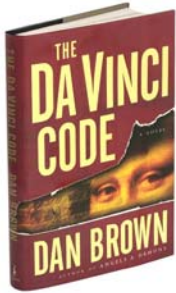


# The DaVinci Code and The Bible

## A DaVinci Code Synopsis



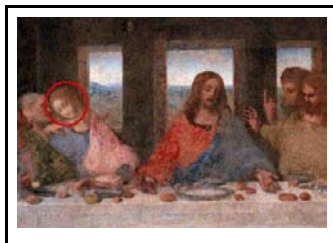
The Da Vinci Code is a novel written by American author Dan Brown and first published in 2003 that has become a worldwide bestseller with over 25 million copies being sold.

The plot of this book concerns the attempts of Dr. Robert Langdon, Professor of Religious Symbology at Harvard University, to solve the

murder of Jacques Saunière, the curator of the Louvre Museum in Paris, after Saunière's body had been found inside the Louvre naked with a cryptic message written on his torso in his own blood and posed like Leonardo da Vinci's famous drawing, Vitruvian Man.

The plot continues in ways that combine the detective thriller and conspiracy theory genres with Saunière's murder being attributed to powerful forces that wish to preserve ancient secrets relating to Jesus having been married to Mary Magdalene and having been the father of their child.

The interpretation of hidden messages inside Da Vinci's famous works, including the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper, figure prominently in the solution to the mystery. The solution itself is found to be intimately connected with the possible location of the Holy Grail and to a mysterious society called the Priory of Sion, as well as to the Knights Templar. The Catholic organization Opus Dei also figures prominently in the plot.

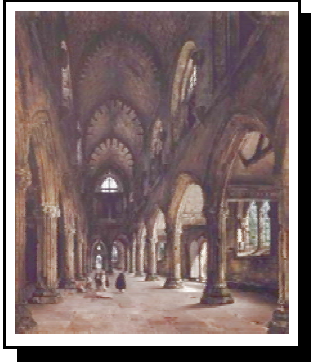


It transpires that Saunière was in fact the secret head of the Priory of Sion - an organization that was devoted to preserving certain secrets about the location of the Holy Grail. The cryptic messages on his body being his own dying attempts to leave an important message to his grand-daughter, Sophie Neveu, who was

employed by the French state as a cryptologist.

According to the novel, the secrets of the Holy Grail, as kept by the Priory of Sion, are as follows:

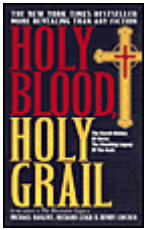
- The Holy Grail is not a physical chalice, but a woman, namely Mary Magdalene, who helped to carry the bloodline of Christ into the following ages.
- Mary Magdalene was of royal descent (through the Jewish House of Benjamin) and was the wife of Jesus, of the House of David. That she was a prostitute was a slander invented by the Catholic Church to obscure their true relationship. At the time of the Crucifixion, she was pregnant. After the Crucifixion, she fled to Gaul, where she was sheltered by the Jews of Marseilles. She gave birth to a daughter, named Sarah. The bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene became the Merovingian dynasty of France.
- The French expression for the Holy Grail, *San gréal*, actually is a play on *Sang réal*, which literally means "royal blood".
- The Grail relics consist of the documents that testify to the bloodline, as well as the actual bones of Mary Magdalene.
- Sophie Neveu and her brother are descendants of the original bloodline of Jesus and Mary Magdalene (their last name was changed to hide their ancestry).
- The existence of the bloodline was the secret that was contained in the documents discovered by the Crusaders after they conquered Jerusalem in 1099. The Priory of Sion and the Knights Templar were organized to keep the secret. The documents were eventually buried in a church built by the Templars in Scotland - Rosslyn Chapel.



**Rosslyn Chapel**

The Da Vinci Code has been criticized by many scholars but it has undoubtedly helped to spur widespread popular interest in certain theories concerning the legend of the Holy Grail and the role of Mary Magdalene in the history of Christianity.

Saunière's character may to some extent have been based on Bérenger Saunière - a real person who was extensively mentioned in a book entitled Holy Blood, Holy Grail.



This work was written by three BBC producers named Michael Baigent, Henry Lincoln, and Richard Leigh and itself became a controversial bestseller after its publication in 1982.

A chief character in the Da Vinci Code is one Sir Leigh Teabing who is depicted as being the British Royal Historian, a Knight of the Realm, and a Grail scholar. Sir Leigh Teabing's name appears to be formed of Leigh's surname and an anagram of Michael Baigent's surname.

Holy Blood, Holy Grail, is a book which espouses very similar beliefs to those attributed to Sir Leigh Teabing in the Da Vinci Code.

