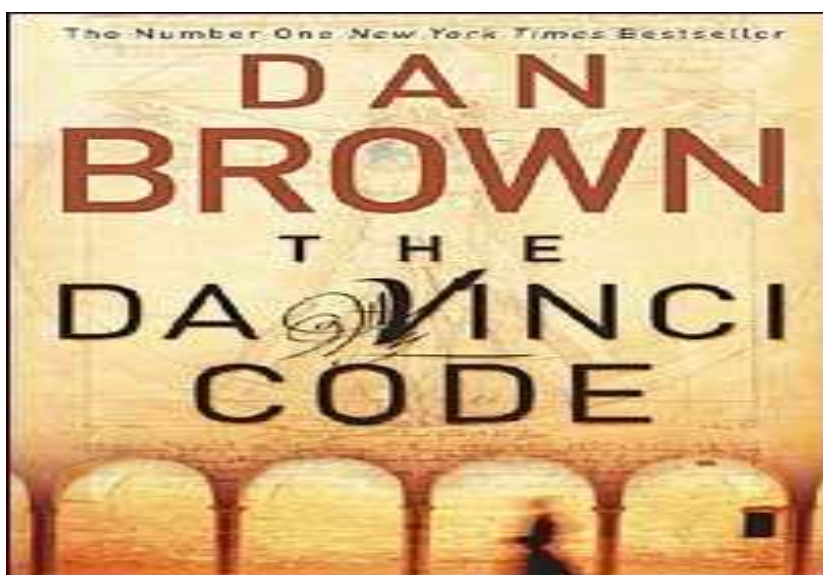


Hongal Pratibha Kallappa

Research Scholar , Department of English , Shivaji University, Kolhapur.

Short Profile

Hongal Pratibha Kallappa is a Research Scholar at Department of English in Shivaji University, Kolhapur. She has completed M.A., B.Ed.



ABSTRACT:

Mystery writing has become the most popular form in the literary world. Mystery is used as synonym for detective fiction or crime fiction. These novels are very fast-paced, thriller set and engaging mixture of murder mystery. In mystery writings there are many codes and puzzles used by the writers. Suspense is created by the characters. Main character or protagonist of the novel is detective and he solves the mystery and reveals the truth in front of the reader. Today mystery writings have fantastic place in

novels and short stories. Reader wants some suspenseful story-line, ambiguous symbols, brilliant character which entertains the readers. Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code* presents the historical secret society named 'Priory of Sion'. The Opus Dei was another secret society, and battle between both. *The Da Vinci Code* creates more mystery when author Brown used the Leonardo Vinci's famous painting 'Vitruvian Man' a man had many hands and legs, his position shown by murder victim to the protagonist. This novel deals with another element of mystery and world shocked because of his unbelievable fiction which he presented as fact that is the picture of 'The Last Supper' here Brown presents the relationship between Jesus and Mary Magdalene with the help of this picture. Researcher tries to reveal the picture and presented the claims about it.

KEYWORDS

Mystery, Suspense, Priory of Sion, Opus Dei, Vitruvian Man.

1. INTRODUCTION

The Da Vinci Code is a mystery-detective novel by Dan Brown in 2003. The novel sold over 80 million copies worldwide and became best seller novel in 2009. It translated in 44 languages. This novel gave fame and popularity to Dan Brown. This is a best seller novel gaining the top place in the 'New York Times Best Seller list' during its first week of release in 2003. *New York Times* hails the novel to be,

"Wow Blockbuster perfection an exhilaratingly brainy thriller. Not since the advent of Harry Potter has an author so flagrantly delighted in leading readers on a breathless chase." (*The Da Vinci Code Acclaim From Around the World*)

This novel gave him the top position in *Time magazine's* list of the 100 most influential people of the year. The present novel follows symbologist Robert Langdon, he is the protagonist of the novel and the very symbologist of Harvard University. He is very excellent man who discovers many coded messages and finds actual place of Holy Grail and second protagonist is Sophie Neveu, a French cryptologist. She is the granddaughter of Jacques Sauniere, a museum's curator. She works for the department of cryptology, as they investigate a murder mystery in Paris's Louvre Museum. It also discovers a battle between two secret societies, Priory of Sion and Opus Dei and focus on the secret of Holy Grail. This novel determines the relationship between Mary Magdalene and Jesus they having been married or not. Robert Langdon was found the murder victim in Grand Gallery of Louvre Museum at the very beginning of the novel and mystery starts from here till the end of the novel. Element of mystery series are Priory of Sion, Fibonacci sequence, and portrait of Vitruvian man, Mona Lisa and The Last Supper are presented by the researcher.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- 1) To analyze and comprehend the 'Mystery Fiction'
- 2) To analyze and focus on 'Mystery Fiction' in 'The Da Vinci Code'.
- 3) To critically analyze the novels.

3. METHODOLOGY

For the present study emphasis will be laid on a close reading of the primary and secondary data. The secondary data has been collected from various references which already existed in published form; all available papers and books. The analytical and thematic analysis of the texts will be done to discuss the issue of 'Mystery Fiction'.

4. Element Of Mystery In *The Da Vinci Code: A Mystery Detective Novel*

The author Dan Brown has created the following element of mysteries in *The Da Vinci Code*.

The Priory of Sion:



Fig. 3.1 <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Priory_of_Sion>

Dan Brown's 2003's novel, *The Da Vinci Code* becomes world's bestselling novel in the same year 2003. After the publication of this novel people took interest in priory of Sion, Dan Brown indorses the mythical claims side of the priory of Sion, Brown Writes about the facts of 'The Priory of Sion' at the beginning of the novel,

"The Priory of Sion was a European secret society founded in 1099, is a real organization. In 1975 Paris's Bibliotheque Nationale discovered parchments known as Les Dossiers Secretes, identifying numerous members of the Priory of Sion, including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo and Leonardo Da Vinci". (*The Da Vinci Code- Fact Page*)

According to Dan Brown, the main purpose of Priory of Sion is to protect the Holy Grail's secret, means to guard the Jesus' bloodline and another purpose is to preserve the knowledge of the Sacred Feminine, in Federal Europe ruled by a Merovingian Sacred King, who descended from the historical Jesus, The Priory of Sion recruits its membership it restores the feminist mystery cult based on early Christianity which was suppressed by Roman catholic church. In author's non Fiction preface he presented speculation as a fact in his interviews and public appearances. He presented Opus Dei also. There are many positive and negative claims about the society. Here Dan Brown pretends were listed on a "secret dossier" of grandmasters of 'Priory of Sion'. He presents the grandmasters long list of Priory of Sion; it includes many great and famous personalities. Such as Isaac Newton, Leonardo da Vinci, Alexander Pope, Victor Hugo and many more, they were linked to various occult groups, not a single entity.

Fibonacci sequence:

In this novel the Fibonacci sequence was written by murder victim and this was a great clue to find out the mystery behind the murder of museum's curator. He wrote this message in following words and numbers;

"13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5

O, Draconian devil!

Oh, lame saint!" (*The Da Vinci Code Page No.65*)

The numbers are, "13-3-2-21-1-1-8-5"

In this sequence they are arranged in out of order, this clue directs the investigator or protagonist, Robert Langdon to find out the murder mystery.

The actual sequence is, "1-1-2-3-5-8-13-21"

Means the two numbers when we add with each other the next number will come, this is very important first clue which helps to solve the murder mystery of Jacques Sauniere, The novel's use of the ancient number sequence created by 13th century mathematician Fibonacci. He suggested in which all life grows in a common progression, with each number equaling the sum of the preceding once, Brown presents this number in this way; this number is later discovered to be, Sauniere's deposit box account number at the Zurich bank.

Vitruvian Man:



Fig. 3.4<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/file:Da_Vinci_Vitruve>

'The Vitruvian Man' is a Leonardo da Vinci's most famous drawing based upon the work of ancient Roman architect Vitruvius who was a proponent of using human proportion in building. Vitruvian Man is the most important clue in this novel's opening scene. The museum's curator Jacques Sauniere draws one pentacle on his body; he posed like the Vitruvian Man with cryptic message written beside his body. This position leads protagonist Robert Langdon near to the Leonardo da Vinci's other drawings. Here this drawing has been creating some suspense and wants some clearance about it. Ancient Roman architect Vitruvius described his idea in Book III of his treatise De Architectura. "This drawing is based upon human proportion. With some geometric descriptions and it exemplifies the blend of art and science. During the Renaissance and it shows Leonardo's keen interest in proportion the text has two parts, it was made as a study of the proportion of the male human body" as described by him.

The Last Supper and the Secrete of Holy Grail:



Fig. 3.5<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/file:The_Last_Supper>

At the heart of the novel is the story of the Da Vinci and the major clue is the most famous painting of 'Da Vinci's 'The Last Supper'. This painting is second painting by Leonardo Da Vinci after his worldwide known painting 'Mona Lisa'; this painting began in 1495 and finished in 1498. The painting

was hanged on the wall in the dining room of the Monastery, Leonardo da Vinci here met his patron came to eat with monks. This painting's type is "VARIATION OF TEMPLERA ON STONE AND PLASTER" the size of this painting is 460*880 cms.

In this novel Dan Brown, who is the mastered storytelling author, leads his readers on a journey that explains the 'real' story of Jesus and Mary Magdalene and the secret of Holy Grail. This novel goes rounded around the Holy Grail's secret because this story creates many doubts in literary world. In this painting many clues and symbols are found by Robert Langdon, a professor of symbology. In this story Brown narrates the painting's secret, when this on reexamining it discovered that sitting at Jesus right hand is Magdalene, not as is commonly believed, the apostle John.

In this story Brown explains, the secret of this fresco is that Jesus tells his disciples that this will be his last meal with them before he will be betrayed by one of his followers, on this table, the famous cup from Christ drank his last drink, which was left out from this painting. Here Brown clearly advised that Mary Magdalene herself is the human receptacle of Jesus bloodline. In this painting there are some glasses on the table which containing drinks, the Chalice means the blood of the Jesus that was used to drink and that is known as the Holy Grail in many writings. But in this novel it stands for the synonymous with the tale of the last supper's. Brown's creation is different from other; one of Jesus's follower draws as a feminine figure or datively a woman. There is more possibility that he is the Mary Magdalene but Brown writes, that Mary Magdalene was the romantic partner of Jesus Christ, many believed that she was married to Jesus.

Brown narrates that the gap between Jesus and Mary Magdalene is the 'V' shape when she is sitting on the right side of the Jesus. Some scholars denote this shape as the symbol of female or the chalice which was missing, a Holy Grail.

5. CONCLUSION

This novel has excellent story line, writer has successes in catching the readers mind. This story is a combination of murder mystery and thriller set in the modern day and a secret society's background, this society worships the sacred feminine and sex rituals. The plot keeps readers attention and Brown presented much historical accuracy. Besides many claims about the novel this novel got tremendous success. Brown has created his new identity and people know him as a great writer of the *The Da Vinci Code*. Brown creates mystery and the reader will confuse to choose between fact and fiction so that researcher made her honest attempt to open the element of mystery from the novel

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