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The Expressions of Feminism in Dan Brown's novel The Da Vinci Code

ABSTRACT : This Research paper aims to study the feminine expressions in TDVC Novel by Dan Brown .The questions which guided the research paper include the appearance of feminine expressions in the novel and the interpretation of those expressions .

The research methodology undertaken includes qualitative descriptive analysis .

The research findings pointed that there were certain universal and conventional expressions the Last supper, The Mona Lisa, the Rose Line, the Pentacle and the Walt Disney. etc are universal expressions where as the conventional expressions include the Holy Grail and Madonna of the Rocks . This research paper presents the detail of those expressions and its revelations. Keywords : Feminism, Conventional, Expressions. 'Leonardo was a well documented devotee

of the ancient ways of the goddess Tomorrow I'll show you his fresco The Last Supper which is one of the most astonishing 'tributes to the sacred feminine you will ever see.' " You're kidding, right? 'somebody said, I thought The last supper was about JESUS. [Brown 2003; 103].

As it is quite clear from the above quotation, The "I" in the above quotation is Robert Langdon who told to his students in the class that The Last Supper is one of Leonardo's painting that reflects a holy woman. On the contrary, this fact is denied by Langdon's student. Not only the students, but also everyone suspects that *The Last Supper* was about Jesus.

Dan Brown categorizes *The Last Supper* as the universal expression, based on the interpretation.

"The Fleur-de-lis..... the flower of lisa *the Mona Lisa*_it was all inter-twined, a silent symphony echoing the deepest secrets of the Priory of Sion and Leonardo Da Vinci. (Brown, 2003:123)

In the novel, the narrator suggests the reader that Leonardo was one of those painters who produced works with profound meanings, such as *The Mona Lisa*.

"*The Mona Lisa's*_ status as the most famous piece of art in the world, Langdon knew had nothing to do with her enigmatic smile. Nor was it due to the mysterious interpretations attributed her by many art historians and conspiracy buffs: Quite simply, the *Mona Lisa*_was famous because Leonardo da Vinci claimed she was his finest accomplishment. He carried the painting with him whenever he travelled and if asked why, would reply that he found it hard to part with his most sublime expression of female beauty.

(Brown 2003:127)

Leonardo Da Vinci's masterpiece is *The Mona Lisa*_that had a terrific mystery expressed through her smile. In the novel, Langdon said about *The Mona Lisa*_ that Leonardo Da Vinci's objective to paint *The Mona Lisa*_is to present the beauty of a woman.

"... That the background behind her face is uneven" Langdon motioned to the glaring discrepancy. Da Vinci painted the horizon line on the left significantly lower than the right.

(Brown 2003:128)

Langdon explains, it's a little trick on the Da Vinci's part played by lowering the contour side on the left side, Da Vinci made Mona Lisa look much larger from the left side than from the right side.

Obviously, The Mona Lisa is a picture of subtle message of androgyny. It symbolizes a holy fusing of both male and female such as Jesus and Mary Magdalene. The Mona Lisa is anagram to Amon Lisa_refers to Egyptian God & Goddess- Amon and Isis. After examining The Mona Lisa could be classified as the one of the universal expressions.

"... according to the Priory of Sion, the Holy Grail is not a cup at all. They claim the Grail legend- that a chalice- is actually an ingeniously conceived allegory. That is, that the Grail story uses the chalice as a metaphor for something else, something far more powerful. "He paused. "Something that fits perfectly with everything your grandfather has been trying to tell us tonight, including all his symbolic references to the sacred feminine."

(Brown
2003:176)

In the novel, Teabing's statement clarifies that The Priory of Sion keeps the meaning of The Holy Grail which is supposed as Christ's cup used at the Last Supper. The Holy Grail symbol refers to a holy woman. The Grail thus interpreted looks like a chalice. The word chalice looks like a womb of woman. If the symbol and form of chalice referred to the story of Mary Magdalene which was suspected as Jesus' wife, so the chalice means the womb of Jesus' bloodlines.

The Church wanted to convince the people that Jesus was divine. Thus, any gospel describing earthly aspects of Jesus' life had to be skipped from the Bible. But, The Priory of Sion effort hard to keep the legend of The Holy Grail and the Rose Line.

"The Holy Grail heath ancient, Rosline waits.

The blade and chalice guarding o'er Her gates.

Adorned in masters' loving art, She lies.

She rests at last beneath the starry skies.

(Brown 2003:482)

Sauniere's final revelation states that the Holy Grail is in Roslyn Chapel. According to Langdon, Roslin derived from the Roseline meridian on which the chapel sat or as Grail academics preferred to believe, from the "Line of Rose"- the ancestral lineage of Mary Magdalene. Sophie met her grandmother and her brother, they are another bloodlines of Jesus and Mary Magdalene. Rose refers to female or woman. In the context of Rose Line, it's meaning refers to Mary Magdalene. And the Rosa Line is classified as a universal expression.

Dan \Brown presents the character of Mary Magdalene as the sacred feminine. Though she was an important woman in Christianity, but her role was ceased by the early Christians. On account of historical background, many historians said that Mary Magdalene was supposedly Jesus wife. The early Christianity did not allow the growth of this issue so that Jesus divinity should not be in doubt. But, it can be said that the saga of Mary Magdalene as the Holy Grail, chalice or womb of Jesus bloodline will never be lost or end because it occurred in so many works of art like paintings and all that presented herself as Dan Brown tries to recover in his novel *The Da Vinci code*.

Dan Brown's novel *The Da Vinci code* is successful in revealing some wonderful secrets of feminine symbols in Leonardo da Vinci's works. Dan Brown Wishes to indicate to those hidden messages from Leonardo's works.

The feminine expressions in Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci code* which have been found out are The Last Supper , The Mona Lisa, Madonna of the Rocks, The Holy Grail, The Rose Line, Pentacle, and Walt Disney. These symbols are interrelated with one another, and each contributed in revealing the secret of the sacred feminine----- Mary Magdalene.

Wherever it was two important facts remained Leonardo knew where the Grail resided during his life time that hiding place had probably not changed to this day for this reason, Grail enthusiast still pored over Da Vinci's art and diaries in hopes of unearthing a hidden clue as to the Grail's current location. Some claimed the mountainous backdrop in Madonna of the Rocks matched the topography of a series of cave-ridden hills in Scotland. Others insisted that the suspicious placement.

Langdon urges that pentacle is a pre-Christian symbol that relates to nature worship. The world was divided into two halves, masculine and feminine. The God and Goddess worked to keep a balance of power. It is quite natural that the harmony would be established in this world if there's a balance between male and female. Contextually, Langdon reports that the pentacle appears on Saunter's belly interpreted as female half of thing. The Historians of Religion, interprets this concept as the to Dan Brown, This sacred feminine is Mary Magdalene know as the Goddess of sexual love, beauty and female. In the novel, this interpretation refers to Mary Magdalene, the holy female, who has an important role among Jesus life and their bloodlines.

Langdon tells that the great work of Madonna of Rocks hid much secret like Mona Lisa, which is famous for its plethora of pagan expressionism. Madonna of the Rocks interpretations are based on the background of Mary Magdalene, which refers to the revengeful of a Jesus disciple, Peter to Mary and agreed by Leonardo in the Madonna of the Rocks, the it is categorized as the conventional symbol because it is based on a current history. Langdon said that Disney's movies infused so many hidden symbols. For instance, in a part scene of The Lion King film show the word SEX clearly, spelled out by floating dust particles cover Simba's head. According to Langdon it was only a cartoonist prank and not the allusion of pagan sexuality and the Little Mermaid was an interest art of spiritual symbolism of disciples in The Last Supper was some kind of code. Still others claimed that X-Rays of the Mona Lisa revealed she originally had been painted wearing a lapis lazuli pendant of Isis- a details Da Vinci purportedly late decided to paint over.(Brown 2003: 184)

In the above quotation, we can realize that Leonardo da Vinci had a critical role to announce the secret of sacred feminine, Mary Magdalene, through his works of art. Again, this is facilitated by Dan Brown through his novel *The Da Vinci Code* in bringing out the hidden message/ secrets that are mostly the expressions of feminine.

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