

Everybody Loves a Conspiracy: Dan Brown's The DaVinci Code

St. Joseph Parish, Libertyville

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1. The novel and its formula: sex, sensationalism, feminism, anti-Catholicism and the occult.
2. The “conspiracy”
3. The documents: the “Gnostic Gospels” and fragments of the “Grail Legend”
 - a. The “Gnostic Gospels” are from the second and third centuries.
4. What is Gnosticism?
5. The major difference between Gnosticism and Christianity.
 - a. Gnosticism was deeply scandalized by humanity—our bodies were the creation of the evil god, imprisoning a divine spark which could only be free by secret knowledge—and would never allow that the god of light would ever involve himself in any materiality whatsoever. In Jesus, God only seemed to do so, but in fact did not.
 - b. Christianity, on the other hand, proclaim a true incarnation of the Son of God; the Son becomes a full human being. His human, moral act of redemption is also a divine gift and an historical action, objectively establishing redemption.
 - c. The attitude of Gnosticism towards history is indifferent or hostile, neither hopeful nor confident in history as a means/carrier of salvation and revelation. For Christianity, it is just the opposite.
6. The “Gnostic Gospels” provide scant support for contemporary feminism.
 - a. “Let us praise his greatness, for he has made us ready and made us to be males” (Gospel of Mary Magdalene), p.342).
 - b. Simon Peter said to them: “Let Mary (Magdalene) go out from among us, because women are not worthy of the life”.
 - c. Jesus said: “See, I shall lead her, so that I will make her male, that she too may become a living spirit, resembling you males. For every woman who makes herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven”. (Gospel of Thomas, 114).
7. Why do people think “Brown’s”, is the true history of Christianity?
8. Did the Church deliberately “marginalize” Mary Magdalene?
9. Did the Catholic Church suppress the “eternal feminine”?
 - a. “God, then is the Father of the created world, and Mary the mother of the re-created world. God is the Father by whom all things were given life, and Mary the mother through whom all things were given new life. For God begot the Son, through whom all things were made and Mary gave birth to him as the Savior of the world. Without God’s Son, nothing could exist; without Mary’s Son, nothing could be redeemed.
 - b. “Truly the Lord is with you, Mary to whom the Lord granted that all nature should owe as much to you as to himself”, (St. Anselm, Orati, 52).
10. Why is this story so popular right now?