

Identifying History in the select novels of Dan Brown

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Abstract: The Postmodern American Writer Dan Brown's works are based on historical and mythical elements. Most of his works are controversial, in his works he explores the facts behind hidden history and he gave many historical evidences and he claims that all are factual. He has written totally eight books. They are: *187 Men to Avoid* (1995), *Digital Fortress* (1998), *Angels and Demons* (2000), *Deception Point* (2001), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), *The Lost Symbol* (2009), *Inferno* (2013), *Origin* (2017).

Dan Brown used many secret societies and Symbols in his novels. The Present paper explores few important societies and symbols to identify history in the select novels of Dan Brown.

Key Words: Rosicrucians, Illuminati, Freemasonry, Fact, Symbol.

Throughout the centuries there has been an intense interest towards the relationship between fact and myth. Myth is a dynamic factor everywhere in human society, it transcends time, uniting the past (traditional modes of belief); with the present (current values) and reaching toward the future (spiritual and cultural aspirations). Fact deals with the study of nature, its forces and the process of nature. It is based on the analysis of evidence. It assumes a working hypothesis, the process and events happened due to natural causes, no through divine intervention. It rarely intrudes in matters of morality, the existence and nature of deity, spirituality etc. Secret Societies which are present in the novels of Dan Brown are: i) Rosicrucians, ii) Freemasonry, and iii) Illuminati.

In the novel of *Angels and Demons* Rosicrucian Order AMORC (Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis) gives threaten to the Catholic Church that the Vatican City will consumed by the light. Rosicrucians used the technique of Science to explore their opinions and beliefs. In the novel author states that, in early period the church killed four scientists in front of public, whose discoveries arte against the belief of Christianity. Church believes that Rosicrucians are following witch activities called as fallen angels. In the novel, antagonist killed the 'Fathers' who are next to Pope in the Churches of Fallen Angels. In earlier period the church destroyed the churches of Fallen Angels because they believe their activities are against Church. So, Rosicrucians want to prove themselves and create a single unified world which is a kind of Secular New World Order.

...The Creation of a single unified world, state- a kind of Secular New World Order... A New World Order, Langdon repeated based on Scientific enlightenment – *Angels and Demons* (58)

During nineteenth and twentieth century various groups called themselves as Rosicrucians. They are: i) Esoteric Christian profess Christ, ii) Masonic Rosicrucian, and iii) Ancient Mystical Order Rosae Crucis (AMORC)

Masonic Rosicrucians are called as Freemasons. Freemasonry formed during nineteenth century. They used symbols and signs for their communication Freemasonry members were concerned with spiritual and moral values. In the novel *Angels and Demons* Dan Brown mentioned that the Masons spread their members in all over the world of five million members, out of them half of the members are in United States and over one million in Europe. They created a Masonic lodge for their meeting. In nineteenth century famous persons in banking networks and government bodies were mostly Mason.

...a fledgling government many of whose leaders were Masons – George Washington, Ben Franklin – honest, god fearing men who were unaware of the Illuminati – stronghold on the Masons. - *Angels and Demons* (p.57)

Freemasons are the well knowledge persons spread all over the world in all higher fields to establish their power over the world. They spread their lodges in all the countries, and they used secret codes like symbols to communicate and to spread their beliefs. In the novel *The Lost Symbol* the author has given many symbols as Freemasonry Symbols. They are: i) The Hand of Mystery, ii) The chamber of Reflection, iii) The Masonic Pyramid iv) All-Seeing Eye, v) Capitol building of United States, and iv) Masonic Memorial building of George Washington.

In the novel *The Lost Symbol*, the Hand of Mystery symbolizes invitation. This symbol is used by Freemasons to keep everything secret. It is an invitation to receive secret knowledge from a master Mason. Master Mason use to give hand of Mystery to a new mason. They select a particular Mason before his death to handover all the secret

knowledge. The Hand of Mystery has five symbols, they are: Crown, Star, Sun, Lantern and Key. Each symbol represents different meaning.

The Crown... to represent the king I shall become.

The Star...to represents the heavens which have ordained my destiny.

The Sun...to represent the illumination of my soul

The Lantern... to represent the feeble light of human understanding

The Key...to represent the missing piece, that which tonight I shall at last possess.

– The Lost Symbol (406)

The chamber of reflection is a room for Masons to meditate to gain the meaning of life. It is a small dark room in the Masonic Lodge; the meditation is a beginning for the Mason to enter into the world of Freemasonry. This chamber indicates the end and beginning of a new life. They are in search of truth, light and wisdom. This is also considered as a form of resurrection.

The Masons in the Freemasonry use to wear ring which is called as the Masonic ring. Masonic ring has various colours to indicate which Masonic lodge the masons belong to. The red colour ring belongs to the Grand Lodge of England; blue colour ring belongs to the Grand Lodge of England. The ring also symbolizes the three principles of masons they are; love, relief and truth, The colour of the ring only represents lodges there is no discrimination between them.

The Capitol building of United States situated at the eastern end of the National Mall in Washington. It acts as the legislative branch of the federal government of United States. It is completed in the year 1800. The symbol of United States capitol building presents in the book cover of *the Lost Symbol* in both sides. The author believes that U.S. chamber was a meeting place for Freemasons also they used to do their rituals and religious activities. The author also states that the streets of the Washington have a symbol of Masonic which was designed by the Masons George Washington, Ben Franklin and Pierre-L'Enfant.

...This city had been conceived and designed by Master Masons – George

Washington, Ben Franklin, Pierre-L'Enfant - Powerful minds who adorned their new capital with Masonic symbolism, architecture and art.- *The Lost Symbol* (49)

The George Washington Masonic Memorial building is dedicated to George Washington who was the first President of United States. The name of the building itself has the word Masonic which means George Washington is a Masonic.

...In the distance, the silhouette of the Washington monument stood in the early morning light...it was the tallest structure of the entire planet- *Lost Symbol* (667)

The Symbol Masonic Pyramid has no tip, and it is called as unfinished Pyramid. Masons believe that their work will not be finished by them and that would be handover to other persons. The Great Seal of United States has the symbol Unfinished Pyramid also it present in One Dollar bill. All-Seeing Eye, which presents over the unfinished pyramid represent the great architect of the universe are supreme being and also represents the spiritual evolution.

...proof that the Masons held secret influence over our early nation. When the six-pointed star was laid perfectly over the great seal of the United States, the Star's top vertex fit perfectly over the Masonic all seeing eye... clearly pointed the letters M-A-S-O-N – *Lost Symbol* (373-374)

All-Seeing Eye is also used as a symbol for Illuminati. Illuminati is considered as one of the Strongest secret society in the world. There is a belief that still Illuminati are working in underground world secretly to conquer the whole world under their control. Illuminati spread their member all over the world. Freemasonry are the basic for the formation of the Illuminati, it is a secret society within the secret society of Freemasons, Dan Brown states that many famous personalities are Illuminati; they were Galileo, Raphael and Bernini.

The Hand of mysteries are also called as The Hand of Master Mason, Hand of the Philosopher and the Emblematic Hand of Mysteries. The Symbol Hand of the Mysteries contains the symbols of skull, crowns, stars, fish, keys, astrological symbols and the All-Seeing eye and lantern. The hand has a deep significance into it. Hand symbol occurs in many religions like Buddhism, Judaism, and Hinduism.

In Buddhism the hand represents the different states of being from a balanced state to enlighten. In Judaism, the symbol represents the protection against an evil eye. The crown represents power, wealth, ruler, royalty. The hand symbolizes a power and protection and also it represents the meaning of transmission because people use to give and receive through hands. In all the religions hand symbolizes different meanings; no one can say that this is used as the secret symbol of Freemasons.

In the novel *Angels and Demons*, author mentioned that the streets of the Washington has a symbol of Masonic, they used their art and architecture to design the street.

...street had been highlighted to form various shapes, satanic pentacles, a Masonic compass and square, the head of Baphomet – proof apparently that the Mason who designed Washington, D.C, were involved in some kind of dark, mystical conspiracy. – (49)

National Geographic News decoded the myths in Angels and Demons in the year 2009 which was done by Biran Handwerk, they had an interview with a Mason Tabbert, he states that there is no message in the Street of Washington and the street plan was designed by a French man Pierre-L'Enfant and he is not a Mason.

George Washington Masonic Memorial was constructed by George Washington Memorial Association in the year 1932. It is owned by Alexandria Washington Lodge, the lodge was destroyed by several fires, many historic items in the lodge also destroyed. In 1907, Alexandria Commissioner of Revenue, Charles H. Callahan proposed to construct the memorial building for George Washington. The Memorial building is in Neo-Classical style which has nine floors. In 1948 President Turman donates The Great Seal of United States to the George Washington Masonic Memorial hall later, it was removed in 1990.

When America became a new Nation, they formed the committee to design the seal. The committee members were Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, and Thomas Jefferson but their design was rejected on May 10, 1780. Later, Charles Thomas the secretary of Congress and William Barton, a citizen of Philadelphia proposed a design in 1782, and finally it got adopted. An article Third Great Seal Committee by Mac Arthur and John D, which was published on May 1782, says:

Barton used a Pyramid of thirteen steps, with the radiant Eye of providence overhead, and used the Mottos Deo Favente (with God favouring) and perennis everlasting. – greatseal.com

In Christianity the eye symbolizes the Eye of the Christian God, who watching over mankind and the triangle symbolizes the Christian trinity. During eighteenth century the symbol of All-Seeing Eye appears in coins, logos, altar decorations, clothes, one dollar bill etc. It is consider as one of the major symbol of Freemasons and Illuminati.

In the novel *Angels and Demons* the protagonist Robert Langdon states that the word Illuminati is an ambigram which means enlightened ones. It is the name of the ancient brotherhood, The Catholic Church refused the discoveries of Galileo Galilei for his claims that the Earth revolves around the Sun. The Church severely punished him and his books were burned by the Church. He was house arrest till his death. The Catholic Church violently punished the members of the Illuminati and also they tortured them, they sealed cross Symbol on their bodies and threw them in the streets of Rome as a warning to the other Illuminatis. The Catholic Church name them as Shaitan, it is a Arabic Islamic Word which derived from the English word Satan.. During the house arrest Galileo has written three books they are; i) *Dialogo*, ii) *Discorsi*, iii) *Diagramma Della Verita*

In the book of *Diagramma* Galilio has written about the earth revolves around the sun, with the help of his friend this book got published in Holland. Later, the church haunted the book and they burned it. Many secret books, cryptic writings were burned by the Catholic Church. Not only Galilio, the Italian Sculptor Gian Lorenzo Bernini also Illuminati. Langdon says that the design of the Illuminati was done by Bernini.

Bernini was an Illuminatus

Bernini designed the Illuminati Ambigram

Bernini laid out the path of Illumination – *Angels and Demons* (319)

The Illuminatis were the people who receive great knowledge and light. Illuminati wants to take control in all aspects in the World such as in Churches, government, business, medicine, military scientific etc...Their main aim is to rule the world by their worldwide organization.

The name Illuminati is given to several groups. It is formed in the year 1776 by Adam Weishaupt (1748 – 1830). The name Illuminati refers historically as Bavarian Illuminati. Weishaupt was a scholar and he was tortured by the church so he became rebellious and created a society against church called ‘Order of the Perfectibilites’. Their main aim was to oppose the order of the church, so they formed a society called Bavarian Illuminati. The Illuminati was an Enlightenment-era Society. As per the novel Galileo and Bernini belongs to the secret society called Illuminati. They lived during sixteenth century but the society formed eighteenth century.

In the novel author mentioned that Galileo has written three books called *Dialogo*, *Discorso* and *Diagramma* but there is no such book called *Diagramma*. The author states that the book *Diagramma* was secretly published in Holland by his friend. Obviously, one of the book of Galilio was published in Holland but the name of the book is not *Diagramma*, it is called *Discourses and Mathematical Demonstrations Relating to Two New Sciences (Discorsi e Dimostrazioni Matematiche, intorno a due nuove scienze)*. Galileo was not arrested for the reason he belongs to the secret society. Galileo had a conflict with the church for his view of the earth revolves around the sun. Church believes that his view opposed Biblical references.

1 CRONICLES: Fear before him, all the earth : the world also shall be stable, that it be not move.16:30 (411)

PSALMS : ...the world is established, that is cannot be moved.93:1 (561); the world also shall be established that it shall not be moved 96:10 (562) ; who laid the foundations of the earth, that ist should not be removed for ever 104:5 (564)

(606) ECCLESIASTES : The Sun also ariseth, and the Sun goeth down, and haseth to his place where he arose. 1:5

The discovery of Galileo was against the biblical references during that period but Galileo argued with them so he was house arrest till his death. He allowed seeing his visitors at any time. He is not belongs to any secret societies. In eighteenth century the main aim of Illuminati was to oppose religious and superstition influence over the public.

Illuminati were responsible for the French Revolution which happened during the year 1789. The cause for the French Revolution is still debatable among the historians. The outcomes of the French Revolution were radical social change based on the enlightenment principles and liberalism. The enlightenment refers to the Illuminati. The Illuminati act as a social reformist to create awareness and a revolution in the society.

In 1744 Galileo's *Dialogo* removed from the banned books of the church list in twentieth century John Paul II and Pope Pius XII has made an official statement of regret for the way the Church treated Galileo. – Galileo Galilei-History.com

Everyone has a particular view of reality, what they believe is true. Some tend to believe in fact and some tend to believe in myth. Everyone believes in some type of ultimate reality. So, it can be either towards myth or fact. There are important roles for both fact and myth in human life, but there is an ongoing tension between them, for fact is based on logic proof but myth functions where there can be no proof. Myth is not considered as blind or an excuse for our ignorance. It is simply an unsubstantiated belief, but it crosses racial, ethnic, social, lingual and national boundaries. According to the researcher point of view history is considered as ‘Half Truth’, and also it contains many ‘Hidden Messages’.

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