

**REPRESENTATION OF SECRET SOCIETIES BY DAN
BROWN IN *ANGELS AND DEMONS* AND *LOST SYMBOL***

Dissertation

Submitted to the University of Calicut in partial fulfilment of the requirement for

The award of Degree of Master of Arts in English Language and Literature

By

ANJANA U

AIAVMEG002

Under the Guidance of

Ms SABITHA M M

Assistant Professor

PG and Research Department of English



The PG Department of English

M.E.S Asmabi College, P. Vemballur

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P. Vemballur

Date:

Dr. REENA MOHAMMED

Head of the PG&Research Department of
English

M.E.S Asmabi College, P. Vemballur

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P. Vemballur

Date:

Ms SABITHA M M

Supervising Teacher

PG & Research Department of English

M.E.S Asmabi College, P. Vemballur

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation entitled **REPRESENTATION OF SECRET SOCIETIES BY DAN BROWN IN ANGELS AND DEMONS AND LOST SYMBOL**

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ANJANA U

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AIAVMEG002

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Place: P.Vemballur

Anjana U

Date:

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Chapter 1

Introduction to Secret Societies

Secret societies have long captured the imagination of people around the world. These exclusive organizations shrouded in mystery and secrecy, have played significant roles throughout history, spanning a wide range of purposes and activities. Secret societies typically require their members to keep their affiliations and activities hidden from the general public, leading to speculations and conspiracy theories about their true nature and influence. The origins of secret societies can be traced back to ancient times, with examples such as the Eleusinian Mysteries in ancient Greece and the secret cults of ancient Egypt. However, secret societies gained prominence during the medieval and Renaissance periods, when organizations like the Freemasons and the Illuminati emerged. These groups often attracted influential individuals from various fields, including politics, science, and the arts. One common characteristic of secret societies is the initiation process, which involves rituals and ceremonies that bind members together and create a sense of loyalty and secrecy. Oaths of secrecy are often taken, and members are expected to uphold the values and objectives of the society. The objectives of secret societies vary greatly, ranging from intellectual pursuits and philosophical discussions to political influence and power. Some secret societies focus on the dissemination of knowledge, fostering intellectual and scientific advancements, while others aim to exert control over societal and political structures.

Terms such as Illuminati, and Freemasonry and their Symbols such as the All - Seeing Eye, pyramid, etc., are used in songs, novels, Cartoons, and even many famous brands. The Freemasons, perhaps one of the most well-known secret societies, have been surrounded by numerous conspiracy theories throughout history. They have attracted members from all walks of life, including influential figures like George Washington and

Benjamin Franklin. The Freemasons emphasize moral and spiritual development and promote principles such as brotherhood, charity, and the search for truth. Another notable secret society is the Skull and Bones at Yale University, which has counted several U.S. presidents among its members. Known for its elitism and secrecy, this society has been the subject of speculation and intrigue for decades. Secret societies have recently continued to capture public fascination, often portrayed in popular culture and literature. They serve as inspiration for fictional works, further fueling the curiosity surrounding their real-world counterparts.

While the true extent of their influence and power remains uncertain, secret societies undoubtedly hold a unique place in history and popular imagination. They offer a glimpse into the hidden realms of human society, where rituals, allegiances, and secret knowledge intertwine, creating a sense of exclusivity and intrigue. Many criminal acts, terrorist attacks, wars, controversies, and political matters are blamed on one of these secret societies. Dan Brown's novels, *Angels and Demons* (2000) and *The Lost Symbol* (2009) are perfect examples of a conspiracy novel that is rich with the most prominent secret societies in the world; The Illuminati, and the Freemasons. The introductory chapter gives a gist of the things discussed in the whole project. The first chapter discusses about the novel *Angels and Demons* and the secret society of the Illuminati and answers the question of their existence. The second chapter analyses the organization of Freemasonry as discussed in the novel *The Lost Symbol* and compares and contrasts the information given about them in the novel with the facts and other authentic reference materials. The final chapter is the concluding chapter which discusses the conclusions that the researcher arrives at.

For a corporation to be called secret, it ought to – insist on secrecy, higher members ought to either offer or withhold – secret knowledge from alternative members, having

bound binds among members. Secret societies' objective is to keep essential knowledge hidden from the public. The present world is actually made up of two worlds. One is the world in which people live and have limited knowledge. And the other world is made up of a global network of secret societies in which this knowledge is passed on through the generations of carefully chosen initiates. These secret societies are fiercely compartmentalized. Novelists used this in their novels to write about secret societies and their conspiracies. Richard Condon's *Most Effective Conspiracy Literature of the 20th Century* the *Manchurian Candidate* (1959), a trilogy by Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson *The Illuminatus* (1969-1971), Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* (2000), Umberto Eco's *Foucault's Pendulum* (1988).

American author Daniel Brown, who was born in 1964, is recognized for his unique themes using symbols and codes that the protagonist must decipher within a twenty-four-hour period. His novels were tailored into films maintaining a similar quality and generating an interest in the society he expressed in his novels. Brown published his first novel *Digital Fortress* in 1998 followed by two novels, *Angles and Demons* (2000) and *Deception Point* (2001), however, his fourth book, *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), established his reputation as a best-selling author. Due to the great success of both *Angles and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code*, Brown completed this series by writing *The Lost Symbol* (2009), and *Inferno* (2013), these four novels tackle the theme of a conspiracy planned by real strong secret societies and through extensive knowledge of these societies the protagonist, Robert Langdon solves the problem and avoids disaster. The novel was an instant hit and soon became the best-selling mystery thriller that tackles New World Order Conspiracy and was adapted by the film in 2009. It introduces the character of Robert Langdon, the hero of all subsequent sequels.

The novel is filled with the most famous secret societies known to mankind; The Knights Templar, The Assassins, The Freemasonry, The Illuminati, Rothschilds, Rosicrucians, and The Bilderberg Group. This novel is about two historical secret societies, the Illuminati and the Assassins, who joined together to destroy the Vatican City during Papal Elections. Robert Langdon, a symbologist and a Harvard professor, is asked to examine an ambigram branded on the chest of a murdered priest–scientist Leonardo Vetra. The Illuminati, a shadowy organization, is represented by the ambigram. Langdon, along with Leonardo Vetra’s daughter, and Maxillian Kohler, the director of CERN set out to search for the stolen antimatter canister that has been taken from Vetra’s lab. However, the Pope in Vatican City was poisoned and killed, necessitating the election of a new one. When the Vatican receives a threat from an Arab who claims to be a descendant of the assassins carrying out the Illuminati's plan to blow up the Vatican using an antimatter canister hidden inside the city, it is filled with religious leaders from throughout the world to conduct the papal elections. This destruction serves as their payoff for the Vatican’s previous suppression of both hidden groups. Despite the fact that the canister will detonate at midnight, the assassin vows to assassinate each of the four papal candidates in open churches, starting with the Church of Illumination. Langdon and Vittoria tried to help the Vatican police to find the antimatter canister before it explodes and the cardinals before they are killed. Due to his expertise in secret societies and their symbolism, Langdon provides detailed information that helps the reader decipher each clue as it appears in the book. The antimatter is discovered and destroyed by the priest Camerlengo, who Langdon later learns was behind this terrorist scheme from the beginning and used the names and prestige of these two secret societies to fulfill his own aims. The book closes with the deaths of all four cardinals.

The Lost Symbol is a 2009 novel written by American writer Dan Brown and published by Doubleday (US) and Transworld (UK). It is a suspenseful thriller that is set in Washington, D.C., following The Da Vinci Code's events, and it heavily relies on Freemasonry for both its central concept and its main characters. Robert Langdon, a symbologist at Harvard University, appears in Brown's third book, Angels and Demons, which was published in 2000 and The Da Vinci Code, released in 2003. After its initial six weeks of publication, it spent the next 29 weeks at the top of the hardcover fiction list of the New York Times Best Sellers.

The novel is rich with the most famous secret societies known to man; The Freemasonry, Rosicrucian, The Knight Templar, The Alchemists, The Kabbalists, and Invisible College. But it is the Freemasonry that is portrayed as the main character in the novel. The organization of Freemasonry is analysed in this research.

As the narrative begins, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an unexpected invitation to give a lecture that evening in the U.S. Capitol Building. Yet the night quickly takes a strange turn after his arrival. In the Capitol, a strange artifact that has been cleverly coded with five symbols is found. A long-forgotten world of esoteric knowledge is being ushered into by the artifact, which Langdon identifies as an old invitation. When Peter Solomon, a well-known Mason, and philanthropist, is brutally abducted, Langdon knows that the only way to save Peter is to accept this magical invitation and follow it wherever it leads. Instantaneously, Langdon is thrust into a secret world of Masonic mysteries, untold stories, and unexplored locales – all of which seem to be pulling him towards a single, unfathomable destination.

The “enlightened ones”, or Illuminati, were a political secret society from Germany in the late 18th century. The secret society was founded at the University of Ingolstadt on May 1st, 1776, by Adam Weishaupt, a Bavarian philosopher and lawyer.

Bavaria made it illegal in 1785. When they first came out against superstition, prejudice, the sway of religion in public life, and abuses of state authority. In addition to gender equality, they sponsored women's education. Several organizations with the same name later emerged. There is no evidence to support these groups' current claims of influence or strength. The Bavarian Illuminati is used by them as a recruiting tool for their organization. The fraternal organizations that make up the craft of masonry, commonly known as freemasonry, have their roots in the local stonemason fraternities that, starting at the end of the 14th century, regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interactions with clients and authorities. Numerous conspiracies involving Freemasonry have been brought forward over the years. The two primary recognized groups in contemporary Freemasonry, in general, are Continental Freemasonry and Regular Freemasonry. In a working lodge, proper Freemasonry requires that a book of scripture is open, that each member proclaims faith in a Supreme Being, that no woman be admitted, and that talk of politics and religion be forbidden. The nations that have eliminated all of these limitations are now collectively referred to as the "Continental Freemasonry".

The Lodge is Freemasonry's fundamental local organizational unit. These private Lodges are often under the control of a Grand Lodge or Grand Orient at the local level (typically coinciding with a state, province, or national border). There isn't a global, intergovernmental Grand Lodge that oversees everything. Each Grand Lodge in Freemasonry is autonomous, and they don't always acknowledge one another as legitimate.

Content analysis is defined as "an interpretive and naturalistic approach". It is both narrative and observational in character and depends less on the reliability, validity, and generalizability of experiments that are normally associated with scientific research (from ethnography, observational research, and narrative inquiry). Content analysis is a

typical research method (i.e. text) for locating certain words, themes, or concepts within a given set of qualitative data. It is possible to quantify and analyse the use of such certain terms, topics, or concepts by utilizing content analysis.

By using content analysis, the study adopts a qualitative methodology. One of the many qualitative techniques currently accessible for studying data and deciphering its meaning is qualitative content analysis. It serves as an organized and impartial approach to describing and quantifying occurrences as a research methodology. Creating categories, concepts, a model, a conceptual system, or a conceptual map can help reduce data to concepts that characterize the study phenomenon, which is a requirement for successful content analysis. Either an inductive or a deductive approach can be utilized with qualitative content analysis. The three basic stages of preparation, organizing, and reporting of results are common to both inductive and deductive content analysis methods.

CHAPTER 2

***ANGELS AND DEMONS* – HISTORY, FACTS AND FICTION OF**

THE ILLUMINATI AND THE NEW WORLD ORDER

CONSPIRACY THEORY

A certain set of people's belief system is fundamentally influenced by their culture. Culture is the result of a steadfast set of customs that motivates a population to progress. These beliefs can occasionally be traced back further in time, while others can shift or even disappear entirely. When a long-forgotten practise or belief system reappears in a modern age, it disturbs the current way of doing things. This disruption can occasionally merge with the current culture and become a part of it. When a disturbance challenges the status quo, the culture experiences complexity and develops into a multifaceted organism. This essay utilizes Dan Brown's novel *Angels and Demons* to highlight the intricacy that results from the reemergence of an ancient society and its impact on people's psyche. It also examines how it impacts people's belief systems, which are crucial components of culture.

The definition of culture is the definition of history in addition to being a conviction of practises and belief systems. Similar to how belief systems are created, culture creates history. To be more specific, there is a multidirectional relationship between history, culture, and belief systems. They continually shape and transform one another on their own. When one of the three changes, the other two follow suit. Therefore, culture can be characterized by its responsibilities in addition to its history and belief system. As Mathew Arnold writes in his essay,

"Sweetness and Light," "Culture is then probably regarded as having its beginning in the love of perfection; it is a study of perfection. It is a responsibility that seeks for betterment and perfection. It is propelled by a force that includes the moral and social zeal for doing good as well as the scientific passion for absolute knowledge"(12).

In addition to scientific discoveries and technological advancements, Arnold defines culture as the love of perfection and a love of a better life. Then, knowledge and morality, two distinct things existing together, will be culture's contribution. Dan Brown's book *Angels and Demons* highlights this culture's paradoxical existence. The Illuminati were a group of scientific pioneers who believed in the advancement of humanity through research. The author blends together the history and cultural practises of this group with the Catholic church's moral teachings.

American author Dan Brown's best-selling mystery-thriller *Angels and Demons* was first released by Pocket Books and afterward by Corgi Books in 2000. The protagonist of Brown's later novels, Robert Langdon, first appears in this book.

In order to investigate a puzzling symbol that was carved into the chest of a slain physicist, a renowned Harvard symbologist named Robert Langdon is sent to a Swiss research center. There, he finds evidence of the unthinkable: the resurgence of the Illuminati, the most potent secret society to ever exist. To complete its storied revenge against its most dreaded foe – the Catholic Church – the Illuminati has emerged from the shadows. On the day of the Vatican's holy conclave, Langdon's greatest fears are realized when an Illuminati messenger claims to have hidden an unstoppable time bomb at the very center of Vatican City. With the time running out, Langdon takes off for Rome to work with Vittoria Vetra, an attractive and enigmatic Italian physicist, in a last-ditch effort to save the Vatican.

Following a 400-year-old trail of antiquated symbols that snakes through Rome in the direction of the long-forgotten Illuminati lair—a secret location that holds the only hope for Vatican salvation—Langdon and Vetra launch a frantic search through locked tombs, perilous catacombs, deserted churches, and even to the center of the most secretive vault on earth. *Angels and Demons* is a riveting worldwide thriller that alternates between

uplifting epiphanies and sobering realities as the fight between science and religion intensifies into a full-fledged war.

Several organizations, both real and made-up, are referred to as "Illuminati". Historically, the term most often refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, a secret society from the Age of Enlightenment that was established on May 1, 1776, in Bavaria, which is now a part of Germany. Throughout history, from ancient Egypt to the present, numerous organizations have adopted the word "Illuminati," but it is typically used to refer to the Bavarian Illuminati. Almost all the other references related to the Illuminati state the same thing; many groups were called the Illuminati yet the Bavarian Illuminati stands out as the notorious secret society. The Illuminati were a real organization, sworn to ideals of free-thinking and rationalism whereas the official website of Illuminati claims that "the Illuminati's purpose is to secure the ongoing survival of the human species."

All people everywhere are members of the same biological family, despite your countries' borders and language difficulties. The collective that sustains mankind is made up of all people. You are as crucial to the survival of your species as the greatest kings and queens, even though you are simply a speck on the back of a grain of sand in comparison to the enormous number of individuals born and decayed for millennia."

Dan Brown in his Author's Note states that "The brotherhood of the Illuminati is also factual." Brown enriches the readers with a full detailed account of this secret society providing encyclopedic information and historical facts. According to Brown, because this organization dared to challenge the church, the Catholic Church persistently pursued them, leading to their extreme secrecy and regular meetings in Rome at the Church of Illumination. The church believed it to be heresy to suggest that God created people and placed them far from the center of the universe; Galileo Galilei, the "most reverend member" of the Illuminati, was caught and "severely punished" for saying that the sun is

the center of the universe. The Illuminati wanted to fight back against the church, but Galileo Galilei refused. The church became enraged and began to act violently; as a warning to this organization, it seized four members of the Illuminati, tortured them by branding them while they were still alive with the cross, and then hurled their bodies into the streets of Rome. In response, the Illuminati retreated further into hiding and mingled with other groups that the Catholic Church was after, including Muslims, Jews, occultists, etc. They eventually developed into "the single most dangerous anti-Christian force on earth" with deadly secrecy and mysterious rituals with the sole purpose of exacting retribution on the Catholic Church. "They took advantage of infiltration and helped fund banks, universities, and industry to finance their ultimate quest...the establishment of a single, cohesive world government - a sort of secular New World Order." They fled Rome and were taken in by the Freemasons in 1700. They fell victim and the front for Illuminati recruitment, a secret grew stronger and wider. They took most of Europe and moved with the Masons to the United States.

Although many groups throughout history took up the name of Illuminati, Dan Brown more than once refers to this faction of Illuminati as The Bavarian Illuminati. Brown dates the formation of this society to the 1500s, claiming that many of this century's luminaries, including Galileo, Raphael, and Bernini, belonged to it. Most criticism was directed to Brown's statement "Galileo was an Illuminatus." In other words, Galileo was dead two centuries before the Bavarian Illuminati so were Raphael and Bernini, thus, they could not have been Illuminatus as Brown claims. Brown built a complex storyline by altering the time, location, and members of this secret society. He changed the date to incorporate the most influential persons in arts, architecture, and science. He also made up a historical event that he called 'La Purge' in which the church branded the four Illuminati scientists alive with the symbol of the cross in 1668 to purge them from their bodies in

public locations around Rome to warn people of joining this society. Due to the lack of a Bavarian Illuminati at that time, the historical event is entirely fictitious; yet, the plot provides a fantastic opportunity for the Catholic Church to get retribution.

Unfortunately, as rich as the whole plot may seem, Brown's account of this secret society was judged inaccurate. According to Mark Dice, the author of *The Illuminati in Hollywood*, *Angels and Demons* (2009) is considered "the biggest Illuminati-themed film to date hit the theatres...Filled with historical and scientific errors, serving to introduce the Illuminati to millions of individuals who had never heard of it in a greatly distorted form." Mark Dice, charged Brown with "muddying the water for actual researchers of the Illuminati" in his second book, *The Illuminati: Facts and Fiction*.

The Illuminati and Luciferian doctrine are two distinct concepts that often generate interest and speculation. The Illuminati refers to various historical groups, both real and fictitious. The term commonly refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, a secret society founded in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt. The Bavarian Illuminati sought to promote Enlightenment ideals and reduce the influence of the Church and monarchy in society. However, the group was disbanded and suppressed by the Bavarian government within a decade of its founding.

In modern times, the term "Illuminati" is often associated with conspiracy theories that claim a secretive, powerful elite group controls world events from behind the scenes. These theories suggest that the Illuminati manipulates governments, economies, and global affairs for their own gain. It's important to note that there is no credible evidence supporting the existence of a global Illuminati conspiracy. Luciferianism is a belief system that centers around the figure of Lucifer, often depicted as the fallen angel or the embodiment of light and knowledge. Luciferianism encompasses various philosophical and religious ideas, but it is not a widely recognized or organized religion. Different interpretations of Luciferianism exist, and they can vary significantly. Some individuals who identify as

Luciferians view Lucifer as a symbol of personal enlightenment, individualism, and the pursuit of knowledge. They may associate Lucifer with qualities such as freedom, rebellion against dogma, and self-determination. It's worth noting that not all Luciferians hold the same beliefs, and their interpretations can differ significantly.

In the novel *"Angels and Demons"* by Dan Brown, the Illuminati, and the Luciferian doctrine play significant roles in the overall plot. However, the Illuminati is depicted as a secret society founded in the 16th century. The organization is associated with scientific and intellectual enlightenment, and its members are portrayed as influential figures in various fields. The Illuminati in the novel is shown to have been suppressed by the Catholic Church due to conflicting beliefs and the fear of their growing influence. The story revolves around the Illuminati's attempt to take revenge on the Church through a series of symbolic and dramatic acts.

The Luciferian doctrine, as depicted in the novel, is a belief system associated with the Illuminati. It suggests that enlightenment can only be achieved through the rejection of religious dogma and the embrace of scientific knowledge. This doctrine is portrayed as a central tenet of the Illuminati's beliefs, emphasizing their opposition to the Catholic Church's teachings. The importance and need for the Illuminati and the Luciferian doctrine in the novel stem from the conflict between science and religion. The story explores the tension between the Church's traditional religious authority and the Illuminati's pursuit of scientific progress and freedom of thought. The Illuminati's actions in the novel are meant to challenge the Church's power and expose what they perceive as the suppression of knowledge and scientific advancement.

It's crucial to remember that *"Angels and Demons"* is a work of fiction, and the portrayal of the Illuminati and the Luciferian doctrine should not be taken as an accurate representation of real-world organizations or beliefs. The novel uses these elements to

create a thrilling and suspenseful narrative, blending historical references and conspiracy theories into a fictional plot.

Brown states the belief system of this secret society in detail by describing them as being Luciferian, not Satanic. The name Illuminati means the enlightened ones, but the Catholic Church claimed Illuminati is derived from the illuminator or the light-bearer, the Latin name of Lucifer, Satan. As a result, they outlawed this society and denounced it as “the world’s oldest and most Satanic cult”, but Brown later clarifies that their claims that it was “Satanic but not in the modern sense” were false. Modern Satanism, which includes black magic, animal sacrifices, and Pentagon rituals is a product of the church.

Again, a single piece of knowledge can alter one’s entire perspective, so why claim that the Illuminati are Luciferian rather than Satanic? Satanism is a collection of philosophical and ideological viewpoints based on the character of Satan who is considered as a supernatural deity. The opposite, known as Lucifererianism, “is based on a belief system that usually presents Lucifer not as the devil, but as a liberator, protector, guiding spirit, or even the actual deity against the Jehovah.” Hence, according to Luciferian or Illuminati theory, Lucifer or Satan gave humans the knowledge they now possess through the seduction of Adam and Eve to eat from the Tree of Knowledge, which was forbidden. Of course, scientists are grateful for Lucifer’s gift of elevating humanity from being mere slaves to being think tanks. The Illuminati are scientists who provide knowledge, in contrast to the church, which keeps people in the darkness of ignorance to protect them from the knowledge that, if used incorrectly, could harm their faith. This is again a superb choice of belief system to frame the readers’ mindset.

The Illuminati is considered to be the Antichrist by two prominent religions, Christianity and Islam. In Christianity, the bible prophesies describe the Antichrist with Luciferian characteristics like the Illuminati, thus one can see the 666 association with the

Illuminati. The triple six is the mark of the beast that will rise to end humanity bringing doomsday. In Islam, prophecies describe Al Dejal, as a one-eyed being. Thus, the Seeing Eye on the top of the pyramid as well as the one-eyed technologies created by the Illuminati to serve Illuminati aims like cameras, webcams on laptops, cell phones, smartphones, social media, networks, and World Wide Web are all associated with Al Dejal.

Vatican City is portrayed by Dan Brown as an expansive labyrinth for the Illuminati. The entire setting is constructed in accordance with Illuminati ideals and incorporates their insignia. Illuminatus, also known as Bernini and Raphael, is the term for all artists, painters, and architects. In order for Illuminati members to meet in secret, a meeting place was dedicated to this reason. This hidden location was known as the Church of Illumination, and in order to discover it, members had to follow hints inscribed on famous sculptures and pieces of art that were visible to the public. However, only those who understood the symbols were able to find the road, and subsequently, the church.

Ironically, the majority of the artworks referenced in the book are true and exactly as Brown described them, while other pieces are misplaced or incorrectly interpreted to suit the story's subject and scenario. The Vatican City was constructed over a number of other ancient cities, each of which had its own religious system and symbols that have persisted to the present day. Dan Brown played deftly with these pagan remnants of ancient religions and considered them Illuminati simply because the Illuminati are considered pagan or Luciferian as mentioned earlier, despite the fact that some symbols and artwork are considered pagan and unfit for the new Christian city and yet these artworks were not replaced or removed. The main character, Professor Langdon, clearly discusses this in his class and calls it "conquering religions" or "transmutation," saying that it "helps." The main character, Professor Langdon, clearly discusses this in class and calls it "conquering religions" or "transmutation," adding that it "helps people acclimatize to the new faith."

Worshippers observe the same holy days, offer prayers in the same holy places, and employ analogous iconography...and they only replace him with another god. Another investigation is necessary in order to do these artworks justice. In this research, however, only the most famous symbols of the Illuminati will be explained namely the All-Seeing Eye, the pyramid, and the Egyptian obelisk.

Most secret societies rely heavily on ancient religious belief systems that are condemned as being pagan, thus, such societies as the Illuminati are always associated with Occult. Despite the fact that the Illuminati are frequently accused of being Luciferian and Satanic, their symbols demonstrate that they adopted the pagan beliefs of ancient Egypt. The All-Seeing Eye, the Pyramid, and the Obelisk—the most well-known Illuminati symbols—are all linked to a well-known Egyptian mythology or myth.

According to legend, the fertility goddess Isis was married to Osiris, the god-king of the ancient Egyptians. Their brother Set killed and dismembered him, scattering his body parts around the underworld because he was envious and wanted the kingdom for himself. Isis looked for her husband's 14 body parts and managed to collect all of them except his penis which was eaten by fish in the river Nile. The bodily pieces were put together by Isis using magic, and a golden penis was used in its stead. Horus, the god of the sky, war, and hunting, was born after Isis claimed she was pregnant following magical rituals and sexual encounters. His left eye stood in for the moon, and his right eye for the sun. Horus started a war on Set to revenge their father and as a result, he lost his eye. With the use of magic, the eye was replaced with the All-Seeing Eye, the eye of a deity that protects his worshipers and provides them with power.

The occult trinity of Osiris, Isis, and Horus—the mother, father, and holy son—is represented by the eye of a pagan god inside a triangle in "The All-Seeing Eye." This same pagan symbol was adopted by Christianity in which the eye stands for the Eye of the

Christian God watching over mankind and enclosed in a triangle that is the symbol of the Christian trinity. The All-Seeing Eye symbol was and still is widely known throughout history and cultures and is famous for being the Eye of Horus. This eye can be found practically everywhere, including on coins, clothing, logos, altar decorations, and current currency like the \$1 bill. In the 18th century, the Freemasons adopted this symbol and ever since then, this symbol is always associated with the Freemasons and Illuminati.

Another emblem that the Illuminati regularly employs is the pyramid. One of the unanswered mysteries of the globe is the pyramids. It is widely known that these pyramids were built as tombs for pharaohs; however, the Illuminati believe that they are schools for teaching mystery to secret societies.

If given the proper secret knowledge, man has the potential to become a god who can control the illiterate. The social system portrayed by the pyramid is one in which a few elites at the top control vast "masses of ignorant working bees at the bottom."

The last of the Illuminati symbols is the Egyptian obelisk. The definition of an obelisk from Wikipedia is "a tall, four-sided, narrow tapering monument with a pyramidion-like top." These were initially referred to as Tekhenu by the Ancient Egyptians who built them. It was Isis who gave the order for these obelisk monuments to be built in temples to be worshipped in memory of her husband's lost penis that gave rise to the design of such phallic architecture. It goes without saying that if this obelisk is placed inside a circle that represents a woman's vagina, it refers to "the very act of copulation." The Egyptian obelisk in St. Peter's Square was placed in the center of the square's circumference.

The irony is that we are today more surrounded by Illuminati - Egyptian symbols than ancient cultures ever were. The Illuminati is a long-standing secret society that adopted ancient beliefs in its symbols. Nearly all Western vocalists include the All-Seeing Eye

emblem in their songs, and some of them, like Madonna at the 2012 Olympic Games opening ceremony, dress as Isis.

The music industry launched many songs with the word Illuminati in them. Egyptian pyramids and Obelisks are the number one architectural design in the Western world. In fact, there are more Egyptian obelisks in the United States of America than in Egypt itself! The highest Egyptian obelisk is not in Egypt but is founded in St. Peter Square!

Each secret society has its own goals, which is why they are all hidden. The creation of a New World Order ruled by a small number of enlightened elites is the Illuminati's main objective. Adam Weishaupt, the founder of the Illuminati, introduced some well-known methods to accomplish this goal. The most well-known of these strategies is dominating the financial, political, media, and religious spheres. The Catholic Church attempted to repress this secret society, as we have already mentioned, but all that happened was that it grew even more covert and merged with the powerful secret society known as Freemasonry. According to Brown, the Illuminati developed over time and migrated to America with the Freemasons to establish their New World Order after being pursued by the Catholic Church and other authorities. The Freemasons were infiltrated by the Illuminati and transformed into a secret society within a secret society, as Brown described in his description of the Illuminati, allowing a new branch of Masonry to develop called "Illuminized Masonry." Conspiracy theorists contend that this Order undermined the establishment of a global government by eradicating all faiths and governments that were headed by members of this secret organization. The Illuminati enforces their power through finance and politics. They were pioneers in the establishment of banks and were instrumental in the creation of the first American paper money. They exerted themselves until they became among the American Revolution's most important leaders, achieving political stature.

Freemasonry was practised by George Washington, the nation's first president and the man dubbed the country's "founding father" for drafting the current constitution. Thirteen presidents of the United States and nine of the signatories to the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons. Despite the widespread belief among conspiracy theorists that "America itself was a secret Masonic project," the Masons' impact was not at all covert. President George Washington dressed in Masonic robes and participated in Masonic rites during the dedication ceremony for the US Capitol. Washington, the nation's capital, was designed and constructed with Masonic symbols, some of which are concealed and others which are lying in plain sight, such as the Washington monument which is obviously an Egyptian obelisk. Great Masonic symbols can also be seen in the layout of the US currency and the great seal. The reader will be able to tell that Langdon is pointing out Illuminati symbols rather than Freemason's symbols because each society has its own beliefs and symbols. The One Dollar Bill is covered in Illuminati symbols, according to Langdon, who goes on to emphasise that the United States Great Seal's obverse is Masonic and leaves none of its symbolism unanswered in his extensive, detailed exposition of the One Dollar Bill emblems. Above the unfinished 13-step pyramid on the seal is an eye. The three sides of the pyramid are considered to represent the three branches of government, and the thirteen steps are thought to represent the original thirteen colonies. The unfinished nature of the pyramid signifies the incompleteness of America. Conspiracy theorists in-depth examined this seal and discovered that the Eye is the All-Seeing Eye, keeping an eye on the populace. Under the pyramid there is a Latin phrase NOVUS ORDO SECLORUM which means New World Order. The Illuminati was founded on May 1, 1776, which is represented by the Latin numbers at the base of the pyramid (MDCCLXXVI). According to conspiracy theories, the seal represents the power and influence of the Freemasons and Illuminati in America as well as the establishment of the New World Order.

CHAPTER 3

***THE LOST SYMBOL* - THE ORIGIN AND DEVELOPMENT OF FREEMASONS IN THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE**

In 2009 Dan Brown published his novel *The Lost Symbol* which is a stunning follow-up to the global phenomenon *The Da Vinci Code*. *The Lost Symbol* is a master stroke of story-telling – a race through a real-world labyrinth of codes, secrets, and unseen truth...all under the watchful eye of Brown's most terrifying villain to date. *The Lost Symbol* is a thriller that takes place in the secret tunnels, chambers, and temples of Washington, D.C. It races across an unsettling landscape to an unbelievable conclusion.

As the narrative begins, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an unexpected invitation to give a lecture that evening in the U.S. Capitol Building. But the night quickly takes an odd turn after his arrival. An unsettling artefact in the form of an ancient invitation, one intended to lead the bearer into a long-forgotten realm of arcane knowledge. When Peter Solomon, a well-known Mason and philanthropist, is brutally abducted, Langdon realises that accepting this magical invitation and following it wherever it leads is his only chance of saving Peter Solomon. Instantaneously, Langdon is thrust into a secret world of Masonic secrets, untold history, and never-before-seen locations, all of which seem to be pulling him towards a single unfathomable truth.

The novel is rich with the most famous secret societies known to man; The Freemasonry, Rosicrucian, Knight Templar, Alchemists, Kabbalists, Invisible College. But it is the Freemasonry that is portrayed as main character in the novel. The organization of Freemasonry is analysed in this research.

The oldest and biggest fraternal organisation in the world is freemasonry. It is a social and educational organisation that has a solid reputation for its charitable work with

several charities. Freemasonry is typically described as a "system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols." Freemasons are a charitable, benevolent association whose members aim to better understand themselves for the good of their families and communities. Masons are learners, and the fraternal education they receive focuses on lessons that aid them in their quest for moral and spiritual enlightenment. Freemasonry is portrayed in *The Lost Symbol* as a kind, helpful organisation committed to assisting one's journey towards "the light." It shields the main character Robert Langdon and gives him the information he needs to find the bad guy physically and, symbolically, to the truth that can mend man's wounded spirituality.

It was widely believed before the book's release that the Masons, with their penchant for secrecy and enigmatic rituals, would be portrayed in *The Lost Symbol* in a similar manner to how Dan Brown had portrayed the Illuminati in *Angels and Demons* and the Priory of Sion in *The Da Vinci Code*: as a shadow organization with shocking secrets to protect and grand conspiracies to create. Instead, Brown and Robert Langdon, his alter ego, were seen to be so impressed with the Masons that they were almost ready to join. The following passage illustrates this:

"One may say the Masonic legacy of tolerance and open-mindedness is laudable in this day where different cultures are killing each other over whose conception of God is superior. Masonry also offers a spiritual fraternity that is available to men of all races, colour, and creeds and does not make any distinctions."

The mediaeval guilds of stonemasons and cathedral builders were the ancestors of freemasonry. Some lodges of operative Masons started to accept honorary members to supplement their dwindling membership as cathedral building fell out of favour. Modern symbolic or theoretical Freemasonry sprang from a handful of these lodges, especially in the 17th and 18th centuries, when it borrowed the rituals and garb of chivalric

brotherhoods and historic ecclesiastical institutions. The first Grand Lodge, an organisation of lodges, was established in England in 1717. Since nearly its inception, organised religion, particularly the Roman Catholic Church, and numerous states have actively opposed freemasonry. Though it has frequently been misconstrued as such, freemasonry is not a Christian organization. Freemasonry contains many of the elements of a religion, its teachings enjoin morality, charity and obedience to the law of the land. The majority of traditions stipulate that the candidate must be an adult male and that all applicants must hold to the concepts of the presence of a Supreme Being and the immortality of the soul. In reality, certain lodges have been accused of discriminating against Jews, Catholics, and people of colour. In general, those who disagree with religious doctrine or the clergy are drawn to Freemasonry in Latin countries, whereas white Protestants predominate in Anglo-Saxon nations. *Le Droit Humain*, a modern French custom that was started in the 19th century, admits both men and women. Freemasons are split into three major degrees in the majority of lodges around the world: admitted apprentice, fellow of the trade, and Master Mason. The three basic divisions are often superimposed in several lodges with numerous degrees—sometimes as much as a thousand—these organizational elements vary from nation to nation.

The secrecy surrounding Freemasonry's early beginnings is the source of some of its legend. One fantasy theory date back to the Knights Templar; according to this account, some of them escaped to Argyll in Western Scotland and reinvented themselves as the Freemasons after being defeated by King Phillip of France in 1307. Others, especially Freemasons, claim to be descended from King Soloman, whose temple is supposed to have been constructed using a secret knowledge passed down from one generation of stonemasons to the next. The early origins of Freemasonry are more likely to have come from guild-like organizations of craftsmen from the Middle Ages. The story

claims that the Egyptian pyramid builders were involved in the founding of the Freemasons. They are regarded as the forerunners of contemporary stonemasons, and Freemasonry frequently uses the pyramid and other symbols with Egyptian overtones.

Dan Brown has used several Masonic symbols in the novel. Major philosophers, scientists, painters in the history had been member of the Masonic brotherhood. Freemasons in the city of Washington D.C gathered at the House of Temple for their meetings. The House of Temple itself is rich with Masonic symbols which is mentioned in the prologue of the novel.

The most renowned symbols of Freemasons are explained, particularly the Masonic pyramid. Masonic symbols are engraved on a massive stone pyramid. In essence, the pyramid stands for enlightenment. It is a piece of architecture that represents the ability of ancient man to rise above his terrestrial plane and head upward towards heaven, the golden sun, and eventually the supreme source of illumination. The Masonic pyramid with its golden capstone is a map in ciphers pointing to an actual place in Washington D.C where hides the lost wisdom of the ages. The secret wisdom is the knowledge that let man acquire godlike power.

The Mason in charge of guarding the Masonic pyramid customarily wears the Masonic ring, a special ring that was made at the same time as the pyramid. The magnificent bird known as the double-headed phoenix is shaped and sized like an eagle. When this bird died, legend has it that his body split open, revealing a reborn phoenix. Because of its significance as a reference symbol for immortality and resurrection. Additionally, the novel *The Lost Symbol* describes how the Phoenix evolved into the covert symbol of religious orders from the ancient past. According to Dan Brown, the eagle represents the highest degree of the freemason organization. People who have attained the highest state of enlightenment occupy this degree, which is one notch higher.

This is what gives the impression that someone who has been let into the shrine is a man who has been reborn or born a second time. Policy grants a new life, and those who grow in wisdom are reborn. The double-headed phoenix with the number 33 is the emblem of the highest Masonic degree, and it is depicted on its face bearing a banner that reads ORDO AB CHAO. Its chest is inscribed with the number 33. The thirty-third degree is elite honour reserved for a small group of highly accomplished Masons. By successfully completing the preceding degree, one can advance to all other degrees; however, advancement to the thirty-third degree is restricted. It is solely by invitation.

A painting called *The Apotheosis of Washington* can be found in the capitol's dome, directly above the Rotunda floor. The term "apotheosis" refers to the process of becoming a god; the word "apo" means "to be" and "theos" means "god" or "gods" in ancient Greek. A masterpiece created by Constantino Brumidi in 1865 is this artwork. The idea behind this picture is to portray how the first American president was shown the path to heaven, which rose from the heart of the Capitol and its capital through the Rotunda dome. Washington, as well as the rest of the country, was revitalised and inspired by Jesus' resurrection and ascension. In this picture, George Washington is depicted ascending into heaven, escorted by women who stand for Freedom and Victory.

Freemasons Cypher is a fractional symbol that, when used with the appropriate partner, has meaning. Often referred to as Pigpen Cypher (Cypher enclosing Pig), Freemasons 26 letters from the alphabet are divided into two rectangular blocks with three fields each and two blocks with three fields. Each letter represents a specific location in the broader diagram. Since the 18th century, cypher has been employed to protect the secrets of Masons, but subsequently a band one since the code is quite simple to crack. Crypts that had previously vanished and reappeared in *The Lost Symbol*. "Symbolis found in the

unfinished pyramid stones in SBB13" (the basement of the capitol building). Langdon discovered a string of sixteen symbols, four times each other, in the stone pyramid.

It is possible to meditate in the Chamber of Reflection. These spaces are intended to be chilly, sombre spaces where a Mason can consider his own mortality. A Mason can acquire a helpful perspective on the transitory nature of life by reflecting on the certainty of death. The same symbols—a skull and crossed bones, a scythe, an hourglass, sulphur, salt, a blank sheet of paper, a candle, etc.—are constantly present in these chambers. Masons are moved to consider how to better spend their lives while they are still on earth by the images of death. These artifacts are carefully selected and arranged. They are called Symbols of Transformation. The skull, or *caput mortuum*, represents man's final transformation through decay. Salt and sulphur act as alchemical catalysts to promote transformation. The hourglass represents the transformation power of time. The candle represents the formative primordial fire and the awakening of man from his ignorant slumber—transformation through illumination. The scythe represents nature's transformational nourishment—harvesting its bounty.

The circumpunct, a circle with a round dot in the middle is one of the most widely used symbols in history. In ancient Egypt, it was the symbol for Ra—the sun god—and modern astronomy still uses it as the solar symbol. It stands for the heavenly rose, the sign of enlightenment, and the spiritual perception of the Third Eye in Eastern philosophy. Early mystics called it the Eye of God and so on. But everything points to one specific thing which is God, so the circumpunct is also a universal symbol for God. The Freemasons have attempted to analyse the circumpunct for centuries.

Another symbol in the novel is the 'cube', Masons venerate the shape of the cube or ashlar, as they call it, because it is a three-dimensional representation of another symbol, a much older two-dimensional symbol. The earth was believed to be square at the

period of the Bible. Modern brains will never understand the significance that the cube held in ancient times, but that concept was so firmly rooted that it led to the creation of the "square" as a Masonic emblem to signify the Lodge. Even the Masonic Altar in the House of Temple is a square.

The Masonic square and compasses are another symbol mentioned in the novel. The square, also known as a builder's square, is made up of two fixed, equally spaced flat-edged metal or wooden arms that make a perfect "right angle," or 90-degree angle. This emblem is utilised in Freemasonry to impart moral precepts. Being "square" in your behaviour is seen to imply being truthful and just. The compasses are used metaphorically in the teachings of Freemasonry to help members draw a line around their desires in order to prevent indulgence and uphold moderation, which is the cornerstone of morality and wisdom. Together, the square and compasses can operate as a reminder that living an honest life requires balancing one's demands with those of others.

It is thought that the name of the picture, *Melencolia*, is a Latin anagram of *Limen Coela*, which means "threshold of heaven." There are several woodworking equipment, including compasses, polished stones, and even a dog, in the painting. This set of stairs is known as a Jacob's ladder. Albrecht Durer produced engravings in 1514 that include the title and the year of creation. The entirety of the carving discovered on the picture corresponds to the so-called "Christian Mystical" synthesis between early Christians, alchemy, astrology, and science. Figures 1514 were discovered by Langdon on a gold pyramid box; the image is of the letter "A" covering the letter "D" and perched on top of it. Albrecht Durer, the artist of the painting *Melencolia I*, is the name that Langdon recognises as being referenced. One could consider this artwork to be Albrecht Durer's spiritual self-portrait. Durer travelled to Florence to get acquainted with the works of Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. *Melencolia I* is the name the painters give it.

Dan Brown uses the term "philosophers" in *The Lost Symbol* to refer to people who, in his writings and speeches, have an "intellectual or spiritual outlook" in a very wide, even common sense. The "unified human" and ancient, early, mystical, Hermetic, Masonic, Rosicrucian, and Eastern ideas are what Brown focuses on. Albert Pike, a prominent American Freemason who practised law before enlisting in the Confederate Army during the American Civil War and rising to the rank of General, is one of the Masonic thinkers discussed in the book. He was quite active in Freemasonry, creating Scottish rite ceremonies, and in 1859 he attained the 33rd degree grade in American Jurisdiction. Prior to his passing in 1891, Pike was the Grand Commander of the Order. To this day he is in some respect, still seen as a controversial figure for unproven accusations of having also belonged to a famous far right American secret society. Irrespective of whether it may be true that he was part of such a cult, the power of Pike's skilful analytical mind is unquestionable. In the book, it is mentioned that a bronze statue of Masonic luminary Albert Pike and engravings of his most well-known utterance may be found on the marble stairway leading to the Temple Room inside the House of Temple.

"What we have done for the world and for others remains and is immortal; what we have done for ourselves alone dies with us."

Benjamin Franklin, American scientist and statesman, was an honorary member of the Royal Society of London for his demonstration that lightning and electricity are one and the same phenomenon. He appears in the novel for being one of the Masonic conceiver/ designers of Washington D.C, a great inventor, a printer, and an American forefather concerned about the dangers of interpreting the Bible literally. However, his importance in the book can be attributed to his passion for creating magic squares, and in

particular to a variation he wrote about in his autobiography that included "broken diagonals."

Young Virginia planter George Washington attained the highest fundamental level in the covert society of Freemasonry—Master Mason. The Masonic Lodge No. 4 in Fredericksburg, Virginia served as the venue for the event. George Washington saw becoming a Mason as a rite of passage and a demonstration of his commitment to civic duty. Washington had the choice to go through a series of extra rites that would advance him to higher "degrees" after becoming a Master Mason. Washington was chosen as Alexandria Lodge No. 22's first Worshipful Master in 1788, just before he was elected the country's first president. He is also one of the founding fathers of the United States and laid the cornerstone of the U.S-Capitol Building.

The Secret Teachings of All Ages: An Encyclopaedic Outline of Masonic, Hermetic, Qabbalistic, and Rosicrucian Symbolical Philosophy (1928) is the best-known work by Manly Palmer Hall, a mystic of Canadian descent who spent the majority of his life in the United States. Hall was a prolific author on all kinds of old mysteries and eventually joined the Freemasons. Dan Brown, who has discussed Hall's influence on his own understanding of mystical reality, both references this book's opening epigraph and its concluding paragraph. In essence, Hall gets the first and last word, and Langdon uses the words of this "philosopher" to summarize the entire arduous voyage.

The history of the Freemasonry is intertwined with the birth and the early decades of the American republic. With hindsight, it seems nearly impossible for Dan Brown to have chosen any other group as the inspiration for his first Robert Langdon novel because of how rich their story is. Freemasonry is the post-revolutionary fraternity with its own rites and rituals. Brown's description of the rituals is shocking for common people and an overwhelming experience for the initiate going through it to enter the brotherhood.

The novel claims that a Mason about to receive the first degree would be blindfolded, dressed in the garb of a mediaeval heretic, and led to the gallows with the left pant leg rolled up to the knee, the right sleeve rolled up to the elbow, and the shirt gaping open to reveal bare chest. Should the initiate inappropriately reveal the Mysteries of Masonry, the respected Lodge would press a dagger to the initiate's bare chest and threaten impalement.

The second-degree initiation ceremonies involved kneeling at the alter, making a lifelong commitment to keep Freemasonry's mysteries secret, and agreeing to suffer the consequences by having their chests torn open and their beating hearts cast out upon the land as food for rapacious animals.

The third degree was the death ceremony, the worst of all the degrees, where the initiate was made to confront the last test of extinction. In the novel it is said that the third-degree initiation rites are mimed. The initiate gets attacked—gets simulated blows to the head with Mason's stone maul. After the deathblow, the initiate is dead to his former self and is lowered into his symbolic coffin, where the initiate's eyes are shut and arms are crossed like that of a corpse. Then the Masonic brothers would mournfully circle the 'dead body' while a pipe organ is played.

The rites to enter the thirty-third degree included drinking wine from real human skull and declaring that the wine shall become a deadly poison to the initiate, if he was to knowingly or wilfully violate his oath.

The analysis covers various myths and facts related to the post-revolutionary fraternity. It outlines the plot of the novel. Discusses about the different versions about the origin of the fraternity and the true meaning of the symbols associated with the Freemasonry, such as, the square and compasses, Masonic ring, the cube, Masonic pyramid, the circumpunct, and the Chamber of Reflection. It also discusses about the

American forefathers and other famous personalities in the history as Freemasons and the rituals and rites associated with the initiation of new members into the brotherhood as portrayed by Dan Brown in the novel. From all these symbols, rituals, mysteries and secrets, readers can know what Freemasonry really is. It can be concluded that the brotherhood does really exist but secrets associated with the brotherhood is still a matter of controversy.

Chapter 4

The Mystery: Does Illuminati and Freemasonry Really Exist?

Secret organizations' existence has always been repeatedly called into question. Although controversial, an article on a video can be cited, which proves the existence of the secret society of Illuminati.

Jim Carrey, a famous actor, made an appearance on Jimmy Kimmel Live in 2014 and flashed an odd symbol as he entered the stage. That was not entirely surprising, but when Kimmel asked his guest what was the symbol, Carrey's response was illuminating. "Come on, Jimmy, as if you don't know what it means...I'm here tonight to blow the lid off it." Carrey finally said. "The secrets and falsehoods are getting on my nerves. You are a part of it and it is the All-Mocking tongue; it is the Illumi-nutty's secret emblem. Talk show hosts, TV personalities, and actors in sitcoms have been employed by the government for years to divert your attention, amuse you, and keep you compliant so you won't realize what's really going on. This is proof that the Illuminati is genuine, according to a Hollywood actor.

Some conspiracy theories suggest that certain celebrities and their use of symbols or gestures are indicative of their affiliation with the Illuminati. These claims often rely on subjective interpretations and speculation. It's important to approach such claims with skepticism and consider the possibility of coincidence or artistic expression.

Secret societies such as the Illuminati and Freemasons do exist. However, it's important to separate the reality from the many myths and conspiracy theories that have been associated with these organizations over the years.

The Freemasons, also known as the Masonic Order or simply Masons, are one of the oldest and largest fraternal organizations in the world. They trace their origins back to the stonemasons' guilds of the Middle Ages. Freemasonry has a rich history and has

attracted many notable members throughout the years, including political leaders, intellectuals, and artists. The organization is known for its emphasis on morality, charity, and personal growth. Freemasonry operates openly and has lodges in many countries around the world.

The Illuminati, on the other hand, refers to a historical secret society called the Bavarian Illuminati. It was founded in 1776 by Adam Weishaupt, a professor of law in Germany. The Bavarian Illuminati aimed to promote Enlightenment ideals such as rationalism, secularism, and equality. However, the Bavarian Illuminati was short-lived and was suppressed by the Bavarian government within a decade of its establishment. Despite its relatively brief existence, the Illuminati has become the subject of numerous conspiracy theories in popular culture, suggesting that it continues to operate covertly and exert influence over world events. It's important to note that these conspiracy theories are largely unfounded and lack credible evidence.

While secret societies do exist, it's essential to approach the topic with critical thinking and consider reliable sources of information. The vast majority of secret societies are social or fraternal organizations that focus on fellowship, personal development, and philanthropy rather than engaging in nefarious or secretive activities.

The existence of secret societies is well-documented and supported by historical evidence. Freemasonry is a well-known and widely acknowledged secret society that has been in existence for centuries. Its members, rituals, and activities are well-documented in historical records. There are Masonic lodges in many countries, and their membership lists are not secret. Freemasonry has played a significant role in shaping historical events and has had many prominent members throughout history.

Throughout history, various secret societies have emerged and left their mark. Examples include the ancient secret cults of Greece and Rome, such as the Eleusinian

Mysteries and the Orphic Mysteries. These societies had strict initiation rituals, shared knowledge among their members, and influenced religious and philosophical beliefs of the time. The existence of these secret societies is supported by archaeological discoveries and historical accounts.

While not necessarily "secret societies" in the traditional sense, many governments have had classified organizations or intelligence agencies that operate behind the scenes. Examples include the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the United States or the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6). While the specifics of their operations may be classified, the existence of these organizations is well-documented and acknowledged by governments. The most recent CIA headquarters consider Kryptos to be a piece of art. The piece of art is made of copper screen and is formed like the letter S. James Sanborn, an American artist born in 1988, worked with a writer to choose the text for the Kryptos coded text and a retired CIA cryptologer to encrypt the message. They will be able to read what I write, but what I write is a mystery in and of itself, Sanborn remarked. However, when the facility was taken in 1991, a painting gave the code and answers to William Webster, the current CIA director.

Kryptos is linked to the Facts page for the Lost Symbol, which Brown referred to as the 1991 document handed to the CIA director with the encrypted text (cryptic), which among other things, makes reference to an old doorway and the words "buried somewhere out there." On the book's cover for *The Da Vinci Code*, Brown really depicts Washington, DC as the backdrop for *The Lost Symbol*. All of this points to the puzzle surrounding the James Sanborn sculpture Kryptos, which was created for the CIA. There are various locations on Kryptos, however the CIA itself runs the greatest location. The secret concerning the CIA director William Webster in 1991 is one of many hidden meanings in

the portal that are kept in Washington, DC. Kryptos, the name of the ancient portal, is equated with extreme secrecy in the Mason Pyramid section of the book.

It's important to note that the term "secret society" does not inherently imply nefarious or malevolent intentions. Many secret societies are formed for various reasons, such as preserving knowledge, fostering camaraderie, or advocating for certain beliefs. However, the existence of secret societies does not validate the numerous conspiracy theories or unfounded claims often associated with them. It is always critical to approach information with skepticism and rely on credible sources.

There are various claims made by conspiracy theorists regarding Illuminati symbols present in modern society. It's important to note that these claims are often based on speculation and lack credible evidence. Many symbols associated with the Illuminati are open to interpretation and can be found in a variety of contexts. The Eye of Providence, often depicted as an eye within a triangle, is associated with the Illuminati in popular culture. It can be found on the reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States and has historical ties to Freemasonry. It is the official symbol of America and contains a variety of symbols, each with a distinct meaning. The beginning of the phrases in this sign, according to the author, are "Novus Ordo Seclorum," which means "New World," and "Annuit Ceoptis," which means "he smiled at our accomplishments or our activities." Her eyes are a symbol of logic. Then, using deductive reasoning, the new world, or America, is constructed in light of God's initial creation.

On the emblem, the desert may be seen behind the pyramid. A developing plant will then follow. Landscape of the desert, unrest in Europe, war, war, and more war—and have founded a state out of a revived passion for life rather than a thirst for power. the right side of American currency. There is an eagle here; Zeus, the god, owns it. The eagle symbolises how humanity overcame the gods. The eagle is one of the gods of birds. In contrast to the

eagle that belonged to the powerful god Zeus, this is an American bald eagle. The eagle was sent into the world with two missions: to bring about peace and a conflict. The eagle is holding thirteen arrows on one leg, symbolising the rules of combat. On the other foot, he is holding a laurel with thirteen fruiting branches that represent the peace ideal. The eagle turned its head to the laurel bushes. What does the eagle's glowing sign above his head represent? thirteen stars starting in the falcon's head to form the Star of David, each star standing for one of the thirteen American states. One peak point that symbolises the creative centre, the place from which the world and all else emerged.

The Great Seal of America is a cultural icon because it represents everything that is constant in American culture. The eagle, which represents the world's transcendental manifestation in a natural fashion, is the official symbol of America that appeared on U.S. dollar banknotes. The foundation upon which the United States was founded is this. Since the apex of the triangle is where everyone's attention is focused, if you want to run a proper government, you must do so from there. The pyramid is another symbol often associated with the Illuminati. The unfinished pyramid with an eye on the U.S. one-dollar bill is frequently cited as evidence. However, the pyramid is a common architectural motif used throughout history and is not exclusive to the Illuminati.

Thomas Crawford created the Statue of Freedom. It is a bronze statue of a classical female figure, the Goddess of Freedom, wearing a long-pleated dress. His left hand is holding the victory crown, and his right hand is resting on the hilt of his sheathed sword. The shield shows thirteen lines for the United States. Native American attire is indicated by the hat with stars around it and the crest made of an eagle's head, feathers, and claws. a "U.S."-inscribed brooch holding fringed robes in place. He was standing on a globe made of iron with the words *E Pluribus Unum*, a Latin phrase that means "one who comes from a lot of," and which at the time served as the national motto of the United States. The images

on these statues represent "Victory, Freedom in the War and Peace". The 6.5-ton bronze statue is 6 feet tall and weighs roughly that much. Towering 88 metres above the Capitol dome plazas was a crowned hat. Crawford was given the task of designing the Statue of Liberty in 1855 and travelled to his workshop in Rome with plaster models of the statue. Furthermore, Clark Mills, a bronze's melting factory outside of Washington, began printing the Statue of Liberty in five main portions in 1860. Due to the civil war, construction of this statue was put on hold in 1861. However, the statue was finished by the end of 1862 and displayed there for a while. The dome's construction was complete by the end of 1863, allowing for the placement of the monument. On December 2, 1863, the head and shoulders of sculpture was erected. A 35-gun salute was fired in response the fort on 12's guns around Washington.

The hand of mystery is the hand that symbolises a portion of an invitation to the most senior level of a freemason who has spent a lot of time doing so. Typically, hands are painted or carved in stone or wood. The purpose of a severed hand is to indicate an initiation path. By the end of this book, George Washington had been transformed into a Robert Langdon and Katherine Solomon who saw gold in the early morning sun. Langdon had appointed floor Rotunda ceiling murals in the Rotunda at The Apotheosis of George Washington. In addition, Hand IIIX88S conceals a cryptic symbol that, when read backwards, reads SBBXIII and points to a room in the Capitol's sub-basement that Peter Solomon uses for private purposes (room reflections). Because the hands of mystery are solely utilised by the freemasonry fraternity, the writer categorises them as cultural symbols. These hands have been used by Freemasons for years as a coded invitation for members to decide who will advance to the highest degree, the 33rd of the 'Scottish rite,' as it were.

It's worth noting that these symbols and interpretations are often the result of confirmation bias, where people seek patterns and connections that support preconceived beliefs. Additionally, many of the symbols associated with the Illuminati have been popularized by popular culture, which has further fuelled conspiracy theories.

In reality, the idea of a secretive and powerful global organization like the Illuminati controlling world events is largely unsupported by credible evidence. It's essential to critically evaluate information and rely on reputable sources when assessing claims about secret societies or symbolism in society.

Dan Brown's novel *"Angels & Demons"* incorporates various symbols and elements associated with secret societies, including the Illuminati. It's important to remember that the novel is a work of fiction and should not be considered as a source of factual information. The Illuminati Diamond is a prominent symbol associated with the Illuminati. It is described as a diamond-shaped mark that the Illuminati leave behind at the scenes of their crimes. The four elements—earth, air, fire, and water—are significant in *"Angels & Demons."* Each element is associated with a particular location in Rome, and the Illuminati plan to reveal these locations and perform symbolic acts related to each element. Illuminati Ambigrams, which are words or symbols that can be read in multiple orientations or directions, are used in the book. The Illuminati adopt an ambigram as their own symbol, representing their secrecy and duality. In the novel, the Illuminati send mysterious poems and messages to challenge the protagonist and provide clues related to their plans. These messages often incorporate symbolism and wordplay.

Again, it's important to emphasize that Dan Brown's novel is a work of fiction and should not be taken as evidence of real-life secret societies or their practices. The book uses these symbols and themes for storytelling purposes and to create intrigue and suspense.

In Dan Brown's novel "*The Lost Symbol*," which is part of his Robert Langdon series, the story revolves around the mysteries of the Freemasons. While the book incorporates various elements related to secret societies, it is important to remember that it is a work of fiction. The novel explores the idea of a hidden pyramid within the United States Capitol building. This pyramid is said to contain a powerful ancient secret known only to the highest-ranking members of the Freemasons. The All-Seeing Eye, often associated with the Eye of Providence, is featured in the book. It represents enlightenment, knowledge, and the search for hidden truths. It is depicted on the back of the U.S. one-dollar bill. In the novel, Noetic Sciences plays a significant role. Noetic Sciences is an actual field of study that explores the intersection of consciousness, spirituality, and scientific understanding. However, its portrayal in the book takes on a more mysterious and mystical tone. The novel incorporates various rituals and symbols associated with Freemasonry. These include the use of aprons, secret handshakes, and rituals of initiation.

It's important to remember that while Dan Brown's novels may include real historical and cultural references, they are ultimately fictional stories and should not be considered as factual representations of secret societies or their practices.

Dan Brown skillfully used The Illuminati, one of the powerful secret societies, as adversaries in *Angels and Demons*. Many people think that the Illuminati, a secret society, is still active today and is stronger than it has ever been. Conspiracy theorists started looking into Dan Brown because of his books' extensive encyclopedic content and purposeful falsehoods.

One can respect Brown's use of false information and factual errors to support his literary ideas. In order to create the ideal environment, plot, topic, and characterization, dates, locations, and members are changed. Dates were adjusted to include well-known people from many walks of life. The Vatican City, the center of the Christian religion and

the ideal setting for enacting the clash of religions, was added to the list of places. Members were altered to demonstrate the vast scope of the Illuminati network.

The official website of "The Illuminati" suggests something quite different, on the other hand. This further supports the idea that secret societies do pose as non-profits and religious organizations in order to gain favour with the state.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

The Illuminati is on a mission to destroy Vatican City in *Angels & Demons* as payback for suppressing them hundreds of years ago and driving them farther underground. The fiction is most likely an intentional denial of the existence of the genuine Illuminati, or it may be the work of a talented author who capitalized on underground hot subjects and made them popular. In either case, Brown's articles and the films that followed can only be interpreted as an intentional attack on Christianity and a misdirection of the actual Illuminati researchers.

The Grammatic Symbol and the Illuminati have been debunked as a fiction for 400 years. A few time before the Declaration of Independence, the Illuminati was established. No, the Illuminati did not create America; nevertheless, they did found it on May 1, 1776, barely two months before Ben Franklin and company wrote the Declaration of Independence. The Illuminati was established by a German philosopher by the name of Adam Wise in order to advocate such radical principles of the age of enlightenment as Liberty Constitutional democracy and the separation of Church and state.

“They were physicists, mathematicians, and astronomers, and their name signifies the enlightened ones. They were committed to scientific truth and concerned about the Church's incorrect teaching, but the Vatican didn't appreciate it”.

In response to the political climate in the German state of Bavaria at the time, the orders' claimed goal was to stop injustice and power abuses by persuading those in positions of authority. But did they have anything to do with the establishment of the United States? Since information and even people moved far more slowly in the 18th century, it is extremely doubtful that any of the founding fathers belonged to this specific secret club.

The double-headed phoenix, which once appeared on one side of the American \$1 bill, has changed into an eagle in current times. The official insignia of American Masons similarly has an eagle with 13 arrows in its claws. It might be described as the meeting of East and West. His paws held the number 13 as a representation of the early American state, which equaled 13 nations. The underlying meaning of "double-headed Phoenix" in Dan Brown's book is that it relates to the resurgence of the Masonic spirit during the establishment of America. Therefore, we can infer that the double-headed Phoenix represents rebirth.

By using real comments about the Illuminati from historical leaders, Brown deftly weaves historical truths into the story and blurs the boundary between fact and fiction. The majority of Brown's readers (and moviegoers) are unaware that the Illuminati he is referring to is a real organization and that some of the "historical facts" he claims to have discovered while researching his book are accurate.

In addition to incorporating a number of historical details about the Illuminati, Brown also incorporates some fantastical ideas that have no basis in reality at all. He leads his viewers to believe that the Illuminati comprised prominent scientists like Galileo and artists like Bernini, despite the fact that both individuals passed away more than a century before the organization was actually founded. He also makes reference to other concepts that have never been connected to the Illuminati and are unmistakably fabrications by Brown. Brown constantly portrays the Illuminati as a bunch of innocent scientists and artists that the Church had set out to torment and kill, but Brown's book is full of other falsehoods and misinformation.

Regardless of how intriguing and entertaining Brown's book may be, it merely serves to disarm a populace that is already stupid and depraved by making them think that the Illuminati is a made-up organization. Many people only think of the dubious Robert

Langdon from *Angels & Demons* and the evil satanic sect that planned to blow up the Vatican with an anti-matter bomb when they hear that it is a historically proven secret society that still exists today.

According to the book, the Illuminati actually vanished in the late 1700s, and the Camerlengo manipulated public perception by claiming that they had quietly persisted in existence. The Illuminati utilized their power to promote *Angels & Demons* in order to spread their false information about Jesus and the Illuminati, not because *Angels & Demons* was a particularly good book, which would have contributed to its popularity. It's probable that Dan Brown was employed to confuse the waters surrounding Christianity, the Illuminati, and the New World Order due to his intriguing connections to the genuine Illuminati. Brown attended Philips Exeter Academy, a prestigious boarding school established for the children of the wealthy, and graduated from it. This school was mostly supported by the Illuminati, who used it to educate their offspring and prepare them for their responsibilities in the future.

This fiction claims that the construction of the pyramids and the mason ring, which includes a gold crest, went hand in hand. Peter Solomon and Dean Galloway appear in Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol* novels, which make use of rings. Masonic ring as a personal emblem because only specific people use it. This guy is a keeper; he was a 33-degree mason, which is the highest degree. Masonry's highest degree can only be obtained by individuals who actually have reached the ideal initiation to learn all of the mysteries. Members are sent a special invitation in the form of a hand-mystery, which is a level that is constantly being watched.

From the above analysis about Freemasonry in the novel *The Lost Symbol* written by Dan Brown, it can be concluded that Freemasonry makes the central character of the novel because American republic has a rich Masonic history and it is almost impossible

for Brown to have based his first American-inspired Robert Langdon thriller on any other group and also Brown admires the Freemasonry supporting tolerance in religious differences in which Masonry helps the development of friendships through other religious organization. Moreover, Dan Brown says about the Freemasonry:

“In the world there are people killing each other over whose version of god is accurate. I have a spiritual experience of worship as brothers.”

Freemasonry is not a religion but it is an organization with secrets. Freemasonry is different and difficult to explain clearly. Masons described it as "a system of morality, veiled in allegory, and illustrated by symbols."

The Lost Symbol by Dan Brown presents Freemasonry in an overwhelmingly favourable light. It is clear that Dan Brown supports and admires the organization of Freemasonry and his respect for the brotherhood can be seen throughout the novel. Although he describes the rituals performed by the Freemasons in the process of initiating members into the brotherhood in a dark and shocking way, his justification of the same proves that Brown has special interest in the organization. He attempts to paint the Freemasons as good-doers and tries to mask their real identity. Though he defends the brotherhood at almost every place, the real Freemasonry members are not happy with some of Brown's information about them in the novel. It is also clear that Brown is interested in the conspiracy theories, it disturbs the real Freemasons as it involves the satanic worship, New World Order, US Secret Service, and the Government. Also, many elements in the novel are lies and fiction, like the Masonic pyramid, which is purely fiction as it does not appear in the symbolism of regular, accepted Freemasonry or its appendant groups, the Scottish or the York Rite.

In Dan Brown's novels "*Angels & Demons*" and "*The Lost Symbol*," secret societies, particularly the Illuminati and Freemasons, are prominently featured. These

novels use various symbols, rituals, and historical references associated with these secret societies to create suspense, mystery, and intrigue within the fictional narratives.

However, it is important to note that these novels are works of fiction and should not be taken as accurate representations of the real-life practices or existence of these secret societies.

A single government (made up of Illuminati members) would dominate the entire earth under this so-called "New World Order." A study on the Illuminati found that 23% of Americans support the New World Order and the Illuminati (Bergara & Medej, 2016). Given that many conservatives disapprove of how much the government meddles in people's personal lives, there also appears to be a connection with conservatism. People cite a variety of various types of evidence to support the Illuminati's existence. For instance, when individuals see certain symbols in the media, such as the Eye of Horus and the pyramid (both of which appear on US currency), they assume that this indicates that the firm or organisation is connected to the Illuminati. The fact that the Illuminati formerly existed is another factor contributing to people's belief in its existence (Santoro, 2018). Weishaupt, a secularist, founded it in Germany so that people may discuss it in a social setting (Bergara & Medej, 2016). The Illuminati, however, was about anti-religion and free thought at the time. However, a lot of individuals think that although the Church disbanded Weishaupt's organization, it persisted in secret and is still active today as part of the New World Order scheme. Supporters also cite the fact that police officers are carrying more weapons than ever as evidence that the government is militarizing the force (Santoro, 2018). A robust police force would be necessary to maintain public order under a New World Order. The illuminati is allegedly "killing celebrities and replacing them with clones" in an effort to brainwash society, according to several claims (Bergara & Medej, 2016). Video evidence supporting these assertions that certain celebrities are

"glitching" shows them gazing out into space or acting bewildered. A long range of other pieces of evidence also cast doubt on the Illuminati's existence. One reason is because there isn't concrete proof that the Illuminati is real (Hahn, 2018). The majority of the "evidence" cited for the Illuminati is based on hypotheses put forth by proponents or on videos that proponents have interpreted. However, as it is difficult to disprove the existence of the Illuminati (since it is purported to be a secret society), there is no way to determine whether it exists. Furthermore, a lot of people have questioned why a group that claims to be so mysterious would release so many "hints" for followers to decipher (Hahn, 2018). The final point is that the capacity to generate income through any methods necessary is crucial in our capitalist society. According to sceptics, using occult or illuminati symbols in content can help people become more popular because people enjoy discussing conspiracies (Hahn, 2018). It would be false to at least part of the claims made in the "proof" of the illuminati if influencers were consciously included this information in their work.

Confirmation bias and the error of logic addressed in F ILCHERs are two significant cognitive factors that influence people's propensities to believe in the illuminati. For those who suffer from confirmation bias, a lot of the evidence cited to support the illuminati's existence is found in popular culture—movies, news, celebrity behaviour, etc. People frequently find a way to interpret the material in a way that supports their belief when they encounter these unclear sources of information. For instance, there was a video of Beyonce zoning out and swaying her head side to side during a basketball game for 30 minutes. This film was cited as evidence that famous people are assassinated, replaced, and occasionally "glitch" with clones.

This was an ambiguous source; Beyonce might have simply been dozing off and nodding off as her eyes followed the action of the basketball game she was watching.

However, those who believe in the illuminati took this video to suggest that Beyonce is a member of the organisation and that she was glitching. It strengthens your conviction in the illuminati when you interpret every unclear piece of information presented to you as supporting it. In a manner similar to the example given, these conspiracy theorists would disregard all instances in which Beyonce acted "normally" because it didn't support their thesis. The logic problem is another cognitive component.

In an interview with Ryan Bergara and Shane Medej (2016), a professor of conspiracy theories described how many people who believe in the Illuminati employ a "trail of evidence" to back up their claims. They begin by taking modest steps, making their argument seem reasonable, and then abruptly take a wild jump, making their proof appear illogical (Bergara & Medej, 2016). While the premises may be accurate, there is a problem with logic because the conclusions do not follow from the premises. For instance, they might begin by talking about how excessively involved the government is in people's lives (which is reasonable, especially in light of the Patriot Act), and then jump to the conclusion that lizard people run the entire government and have power over the entire world. It is simple to fall into this level of ignorance when the information starts small as a "foot in the door" and spirals into these huge unbelievable conspiracy theories. People who subscribe to the notion are misguided because they assume that randomness exhibits these intricate, meaningful patterns.

While Dan Brown's novels incorporate elements of historical fact, they often employ artistic license and fictional storytelling to create thrilling narratives. The symbols and rituals described in the novels may be based on real-world elements, but they are often exaggerated or used in a fictionalized context.

Illuminati adherents come from a single community, yet there are undoubtedly traits that are shared by different groups within the general population conservative ideas

are one trait. As was already noted, both the illuminati and conservatives hold the crucial conviction that the government meddles significantly in the lives of its people. Right-wingers like Mark Koernke, David Icke, Pat Robertson, and Donald Marshall are among the modern Illuminati theorists (Bergara & Medej, 2016). Anti-Semitism is a trait that comes from right-wing extremism. Because many Illuminati adherents believe that Jews rule the globe (akin to the propaganda spread during Nazi Germany), the conspiracy is fundamentally anti-Semitic. It is consistent with the illuminati and the New Planet Order to think that any one organisation rules the planet. People who support the Illuminati are typically quite pessimistic and distrustful of their surroundings. Conspiracy theories hold that what you perceive around you is not an objective reality but rather a constructed world designed to deceive you.

"When you have a strong suspicion of the world around you, this ideology goes against our major ideas of reality, and it is societal forces that assist sustain their beliefs. This may distance you from the greater community, but when you come across others who share your beliefs, this supports your adherence to the belief."

If you were the only one with that belief, you could give in to cultural pressure. However, if your faith is strong, you have individuals to support your position. One cannot deny that the Illuminati is one of the most well-known conspiracies in existence today, whether or not you believe in it. The issue with this concept is that it legitimises stereotypes about Jews ruling the globe and incites terror and anxiety in society by implying that one day we shall all be subject to a totalitarian regime. A more comprehensive understanding of this conspiracy theory is made possible by the psychological justifications for the belief system, such as herd mentality, stereotype heuristics, and confirmation bias.

We may try to educate the world to think more critically about unproven conspiracy theories and analyse the reality around us in a more scientific way by understanding why individuals have this idea and how it is sustained psychologically.

It is crucial to approach these novels as entertainment rather than as factual sources regarding the existence or workings of secret societies. To gain a better understanding of secret societies, it is advisable to turn to scholarly and historical sources that provide more reliable and accurate information. The existence of secret organizations is clearly a contentious issue. Some historians insist that they exist, while others dismiss the idea of secret organizations and argue that they were only included to fascinate readers. Since secret societies are associated with history, myths, and legendary tales, a possible conclusion cannot be reached. It is also indisputably a matter of faith when disputes regarding the existence of secret societies arise.

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