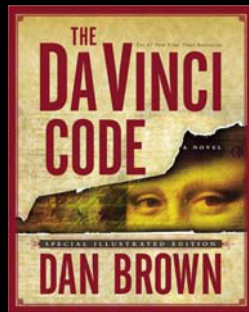


## Nothing to Crack!

The Clear  
Message  
of  
*The Da Vinci Code*



## The Mystery

- Jeffrey Weiss: “*The Da Vinci Code* is basically a murder-mystery thriller. The curator of the Louvre, Paris’ famous art museum, has been killed under bizarre circumstances. The investigation pulls in a Harvard professor who’s an expert in religious symbols, and the murdered man’s granddaughter, a cryptologist for the French equivalent of the FBI. As they elude a series of attackers, the pair learns the murder is tied up with an ancient conspiracy: Jesus and Mary Magdalene were married and had a child.” [Dallas Morning News, 5/6/06]

## The Deceptive Methods

- It marries a clear spiritual message to an intriguing, well-written mystery.
- Chapters 55-62—the heart and soul of the book.

## The Deceptive Methods

- It purposely blurs the lines between history and fiction.
  - On the cover”: “a novel”
  - On the copyright page: “all of the characters and events in this book are fictitious, and any resemblance to actual persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental.”
  - But then on the page before the prologue: “**Fact:** The Priory of Sion—a European secret society founded in 1099—is a real organization.... The Vatican prelature known as Opus Dei is a deeply devout Catholic sect.... All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate.”

## The Deceptive Methods

- It puts its spiritual message in the mouth of educated intellectuals.
- These are presented as the experts in their fields.
- Curator of the Louvre Museum in Paris.
- Professor of Religious Symbolology, Harvard University.
- World’s foremost scholar on the Holy Grail.

## The Deceptive Methods

- It is filled with the propaganda technique of sweeping generalizations.
  - 244: “unfortunately, for the early editors, one particularly troubling theme kept recurring in the gospels, Mary Magdalene... More specifically, her marriage to Jesus Christ.... It’s a matter of historical record, and Da Vinci was certainly aware of that fact.”
  - 245: “as I said earlier, the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record... He began pawing through his book collection. Moreover, Jesus as a married man makes more sense than our standard biblical view of Jesus as a bachelor.... If Jesus were not married, at least one of the Bible’s gospels would have mentioned it and offered some explanation for His unnatural state of bachelorhood.”
  - 247: “I shan’t bore you with the countless references to Jesus and Magdalene’s union. That has been explored ad nauseum by modern historians.”

\*\*Cited page numbers taken from a hardback edition of *The Da Vinci Code* purchased between February, 2006 and May, 2006.

## The Deceptive Methods

- It is filled with the propaganda technique of sweeping generalizations.
- 253: "the royal bloodline of Jesus Christ has been chronicled in exhaustive detail by scores of historians. He ran his finger down a row of several dozen books."
- Then Brown lists four.
- 255: "all of these books substantiate the same historical claim. That Jesus was a father.... Countless scholars of that era chronicled Mary Magdalene's days in France, including the birth of Sarah and the subsequent family tree."
- 289: "Langdon's newest manuscript—an exploration of the history of goddess worship—included several sections about Mary Magdalene that were going to raise some eyebrows. Although the material was well documented and had been covered by others..." [289]

## The Deceptive Methods

- It consistently distorts and fabricates historical fact.
- The Dead Sea Scrolls discuss Jesus and were discovered in the mid-1950's.
- Actually, they were written by Jews and say nothing about Jesus; and they were discovered in 1947.

## The Deceptive Methods

- It consistently distorts and fabricates historical fact.
- How Brown handles a key quotation from the Gnostic Gospel of Philip:
  - 246: "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?'"
- This is what the extant manuscript actually says:
  - The Gospel of Philip 63:33-36: "the companion of the [gap] Mary Magdalene. [gap] more than [gap] the disciples [gap] kiss her [gap] on her [gap]." The brackets show damaged spots in the manuscript where the text cannot be reconstructed. [from Bock, 21]

## The Manifesto

- Scripture
  - 231: "The Bible is a product of *man*, my dear. Not of God. The Bible did not fall magically from the clouds. Man created it as a historical record of tumultuous times, and it has evolved through countless translations, additions, and revisions. History has never had a definitive version of the book."
  - 234: "Constantine commissioned and financed a new Bible, which omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's *human* traits and embellished those gospels that made him godlike. The earlier gospels were outlawed, gathered up, and burned."
  - Every part of that statement is historically flat wrong.
  - 234: "Fortunately for historians..."

## The Manifesto

- Scripture
  - 238: "Genesis tells us that Eve was created from Adam's rib. Woman became an offshoot of man. And a sinful one at that. Genesis was the beginning of the end for the goddess."
  - 248: in speaking of the Gnostic gospels, he calls them "unaltered gospels."
  - 256: Brown references what he calls "purist documents—thousands of pages of unaltered, pre-Constantine documents, written by the early followers of Jesus."
  - 341: "the NT is false testimony"; "the NT is based on fabrications."
  - 342: "devout Christians definitely believe that Christ literally walked on water, literally turned water into wine, and was born of a literal virgin." The reason, Brown explains, is that "religious allegory has become part of the fabric of reality."

## The Foundation of the Book

- It comes from an obscure handful of liberal religious scholars involved in what they called the Jesus Seminar.
- They have embraced what are often called the Gnostic Gospels.
  - 52 Coptic scrolls
  - Found in Egypt in 1945, near the village of Nag Hammadi.
  - Five are "gospels"
  - English translation in 1977.
- The key claim: these were "the earliest Christian records" [245].
- And "many scholars claim that the early Church literally stole Jesus from His original followers, hijacking His human message, shrouding it in an impenetrable cloak of divinity, and using it to expand their own power." [234]

\*\*Cited page numbers taken from a hardback edition of *The Da Vinci Code* purchased between February, 2006 and May, 2006.

## So Which Really Came First?

- All the books of the NT were completed before 100 AD.
- The earliest likely date for the Nag Hammadi scrolls is about 150 AD.
- So classical Christianity did not rise in Constantine's time as a response to Gnostic Christianity.

## The Manifesto

- Nature of God
  - 257: "the quest for the holy grail is literally the quest to kneel before the bones of Mary Magdalene. A journey to pray at the feet of the outcast one, the lost sacred feminine."
  - 309: "Early Jews believed..."
  - Throughout the book, the main characters explain that the truly divine is the goddess, the sacred feminine.
  - Scripture says:
    - Scripture teaches that nothing created is like God: Is. 40:18; Ps. 35:10; 71:19; 86:8; 89:8.
    - That's why God forbids the making of any idols of him (Ex. 20:3-5;

## The Manifesto

- Nature of Christ
  - 235: "almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is false."
  - 233-234: "until that moment...chronicling his life as a mortal man."
  - 244: "the early church needed to convince the world that the mortal prophet Jesus was a *divine* being."
  - 249: "behold, the greatest cover-up in human history. Not only was Jesus Christ married, but He was a father."
  - 256: "the early followers of Jesus [revered] him as a wholly human teacher and prophet."

## The Manifesto

- The Nature of Christ
  - Scripture says:
    - Jesus' own claims from John—a book from which we have portions of manuscripts dating to 120 AD.
      - John 1:1-18
      - John 8:58-59
    - Paul's writings date from the 50's AD—even most liberal scholars accept this as fact.
      - Phil. 2:5-9
      - Col. 1:15-16

## The Manifesto

- Sin
- 238: "it was man, not God, who created the concept of original sin, whereby Eve tasted of the apple and caused the downfall of the human race. Woman, once the sacred giver of life, was now the enemy."
- Scripture says:
  - Gen. 3:6 - When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
  - Rom. 5:12 - Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
  - 1 Tim. 2:14-15 - *it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression. 15 But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.*

## The Manifesto

- Salvation
  - Salvation is a kind of rescue is affected by communing with the divine through fertility rites.
  - 310: "spark of divinity that man can only achieve through union with the sacred feminine."
  - Scripture says:
    - Eph. 2:1 - you were dead in your trespasses and sins,
    - Eph. 2:4-5 - God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).

\*\*Cited page numbers taken from a hardback edition of *The Da Vinci Code* purchased between February, 2006 and May, 2006.

## The Transparent Motives

- Undermine Christianity
  - 37: "As part of the Vatican's campaign to eradicate pagan religions and convert the masses to Christianity, the Church launched a smear campaign against the pagan gods and goddesses, recasting their divine symbols as evil."
  - 266: "What happens...if persuasive scientific evidence comes out that the Church's version of the Christ story is inaccurate, and that the greatest story every told is, in fact, the greatest story ever *sold*.<sup>[sic]</sup>"

## The Transparent Motives

- Promote Neo-paganism
  - 36-37
  - 124: "Constantine and his male successors successfully converted the world from matriarchal paganism to patriarchal Christianity by waging a campaign of propaganda that demonized the sacred feminine, obliterating the goddess from modern religion forever."
  - Goddess worship or the sacred feminine is the worship of Nature.
  - This is pagan monism—everything, divine, human, animals, rocks, grass share the same nature.
  - Everything in Nature, including ourselves, is divine.
  - It includes fertility rites.

## The Transparent Motives

- Call for a decision from the reader
  - 266

## The Dangers

- Committed unbelievers: contribute to a cultural slide into neo-paganism
- Nominal Christians: undermine their confidence in the facts of Christianity, the biblical documents, and the Person of Christ.
- True believers:
  - Create pockets of doubt
  - Turn our response into political action (i.e., boycotting, etc)
  - Join God's enemies to fight neo-paganism

## The Opportunities

- Calls true believers to more careful study of the Bible and of the faith.
- Establishes a clearer distinction between true Christians and the world.
- Creates another evangelistic opportunity.
  - Resources:
    - *Seeing and Savoring Jesus Christ* by John Piper
    - *Cracking Da Vinci's Code* by James L. Garlow & Peter Jones
    - *Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everybody's Asking* by Darrell L. Bock
    - *The Da Vinci Code on Trial* by Stephen Clark
    - *The Da Vinci Deception* by Erwin W. Lutzer
    - *The Truth Behind the Da Vinci Code* by Richard Abanes

\*\*Cited page numbers taken from a hardback edition of *The Da Vinci Code* purchased between February, 2006 and May, 2006.