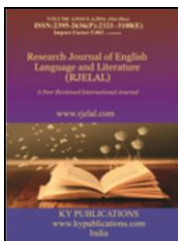




LOYALTY IN RELATIONSHIPS TURNED INTO DISLOYALTY IN THE NOVELS OF DAN BROWN

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ABSTRACT

Dan Brown, an American author of thriller fiction, is best known for his entertaining writing with matching style, hidden secrets, secret rituals and surprising climax. Set in 24 hours, his novels incorporate historical and religious events. The vivid sketches of places, paintings, journey, discovery, patterns and personalities become a vehicle to a better understanding of Brown's novels. By constantly travelling with the stories, the minds of the readers are stirred with too many questions from page to page. The present paper deals with how the loyal relationships turn disloyal and that happens near the end in *Angels & Demons* (2000) and *The Da Vinci Code* (2003).

Key words: Entertain, discovery, loyal, disloyal and climax.

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Dan Brown was born on June 22, 1964 and graduated with a degree in English. Sidney Sheldon's *Doomsday Conspiracy* inspired him to take to a writing career. After he married Blythe Newlon, he published his first thriller *Digital Fortress* (1998). This was followed by *Angels and Demons* (2000), *Deception Point* (2001), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003) which was at the top of the New York Times' Best Seller list in the first week of publication, and *The Lost Symbol* (2009) and *Inferno* (2013). Brown considers himself more generally spiritual by saying in an interview, "I consider myself a student of many religions. The more I learn, the more questions I have. For me, the spiritual quest will be a life-long work in progress" (www.danbrown.com). Love for adventure and desire to discover the secrets are focal point of his novels.

He has introduced Robert Langdon, Harvard symbologist is the protagonist of his five novels,

including the forthcoming novel, *Origin*. Langdon is a likable character, trustworthy and goodhearted. "Langdon viewed the world as a web of profoundly intertwined histories and events. The connections may be invisible, he often preached to his symbology classes at Harvard, but they are always there, buried just beneath the surface". (Dan Brown)

Angels and Demons is a sequel to *The Da Vinci Code*. Langdon and Vittoria go to Vatican City, where the Pope had recently died, to assist The Illuminati, a secret society of scientists, in solving a crime. They search for the four missing preferiti, who are most likely to be elected Pope by the Cardinals. Camerlengo Carlo Ventresca is the only person in the world allowed inside the Vatican Archives. He is the late Pope's closest aide and is later revealed to be the Pope's son. Langdon works quickly and finds that the four preferiti would be murdered in location's related primordial elements:

Earth, Air, Fire and Water. During the search, Langdon finds that the kidnappers are working under Janus, the unknown Illuminati master. Along with the scientist Vittoria, he searches the bomb which is set to destroy most of Rome. Camerlengo takes the bomb and safely locks the Cardinals inside the Archives. After igniting the bomb, he safely landed on the roof of St. Peter's square. With the help of symbols and riddles, Langdon proves that Camerlengo is Janus, who murdered the Pope and the others.

The Da Vinci Code provokes the assumption about the Holy Grail legend and Mary Magdalene's role in the history of Christianity. An albino Catholic monk, Silas has murdered Jacques Sauniere, grand-master of Priory of Sion at the museum. Robert Langdon is summoned by the police to decode the message left by Sauniere. Sophie Neveu secretly explains that the police thought Langdon is the murderer. Silas, belonging to Opus Dei, obeys the orders of the Teacher, who wants to discover the 'keystone' to find the Holy Grail. While Langdon searches the keystone along with Sophie, he meets Sir Leigh Teabing, who explains Leonardo da Vinci's painting of *The Last Supper*. Teabing wants to ruin the Vatican by producing the documents establishing that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had children. He reveals that he is the Teacher for whom Silas is working and compels Langdon at gunpoint to solve the password. The Priory of Sion hides Sophie, descendant of Christ and Magdalene, to protect her from the possible threats to her life. Langdon decodes the last message that the Grail is buried beneath the small pyramid.

In many circumstances and environments, a circle of our relationships doesn't keep faith. In the same way the trustworthy person who projects himself as good turns out to be a traitor. The protagonist of these novels encounters the same problem. Langdon feels Camerlengo is faithful to the church and the Pope. Camerlengos always project himself as the loyal servant in *Angels and Demons*. In *The Da Vinci Code* also, Langdon trusts Teabing and reveals the truth about the keystone. Teabing gives the needed details to Langdon as a personal friend, and later reveals that he is the real Teacher, who is the anti-hero.

After the death of his mother, Maria, Carlo Ventresca is taken into the Italian army and later he becomes a priest. The Pope had fallen in love with a nun, Maria, and they decided to have a child. The Bishop of Palermo became Pope and he named Ventresca as his Camerlengo, the Pope's chamberlain. Ventresca killed the Pope by injecting him with an overdose of Heparin. Camerlengo's address is one of the finest debates; he explains what is actually happening or going to happen that night. He compares Science and religion, with logics and suitable arguments. "The wheels have been in motion for a long time," the camerlegno said. "Your victory has been inevitable. Never before has it been as obvious as it is at this moment. Science is the new God." (AD, 319)

He stole the old Illuminati brands from the Papal Vault and made the people love and worship him when he came out of St. Peter's basilica with his chest branded with the Illuminati diamond. Near the end of the novel, Camerlengo rushes back the St. Peter's tomb, claiming that the location of the antimatter canister revealed through the vision. With Langdon in pursuit, Camerlengo ventures into the tomb and finds the canister sitting atop the tomb of Saint Peter. Langdon and the Camerlengo retrieve the antimatter. He requests to have some faith in him as he won't allow any more death tonight.

"There will be no more death tonight."

"Father, but — "

"Please... some faith." The camerlegno's voice plunged to a compelling hush. "I am not asking anyone to join me. You are all free to go. All I am asking is that you not interfere with His bidding. Let me do what I have been called to do." The camerlegno's stare intensified. "I am to save this church. And I can. I swear on my life." (370)

After viewing Kohler's tape, Langdon, Vittoria, and the Cardinals confront Camerlengo. The readers loved Camerlengo straight away but halfway through they feel a bit suspicious. Cardinal Saverio Mortati was elected as new Pope by the unanimous decision of the College of Cardinals. The Cardinals discover the villain of the piece and thanked God for sending Langdon to save them.

Dan Brown has repeatedly insisted that *The Da Vinci Code* was to spark further discussion about the mission and place of the Church, not to inspire denunciation of the Church. The Prior of Sion holds the secret of the Holy Grail, which Langdon searches throughout the novel. Langdon finds the cryptex, which will help him find the Grail. Along with Sophie, Langdon goes to Sir Leigh Teabing asking him for a help to open the cryptex. Langdon himself says that he is a friend of Teabing, "This is Robert Langdon." Langdon called out, sprawled across Sophie's lab. 'I'm a friend of Sir Leigh Teabing. I need his help. ... It is private matter. One of great interest to him. (TDC, Chapter 54)

Teabing tells them the legend of the Grail, starting with the historical evidence and Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene, who was of royal blood, and had children by showing the hidden symbols in *The Last Supper* and the painted representation of the Magdalene. While Langdon shows the cryptex, Silas attacks him and demands the cryptex at gun point. Teabing attacks Silas and they escape and fly to England by Teabing's private plane.

When Langdon reaches Westminster Abbey, he discovers that Teabing himself is the Teacher and he says,

"I discovered a terrible truth," Teabing said, sighing. "I learned why the Sangreal documents were never revealed to the world. I learned that the Priory had decided not to release the truth after all. That's why the millennium passed without any revelation, why nothing happened as we entered the End of Days." (Chapter 99)

Teabing gives Langdon the cryptex and asks him and Sophie to help him open it in a gun point. Langdon figures out the password and secretly takes the papyrus. Langdon diverts the concentration of Teabing by throwing the empty cryptex and Bezu Fache, the police captain arrests Teabing. Silas remains unaware of Teabing's true identity and is easily fooled into taking him from the church.

Dan Brown has beautifully intertwined how loyalty in relationships turns into disloyalty in these novels. Brown incorporates large amounts of information into his novels, which shows his interest

in research and scholarship. In short time, he blends history and presents the development of the characters in his novels. Through the code breaking and suspense, Brown has created the true villain in an interesting manner by sustaining and garnering his abilities. The closing chapters of the novels, Brown has created more interest and thrill in the minds of the readers. His writings are window to research in which many things are to be discovered.

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