



Introduction

"The Da Vinci Code" is a fiction written by and English writer called Dan Brown. The fiction has been produced as a film with the same name. It starts with a murder trial. In the process of discovering the murderer and his motives, a conspiracy is discovered. Secret groups are told having conflict interests in revealing a treasure that claimed to have important secret documents and what is called the Holy Grail. The writer claimed that revealing these documents will have radical negative impact on the Christian faith.

Answering the Da Vinci Code

Rev. Fr. Abraam Sleman

Coptic Orthodox Church of St. Mark
Jersey City, NJ, USA
<http://CopticChurch.net>
<http://SaintMark.com>
frsleman@copticchurch.net

Visit www.CopticMedia.org to order a copy of video sermons/presentation for Fr. Abraam Sleman
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In the pages of the fiction, the writer Dan Brown presented the lies as truths, the fiction as reality. He accused Christianity with paganism and doctrines. On the lips of his created characters, Dan Brown attacked the basics of the Christian faith and the Holy Bible. His claims against the Holy Bible, the nature and life of Christ and his mistaken views on women and sexuality are spreading allover the pages of his fiction. All his claims are obviously proven to be against the Holy Bible, the sound doctrine and thousands years of history.

When Brown was asked if he was Christian? He answered in a twisted way, saying; 'maybe not in the most traditional way or sense, but I consider myself a

student of many religions. The more I learn, the more questions I have. The spiritual quest will always be a life-long work in progress'. He also said that, 'all religions are fabricated and full of lies', 'every faith in the world is founded on fabrication, this is the definition of faith-acceptance to what we think its true, and we can never prove it' (DVC p. 341).

"The Da Vinci Code" contains a lot of fiction that lacks the historical truth and far from the sound doctrines. However, Dan Brown, the author of *"The Da Vinci Code"*, doesn't view his work as pure fiction. In an interview by Matt Lauer, Dan Brown was asked how much of the book's explanation of history was based on actual events. Dan Brown replied, "Absolutely all of it."¹ A similar assertion appears on the book's opening page: "All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents, and secret rituals in this novel are accurate." (DVC p. 1).

With the grace of God, we would like to answer some of the claims raised in Dan brown's fiction, "The Da Vinci Code". The Lord Jesus Christ said, "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31-32, NIV). St. Peter also said, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect." (1 Peter 3:15, NIV).

Briefly and simply, you will find answers to some of Dan Brown claims specially those that are much related to the basics of the Christian faith and life. Many of his claims are on:

- 1- The Holy Bible
- 2- Nature of Christ
- 3- Life of Christ
- 4- Women and Sexuality

¹ Dan Brown, interview by Matt Lauer, The Today Show, NBC, 09 June 2003.

Chapter 1

The Holy Bible

Dan Brown wrote his fiction based on his unbelief of the Holy Bible's credibility. Loosing the most trustworthy reference for his work, he depended on false ones that lead him away of the truth. His claims against the Holy Bible shall be examined first to make easy of the reader when the other claims shall be examined.

1

"The Bible did not arrive by fax from heaven... The Bible is a product of *man*... 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." (DVC, page 231).

In fact, the Holy Bible is the only book having the handwriting of God by His fingers. The Book of Exodus reveals this truth: "When the LORD finished speaking to Moses on Mount Sinai, he gave him the two tablets of the Testimony, the tablets of stone inscribed by the finger of God." (Exodus 31:18, NIV; see also Exodus 34:1-2; Exodus 34: 28).

The Holy Bible is inspired by God and written by the men of God under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. There are many evidences for this:

The Spiritual effect of the Holy bible and its usefulness for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness prove its divine origin. Those who followed the teachings of the Holy Bible became saints and each saint is a living Bible. St. Paul said, "All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16-17, NIV).

Moreover, the Bible has been translated into more than 850 languages having the same spiritual effect.

The fulfillment of the prophecies points out to its divine origin. For example, it is very noticeable in the Gospel of St. Matthew to find the expression, "All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet" and similar expressions as in (Matthew 1:22; 2:15; 2:23; 4:14; 8:17; 12:17; 13:35; 21:4; 27:35, NIV). Such references to the prophecies of the Old Testament, as being fulfilled exactly in the New Testament, lead to a deep convection of the inspiration of the Holy Bible. It is as St. Peter said, "For prophecy never had its origin in the will of man, but men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit." (2 Peter 1:21, NIV).

Now we come also to the diversities of the writers in different times and different places as a strong

indication of its divine origin. Having all the books of the Bible integrated into one main subject despite all these differences confirms without any doubt that it is the Book of God.

The Bible has been written through 1500 years by more than 40 writers with different cultural background. Some of them were kings as David and Solomon, shepherd as Amos, priest as Zechariah, prophets as Samuel and Isaiah, law maker as Moses, army general as Joshua, fisherman as Peter and John, philosopher as Paul and physician as Luke.

Moreover, the Bible has been written in different places. It was written in Sinai desert, Judea wilderness, the cave of Edlam, the prison of Rome, the island of Patmos, the palaces of Zion, the bank of Babylon's rivers and in Jerusalem after its restoration.

If you can imagine a library of 73 books written in such wide span of time with such diversities of time, places and culture and still have the harmony and unity between their pages, it would be only God's Book, the Holy Bible.

2

The scrolls highlight glaring historical discrepancies and fabrications, clearly confirming that the modern Bible was compiled and edited by men who possessed a political agenda—to promote the divinity of the man Jesus Christ and use His influence to solidify their own power base. (DVC, page 234).

Mistakenly and without any historical evidence, Dan Brown claimed that the Bible was compiled in a way to fit "a political agenda". This claim reflects the unawareness of the canonization's process of the Bible.

To consider any writing as authentic writing in the New Testament, this writing had to meet three measuring standard. Politics and personal preferences were not of these standards. These standards were set by the early church fathers to block any false writing from being included in the New Testament. These standards are:

- 1- **The writings should be written by one of the disciples or the apostles who was considered as an eye witness to the Lord Jesus Christ and His resurrection.** The writings of St. Paul have been accepted as the Lord Jesus appeared to him personally (Acts 22). Moreover, he conferred with the brothers, the leaders of the church about the message he was preaching. He said, "I went in response to a revelation and set before them the gospel that I preach among the Gentiles. But I did this privately to those who seemed to be leaders, for fear that I was running or had run my race in vain." (Galatians 2:2, NIV).
- 2- **The writing should be orthodox, not of the heretics, and in harmony with the Hebrew Scriptures and the writings of the apostles of Christ.**

- 3- **The writing should be accepted by all the churches that are known in the world at that time.** Its acceptance should not be exclusive for special Christian group.

3

"These are photocopies of the Nag Hammadi and Dead Sea scrolls, which I mentioned earlier...The earliest Christian records. Troublingly, they do not match up with the gospels in the Bible." (DVC, page 245).

In fact, the Nag Hammadi are more recent than all the books of the New Testament. The so called Nag Hammadi library has been discovered on 1945 near Nag Hammadi in Egypt. The oldest copy of these writings was written after 150 AC. Most of these writings have been written between 200 AC - 300 AC. By the 100 AC, all the New Testament have been compiled, more than 50 years before the oldest copy of Nag Hammadi writings.

These writings of Nag Hammadi are of a group of heretics called the Gnostics and are in contradiction with the accepted writings of the New Testament as well as their conflict with the Hebrew Scriptures.

With regard of Dead Sea scrolls, it is completely wrong to group them with the Christian records as they are manuscripts of Hebrew Scripture.

4

"More than *eighty* gospels were considered for the New Testament, and yet only a relative few were chosen for inclusion—Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John among them." (DVC, page 231).

In fact, the four gospels were in circulation among the Christian communities and used in worship in the first century. St. Ireneus mentioned them before the oldest copy of Nag Hammadi was written.

Moreover, there are only five of what so called gospels in Nag Hammadi writings, not 80 as Dan Brown claimed. The early church did not accept these writings as they did not with the canonization standards mentioned before.

5

"Also rumored to be part of the treasure is the legendary "Q" *Document*—a manuscript that even the Vatican admits they believe exists. Allegedly, it is a book of Jesus' teachings, possibly written in His own hand." (DVC, page 256).

What Dan Brown called "Q" document is not a manuscript but a modern book. It was written by some scholars based on a hypothetical theory. They believed that there should be a common source of the teachings of Matthew, Mark and Luke gospels, the synoptic

gospels. They called this alleged common source “Q” from the German word “Quelle” that means source.

Even, if we suppose the real existence of the alleged manuscript “Q”, there would not nothing different than what is found in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

6

“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.”

The Canonization of the New Testament books was completed in the first century. This was long before Constantine to become an emperor and the oldest copy of the Gnostic writings to be written, as mentioned before.

If the canonized Gospels was not well known so early, Marcian the heretic would succeed to omit the Gospels of Matthew, Mark and John as well as the epistles of Paul from the Bible used in his church, in 140 AC. He failed and the church excommunicated him. The early church fathers, Tertellian and Irenaeus exposed Marcians’ errors.

Constantine commissioned the print of 50 copies of the Bible that was known and accepted before as the canonized Bible, not a new one.

There is no historical evidence of burning the gospels as Dan Brown claimed. What might be burnt are the false writings according to St. Athanasius’ advice to clean out the churches from these false ones that were circulated secretly between some congregations.

Moreover, not only the canonized Gospels testify strongly to the divinity of Christ but also to His Humanity. St. John said, “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God” (1 John 4:2, NIV).

If the testimony to Christ’s humanity was a valid reason to be omitted from the Bible, the whole Bible would not be there. Dan Brown and his followers should read the New Testament carefully to know how Christ’s “human traits” emphasized as well as His divine traits.

Chapter 2

Nature of Christ

As mentioned before, Dan Brown's unbelief in the Holy Bible's credibility has led him to wrong knowledge about many other theological issues. At the top of the list, he denied Christ's divinity and the truth that He is the Son of God.

1

[Almost everything our fathers taught us about Christ is *false*.] (DVC, page 235).

[Jesus was viewed by His followers as a mortal prophet... a great and powerful man, but a *man* nonetheless. A mortal... Not the Son of God?] (DVC, page 233).

[Jesus' establishment as 'the Son of God' was officially proposed and voted on by the Council of Nicea ... by a relatively close vote at that] (DVC, page 233).

In this claim, we can ascertain the fabrication of history in the novel. The Council of Nicea was not held to declare the Divinity of Christ, as if this matter was not previously settled, but rather to try Arius who denied the Divinity of Christ. The Nicene creed that was approved by the Council is an expression of the faith of

the Church since the 1st century. That faith is what the Church lived by, and was referenced to in the Holy Scriptures and the liturgical prayers of the church. Also, contrary to what Dan Brown said, all the 318 bishops approved of the text of the creed with the exception of two only.

The Lord Jesus Christ is not only a great and powerful man, as Dan Brown said, but also is the "Son of God" (Luke 1:35) and God who appeared in the flesh (1Timothy 3:16).

Christ is the eternal Word of God. St. John said in the beginning of His Gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning." (John 1:1-2, NIV). In the Book of Revelation He is called, "the Word of God" (revelation 19:13).

Christ is born from God. St. Mary conceived with him by the power of the Holy Spirit. The angel said to St. Mary, "The angel answered, 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35-36, NIV). He came from God as He said to the Jews, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now am here. I have not come on my own; but he sent me." (John 8:42, NIV) and He also said to His disciples "The Father himself loves you because you have loved me and have believed that I came from God" (John 16:27, NIV).

Acknowledging the Divinity of Christ was not a matter imposed by the Council of Nicea or by Emperor Constantine during the fourth century, but was declared by the Heavenly Father and many others since the time Christ revealed Himself and served openly. Amongst these declarations are:

The Heavenly Father declared that Christ is His Beloved Son, when He said after the baptism "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." (Mark 1:11, NIV), and He made the same declaration on the Mount of Transfiguration (Matthew 17:5, Mark 9:7, 2 Peter 1:16-18).

Since the first century, the disciples as well as other eyewitnesses who saw the works and miracles of Christ, witnessed that He is the "Son of God" and not just a normal human being as claimed by Brown.

Christ asked His disciples: "But what about you?" he asked. "Who do you say I am?" Simon Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven." (Matthew 16:15-17, NIV). The response of Christ to Peter's statement affirms His approval of it, but moreover, Christ is saying that the Heavenly Father Himself is the One who revealed this truth to Peter.

The other three gospels that were written before the Gospel of St. John (i.e., Sts. Matthew, Mark, and Luke) referred to Christ as the Son of God. St. Matthew quotes the Prophet Isaiah: "The virgin will be

with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" – which means, "God with us." (Matthew 1:23, NIV). St. Mark started his gospel by saying: "The beginning of the gospel about Jesus Christ, the Son of God." (Mark 1:1, NIV). St. Luke mentioned the words of the angel to St. Mary: "'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35, NIV).

Christ is the Son of God because He also did the works of God, as He said: "For the very work that the Father has given me to finish, and which I am doing, testifies that the Father has sent me." (John 5:36, NIV); "Do not believe me unless I do what my Father does. But if I do it, even though you do not believe me, believe the miracles, that you may know and understand that the Father is in me, and I in the Father." (John 10:37-38, NIV).

Also those who attack the authenticity of the Bible admitted that St. Paul wrote his epistles to the churches of the Roman Empire within twenty years of the death of Christ on the cross, and that referred to the divinity of Christ. These epistles were circulated and accepted in the Christian churches of the first century.

In the epistles of St. Paul that were written between 40 and 60 A.D., Christ is being described as the Son of God. He said "The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20, NIV) "yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom all things came

and for whom we live; and there is but one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom all things came and through whom we live." (1 Corinthians 8:6, NIV)

Even the later writings of St. Paul, describe Christ as the "the image of the invisible God". He described Him saying "Who, being in very nature [Or in the form of] God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped," (Philippians 2:6, NIV); "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him." (Colossians 1:15-16, NIV), and also "the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).

The fullness of the Divinity dwelt in Jesus Christ, as St. Paul said "For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form" (Colossians 2:9, NIV).

Christ revealed to us God and His characteristics, "No one has ever seen God, but God the One and Only, who is at the Father's side, has made him known." (John 1:18, NIV), and Christ said: "Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9, NIV).

A fragment of the Gospel of St. John manuscript that goes to 100 A.D. has been recently discovered in Egypt. This discovery proves that the Gospel of St. John, which strongly attested the Divinity of Christ, was widely accepted before the end of the first century.

Even the critics who were contemporary to the church of the first century mentioned that Christians believed in the Divinity of Christ. The pagan Celsus in 178 A.D. said in his attack on the Christian faith that Christ "proclaimed himself a god." (*Origen, Against Celsus*, 1:38; 2:63).

Christians since the first century have been confronting persecution and death for their belief in the Person of Jesus Christ. If believing in the Divinity of Christ is a more recent phenomenon, why then did St. Stephen, St. James the Apostle, and others in the first century and the centuries to follow get martyred?

2

[Constantine "omitted those gospels that spoke of Christ's *human* traits"] (DVC, page 235).

["Fortunately for historians," ... "The Dead Sea Scrolls were found in the 1950s hidden in a cave near Qumran in the Judean desert. And, of course, the Coptic Scrolls in 1945 at Nag Hammadi" ... "these documents speak of Christ's ministry in very human terms."] (DVC, page 234).

Dan Brown erred in mixing between two sets of different manuscripts, which are the Dead Sea Scrolls and the Nag Hammadi manuscripts. The Dead Sea Scrolls are Hebrew texts of Old Testament books that

were written many years before the birth of Christ, and not Christian writings.

The Nag Hammadi manuscripts are Gnostic writings as previously discussed that conflict entirely with the Canonical Christian Books that the Apostles of Christ wrote during the first century, and also conflict with the Hebrew Scripture.

Besides witnessing effectively to the Divinity of Christ, the Canonical Books of the New Testament witness with the same strength to His complete human traits. The New Testament presented the Person of Christ through its Canonical Books, as a real human with a Testament presented complete and real human nature, “but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” (Philippians 2:7, NIV), “For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people.” (Hebrews 2:17, NIV). St. Luke says in his gospel “And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” (Luke 2:52, NIV). The gospels of St. Matthew and St. Luke tell us the stories of Christ’s birth in the flesh from the Virgin St. Mary and His circumcision on the eighth day, in addition to other proofs of Christ’s perfect humanity.

In reality, it was more difficult for the believers of the first church to be convinced of the Humanity of Christ more than to believe in His Divinity (i.e. to believe in His complete humanity). Moreover Brown

is completely ignorant that the Gnostic writings that he refers to do not acknowledge the completeness of Christ’s humanity (i.e. contrary to what he believes).

St. John the Apostle, in His First Epistle, emphasized that Christ came in a real human body since there were some who were teaching to the contrary, as he said “This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.” (1 John 4:2-3, NIV).

St. Paul did not hesitate to call Christ, to Him be the Glory, “the man Christ Jesus”, when he said: “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus” (1 Timothy 2:5, NIV).

Based on all of the above, it is evident that the Holy Bible witnessed strongly that Christ is the Son of God and at the same time a full human being, with all the human traits, except for sin.

Chapter 3

The Life of Christ

At the time Dan Brown stumbled while presenting the “nature of Christ”, he also stumbled when he addressed the “life of Christ”. The author presented the “life of Christ” in a false way that is far from truth, and he could not see in Christ the New Adam, the perfect man who is without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

1

Heresy of Christ's Marriage

[Jesus as a married man makes infinitely more sense than our standard biblical view of Jesus as a bachelor.] (DVC, page 245).

[Jesus married Mary Magdalene and she gave birth to a daughter. Her name was Sarah ... the marriage of Jesus and Mary Magdalene is part of the historical record.] (DVC, page 245-249).

["Because Jesus was a Jew, ... and the social decorum during that time virtually forbid a Jewish man to be unmarried. According to Jewish custom, celibacy was condemned, and the obligation for a Jewish father was to find a suitable wife for his son. 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."] (DVC, page 245).

Celibacy was not condemned according to Jewish customs. St. Paul said in his first epistle to the Corinthians: “Now to the unmarried and the widows I say: It is good for them to stay unmarried, as I am.” (1 Corinthians 7:8, NIV) given the fact that St. Paul is “circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee” (Philippians 3:5, NIV).

There is no historical proof whatsoever from any eyewitness during the days of Christ who refers to any marriage between Christ and Mary Magdalene. Even the Gnostic gospels that are referred to, such as the Gospel of Philip and the Gospel of Mary Magdalene, did not mention any marriage between Christ and Mary Magdalene or any other woman.

Dan Brown did not explain to us why it was logical that Christ be married. In truth and contrary to Brown's claims, the logical outcome is that Christ never married as mentioned in the Holy Bible for many reasons including:

Christ came in the flesh for a Divine mission that He talked about since His childhood. When St. Joseph and St. Mary His mother were looking for Him in Jerusalem at the age of twelve, we are told that “After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.” “Why

were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?" (Luke 2:46-49, NIV).

Christ consecrated His life on earth entirely for the sake of preaching the kingdom. He talked about those dedicated their life by celibacy to preach the Gospel. "For some are eunuchs because they were born that way; others were made that way by men; and others have renounced marriage [Or have made themselves eunuchs] because of the kingdom of heaven. The one who can accept this should accept it." (Matthew 19:12, NIV).

Christ did not even have a private dwelling place of His own, but was wandering all the time to preach God's kingdom. Christ said: "Foxes have holes and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head." (Matthew 8:20, NIV). If He was married, where is His family's house?

In the 12th chapter of the Gospel of St. Matthew, there was no mention whatsoever about this claimed wife amongst those from Christ's family who were seeking Him. St. Matthew writes: "Someone told him, 'Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.'" He replied to him, "Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?" Pointing to his disciples, he said, "Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:47-50, NIV).

At the cross, Christ commanded St. John the Apostle to care for His mother, and not the so-claimed wife. "When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Dear woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home." (John 19:26-27, NIV). If He was married, would not He have made arrangements for His so-claimed wife to be cared for after His death?

The response of Christ to Mary Magdalene after His Resurrection proves the absence of any marital relationship. Jesus said, "Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, 'I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" (John 20:17, NIV). If He was married why did not He tell her to meet them at their so-claimed house?

St. Paul the Apostle never referred to Christ with those who are married that he was comparing himself to. "Don't we have the right to take a believing wife along with us, as do the other apostles and the Lord's brothers and Cephas?" (1 Corinthians 9:5). If Christ was married, would not have the Apostle Paul compare himself to Him and make a much stronger case?

The Bible through both of its two testaments confirms that Christ had no offspring by the flesh. In the book of Acts, it is mentioned: "In his humiliation he was deprived of justice. Who can speak of his descendants? For his life was taken from the earth." (Acts 8:33, NIV) and so referring to what was written

about Him by Isaiah the Prophet (Isaiah 53:8), i.e., that at His death, He did not have any offspring by the flesh.

Also Daniel prophesied that He would not have any offspring to proclaim His innocence when He was condemned to death. “After the sixty-two 'sevens,' the Anointed One will be cut off and will have nothing [Or *off and will have no one ; or off, but not for himself*] (Daniel 9:26, NIV). So Christ did not have any offspring by the flesh at His death.

After His death, He had offspring in a spiritual sense, as Isaiah the Prophet said concerning Him: “though the LORD makes his life a guilt offering, he will see his offspring and prolong his days, and the will of the LORD will prosper in his hand.” (Isaiah 53:10, NIV), and “so will he sprinkle many nations” (Isaiah 52:15, NIV).

Christ is the Bridegroom of the Church in a spiritual sense, and that’s why St. Paul the Apostle said: “I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him” (2 Corinthians 11:2, NIV). The Book of Revelation proclaimed: “Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!' [Christ and the Church]” (Revelation 19:9, NIV).

2

The Last Supper Painting

[Regarding the painting of the Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci, the woman to Jesus' right was young and pious-looking, with a demure face, beautiful red hair, and hands folded quietly. This is the woman who singlehandedly could crumble the Church? ... is Mary Magdalene.] (DVC, page 243).

Leonardo Da Vinci painted the *Last Supper* Fresco on the wall of Santa Maria delle Grazie near Milan, Italy, around 1495-1497 A.D. The main features of this painting have deteriorated over time to the extent that it is quite difficult to ascertain that whether the person sitting on the right hand side of Christ is male or female. Generally there is no proof that this person is a woman.

If, contrary to facts, it is assumed that the person sitting on the right hand side of Christ is a woman, why would she be Mary Magdalene? Would not it be more appropriate to depict the Virgin St. Mary who surpasses all human in honor? Is not she who was described as “at your right hand is the royal bride in gold of Ophir.” (Psalms 45:9, NIV).

The truth of the matter is that the person on the right hand side of Christ is a young man. It is well known that Leonardo Da Vinci used to depict young men with some feminine features. For example, he authored a

painting of John the Baptist under the name of "*St. John the Baptist in the Wilderness*" and another one called "*St. John the Baptist*" both of which are presently in the Louvre Museum in Paris, France.

The Bible tells us that the person next to Christ is The Apostle John, since he was young and was leaning on Christ's bosom. The Gospel of St. John clearly indicates what occurred at the Last Supper, as Jesus told them "I tell you the truth, one of you is going to betray me." His disciples stared at one another, at a loss to know which of them he meant. One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, "Ask him which one he means." Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, "Lord, who is it?" Jesus answered, "It is the one to whom I will give this piece of bread when I have dipped it in the dish." (John 13:21-26, NIV), "the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper" (John 21:20, NASB).

3

The Holy Grail

[The legend of the Holy Grail ... it speaks, in fact, of Mary Magdalene—the female womb that carried Jesus' royal bloodline.] (DVC, page 238 & 249).

It is obvious that Dan Brown has borrowed this scenario from the writings of the Frenchman, Pierre Plantard who issued a set of publications between 1960 and 1970, in which he claimed the presence of a secret society whose goal is to protect the Holy Grail.

Plantard claimed that he traced the royal lineage of Christ from Mary Magdalene through the kings of France. These claims were published in 1982 in a book called "*Holy Blood and Holy Grail*". In 1993, Plantard confessed under oath, that all what he wrote on this matter is untrue (<http://www.priory-of-sion.com/psp/id22.html>).

Moreover, Lewis Perdue, the author of the novels "*Da Vinci Legacy*" and "*The Daughter of God*", stirred controversy about the Da Vinci Code novel, affirming that Dan Brown plagiarized some parts of his novels.

The truth of the matter is that the Holy Grail is the chalice in which Christ offered His blood. St. Matthew witnessed and said: "Then He took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave *it* to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. For this is My blood of the new covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins." (Matthew 26:27-28, NKJV). Also St. Paul the Apostle said: "In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me." (1 Corinthians 11:25, NIV), and "The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?" (1 Corinthians 10:16, NKJV).

If Mary Magdalene is the Holy Grail, how did Christ present her to the disciples to drink from? How was she the cup of the new covenant? How was she shed for the sake of many? How was she able to given for the remission of sins? And how was Mary Magdalene the cup of blessing? How can the believers have participation in her?

Chapter 4

Women & Sex

Dan Brown's errors in his novel, *The Da Vinci Code*, were not just limited to errors regarding the Holy Bible, the Divinity of Christ, and His life, but also, as previously mentioned; his lack of faith in the Bible led him to errors in many other matters. Among these errors, is the issue of women and sex, and he advocated forms of pagan worship that are connected to sexual perversion and prostitution (?).

1

[The Jewish tetragrammaton YHWH—the sacred name of God—in fact derived from Jehovah, an androgynous physical union between the masculine *Jah* and the pre-Hebraic name for Eve, *Havah*.] (DVC, page 309).

The Sacred Name Yahweh has nothing to do with male gods or female goddesses. The Name Yahweh is derived from the Hebrew expression *Hayah* (i.e. the origin of the verb “to be”). Also it is a derivative of the name *Ehyeh* and that is the name that God revealed to Moses (Exodus 3:14). This holy name above all is an expression of God's existence “You who are and who were, the Holy One” (Revelation 16:5, NIV), and He is the ultimate source of the existence of all, “there is but

one God, the Father, from whom all things came" (1 Corinthians 8:6, NIV).

The Jews switched this sacred name with *Adonai* (i.e. the Master). The term *Jehovah* was not used until the sixteenth century.

The gross error that Dan Brown made by making this claim, is not just about the linguistic aspect and the etymology of this sacred name, but is about what he wrote about viewing the Divine nature from a sexual perspective. This is even clearer in the next claim he made.

2

[Early Jews believed that the Holy of Holies in Solomon's Temple housed not only God but also His powerful female equal, Shekinah.] (DVC, page 309).

[The Star of David... the perfect union of male and female... Solomon's Seal... marking the Holy of Holies, where the male and female deities—Yahweh and Shekinah—were thought to dwell.] (DVC, page 446).

The truth of the matter that the term *Shekinah* was never mentioned in any of the books of the Old Testament, rather it is a Hebrew term to express the Presence of God in His Glory. It is mentioned in the Book of 1st Kings: And the priests could not perform

their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD [Shekinah] filled his temple." (1 Kings 8:11, NIV), and also in 2nd Chronicles, "and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the LORD [Shekinah] filled the temple of God." (2 Chronicles 5:14, NIV).

Dan Brown's claim that there is a female goddess equal to God is a false claim, because the Lord [Jehovah] Himself says: "I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me." (Isaiah 46:9, NIV). The Jews throughout history believed in absolute Monotheism according to the Lord's commandment: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD [Jehovah] our God, the LORD [Jehovah] is one." (Deuteronomy 6:4, NIV).

Moreover, his claim of the existence of a male god and a female goddess, is a result of the lack of knowledge of the Divine nature, because "God is spirit" (John 6:24, NIV), and "a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see I have." (Luke 24:39, NKJV). God fills the Heaven and Earth with His Spirit: "Do not I fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD." (Jeremiah 23:24, NIV). How then can He have a female equal companion?

3

[Sex as a mystical, spiritual act ... to find that spark of divinity ... sex as a pathway to God ... sex is natural—a cherished route to spiritual fulfillment—] (DVC, page 309, and 310).

[mankind's use of sex to commune directly with God ... the early Jewish tradition involved ritualistic sex ... Men seeking spiritual wholeness came to the Temple to visit priestesses—or hierodules—with whom they made love and experienced the divine through physical union.] (DVC, page 309, and 310-312).

In reality, God is the One who created man, male and female (Genesis 1:26-27). Moreover, He placed the sexual instinct in humans "To the woman he said, 'I will greatly increase your pains in childbearing; with pain you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.'" (Genesis 3:16, NIV).

God designed that the sexual relationship between spouses to be a pleasant experience, to strengthen the overall relationship between them and to be a blessing from God to procreate, "God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth ...'" (Genesis 1:28, NIV). It has been unheard of that God instituted the sexual instinct in humans for the purpose of worship. Enjoying marital love is a motive to thank God for his gifts, but the gift should not be worshipped. The sexual attraction between a husband and his wife is a symbol or allegory

for the bond between God and humanity, but not on a physical level, but rather on a spiritual level between the Spirit of God, and the human spirit.

The Holy Scripture presented God Himself as the Bridegroom for humanity, and Christ as the Bridegroom of the Church. As stated in the Book of Isaiah: "For your Maker is your husband— the LORD Almighty is his name— the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth." (Isaiah 54:5, NIV). Also St. Paul said: "I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy. I promised you to one husband, to Christ, so that I might present you as a pure virgin to him." (2 Corinthians 11:2, NIV), and "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." (Ephesians 5:25, NIV).

In fact, the Early Jews and Christians who were faithful to God's laws, and throughout all generations, kept God's commandments and never practiced any worship that involved any sexual rites.

As God outlawed adultery and homosexuality, He also outlawed using them in worship. The Lord God said "'You shall not commit adultery.'" (Exodus 20:14, NIV), "'If a man lies with a man as one lies with a woman, both of them have done what is detestable. They must be put to death; their blood will be on their own heads.'" (Leviticus 20:13, NIV), "No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute. You must not bring the earnings of a female prostitute or of a male prostitute into the house of the LORD your God to pay any vow, because the LORD your God detests them both." (Deuteronomy 23:17-18, NIV). St. Paul

said: "3But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people." (Ephesians 5:3, NIV).

Regarding King Asa in the book of 1st Kings we are told that, "Asa did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, as his father David had done. He expelled the male shrine prostitutes from the land and got rid of all the idols his fathers had made." (1 Kings 15:11-12, NIV). Regarding his son, King Jehoshaphat, we are also told that "he rid the land of the rest of the male shrine prostitutes who remained there even after the reign of his father Asa." (1 Kings 22:46, NIV).

History attests to the fact that since the beginning of the Christian Era, no sexual rites were included in any Christian worship. In the year 112 A.D., Christians were accused by some, that they practiced sexual rites in their gatherings. Pliny, the Roman governor of Pontus- Bithynia thoroughly investigated these charges, and concluded that there is nothing offensive in Christian worship but just the usual "innocuous" rites of worship (Pliny, "*Epistle to Trajan*" Epistles 10:96).

The God's temple is holy just as the holy heavenly city. "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the [holy] city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood." (Revelation 22:14-15, NIV). "Do you not know that the wicked will not

inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: Neither the sexually immoral nor idolaters nor adulterers nor male prostitutes nor homosexual offenders ... will inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6:9-10, NIV).

The befitting worship to God is a spiritual worship,
"God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth." (John 4:24, NIV).