

**SHADOWS OF THE ACCOMPLICES OF LUCIFER
AS SEEN IN DAN BROWN'S THRILLER
ANGELS AND DEMONS**

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Religion and science have been at odds with one another for centuries. This situation may be seen openly in scholarly discussions either through books, journals, seminars, conferences, etc. or through the mass media, electronic or printed. Persons from the literary world are not exempt from revealing their thoughts and views through their oppositions or support for either side. The Church has been attacked for her views about science, at least, since Galileo Galilei. There have always been secret societies even since the antiquity – since ancient Egypt or Hebrew believed to have possessed certain secret knowledge in building great structures we still witness today. In our modern world, there is a secret society, in opposition to the Church, called the Illuminati, the enlightened ones, which is actually a united form of all the other known secret societies since the antiquity. The Illuminati, according to *The New Grolier Webster International Dictionary* (Encyclopedic Edition, 1971, p. 477), there are two definitions: (1) persons possessing, or alleging to possess, superior enlightenment; a name for various sects or societies which claim to possess superior enlightenment. Both definitions apply to my discussion. Dan Brown, the controversial bestselling mystery-thriller American novelist, for one, has brought up this battle between religion and science also as an issue in his thriller *Angels and Demons* (2000). He is one of the novelists who has taken the (Catholic) Church to be one of his issues in his literary works. But why does he do this? Is there a hidden agenda behind his literary work for some certain purposes? The killings in the novel are carried out mostly by the Assassin. But who is this Assassin? Using *New Historicism*, this paper is trying to present how this novel is an example of the works of an accomplice of Lucifer, through the Illuminati.

Keywords: accomplice, Illuminati, assassin, Lucifer

INTRODUCTION

Dan Brown, the author of a number of thrillers, has shocked the Christian world with his novels taking up Christian issues, particularly the Catholic Church, for his topics of some of his novels. With regard to the topics, one may speculate that he takes these topics either for some personal economic purposes or some predetermined hidden agenda sponsored by some specific elusive institution with some big scenario about humanity. His novels are: *Digital Fortress* (1998), *Angels and Demons* (2000), *Deception Point* (2001), *The Da Vinci Code* (2003), *The Lost Symbol* (2009), *Inferno* (2013). *The Da Vinci Code* and *Angels and Demons* are the two thrillers which have been shocking the Christian World for some time now. The topic under discussion in this paper is shadows of the accomplices of Lucifer in his *Angels and Demons*.

The New Historicism

The analysis of this issue uses the New Historicist Criticism. Similar to Marxism in some sense, New Historicist critics try to investigate how power is spread and evident in literary works. Those 'outcast' are controlled by means of the power; the power is also what the outcast try to get. The more general purpose of the New Historicist critics is to discover where in the literary text there are struggles from which the group or institution imposing power on the other(s) may be identified.

The New Historicists then in particular aim at doing the following (1) They juxtapose literary and non-literary texts, reading the former in the light of the latter; (2). They try thereby to 'defamiliarise' the canonical literary text, detaching it from the accumulated weight of previous literary scholarship and seeing it as if new; (3) They focus attention (within both text and co-text) on issues of State power and how it is maintained, on patriarchal structures and their perpetuation, and on the process of colonization, with its accompanying 'mind-set', and, (4) They make use, in doing so, of aspects of the post-structuralist outlook, especially Derrida's notion that every facet of reality is textualized, and Foucault's idea of social structures as determined by dominant 'discursive practices' (Barry, 1995:179).

This paper particularly makes use of points (1), (3) and (4). Questions to be answered in this paper are: (1) Who or what are the shadows of the accomplices of Lucifer in the Novel or beyond?; (2) What references, both religious and secular, do these accomplices allude to?

The Plot Summary of the Novel

To make it easier for those who are not familiar with the novel, the plot needs to be presented as follows.

At CERN, Kohler, the director, found out that Father Vetra, who is a Catholic priest, one of the physicists researching at this research center, has been murdered. His chest has been branded with the ambigram of the word 'Illuminati'.

Robert Langdon, an expert on Illuminati, and is a professor at Harvard has been contacted by the director to investigate the authenticity of the ambigram and has determined that it is so. The director has called Vittoria, Father Vetra's adopted child who is also a scientist at the research center to see her father's remain.

It is certain that an Illuminati member has stolen the canister containing antimatter, a substance of extremely destructive power, discovered by the Father Vetra. The canister has been very carefully stored at the research center to make sure of its stability. When it is removed, its back-up battery can only supply power for 24 hours. When this time is finished, the substance will self-destruct. The canister is now placed somewhere in the Vatican by the Illuminati with its digital clock ticking the seconds down to the explosion of the canister.

Now the Harvard professor, the male protagonists, and Vittoria Vetra, the female protagonist, are heading for the Vatican City. The cardinals are in a conclave to elect a new pope since the governing pope just passed away but the four potential candidates, the Preferiti, are missing. The protagonists are trying to search for the Preferiti hoping to also find the canister. They are assisted by the late pope's closest aide, the Camerlengo and the Swiss Guard. In order to succeed they have to trace the Path of Illumination which requires them to use a series of clues associated with the four primordial elements which take them to four locations in Rome. They finally found the four Preferiti one by one but too late to save them.

The Camerlengo who is actually Janus in disguise knows how to solve the problem. In fact his real name is Carlo Ventresca, the late pope's son through artificial insemination. He is the one who has fabricated this critical situation. He poisoned the pope, stole the antimatter and murdered the Preferiti through the Assassin. He just knew how to solve the problem in time. Before exploded, to save the Vatican, he took the canister together with Langdon in a helicopter into the air and exploded it up there, just in time. He was saved by a parachute and Langdon by a window cover as a parachute into the Tiber River. Ventresca admitted his fabrication and set

himself on fire in front of the onlookers. Langdon was then given the Illuminati Diamond and left the Vatican with Vittoria. Cardinal Mortati succeeded as the new pope.

DISCUSSION

Angels or Demons or Angels and Demons?

The title of the novel is *Angels and Demons*. In terms of grammar, the plural nouns indicate that they are generic meaning that anybody could be an angel or a demon or both. Let us look at this grammatical concept in some of the characters. The demon and the angel in other characters are not clearly seen. Or at least they do not take sides or neutral. The Camerlengo is both an angel in look and a demon in deed. He is actually an Illuminatus in disguise. He poisoned the pope and killed the Preferiti and plotted to destroy the Vatican with the antimatter. He has been doing all these actions in an angelic manner to hide his satanic ways and deeds. He must have a greater scenario to carry out such a grave deed.

The Previous Secret Brotherhoods

Adam Weishavpt was educated by the Jesuits and was well-versed in the canon law. He was a smart professor and excelled at the cults in the occults. When reading Weishavpt's educational upbringing, one may remember Christopher Marlowe's *The Tragical History of Doctor Faustus*. Fed up with the canon law, he turned to the cults which inspired him to found a secret society the world had never seen. The brotherhood he establish has darkened the history of secret societies and deeply muddied the reputation of secret societies since then. This secret society brought together those ones established before. Weishavpt mixed the features from the previous secret societies to establish this new one: the Masonic secret rituals, the Hassassin mysticism, killing arts and the use of hashish, the Priory of Zion's influential membership, and the Templars' wealth, power and military science. He combined all these features to create his new secret society and he had one thing in mind: vendetta against the Catholic Church.

The Free Masons, one of the earliest brotherhood still exists today (Burstein, 2005; see also Hodapp, 2007, Karg and Young, 2007). It is believed that their history may bring us back to ancient Egypt during the time of the pyramids and the time of King Solomon's temple. These great structures were built by special masons with secret mathematical knowledge. For King Solomon's temple, the head mason was Hiram Abbif. Other great structures we still witness in this 21st century are the medieval magnificent cathedrals and castles, majestic palaces, etc. One

attitude of the secret society is that they keep their secret knowledge to themselves. This attitude of hiding the true knowledge of their skill is actually imitated from the master builder of King Solomon's Temple, Hiram Abbif who kept his secret to himself even until he was forced and still defended it to death (Hodapp, 2007).

At about the same time as the Hassassins, which will be taken up again later, another secret society was established. This was the Priore de Zion (see Olson and Miesel, 2004, Welborn, 2004, see also Picknett and Prince, 1997). The Priore de Zion (The Priory of Zion) was created in France. Their important purpose was to preserve the Marovingian bloodlines and return them to France. The Knight Templar had been created 10 years before during the first crusade. The purpose of creating the Knight Templars which consisted of 9 French knights was to safeguard pilgrims along the road to the holy land. The Templars then had contact with the Hassassins and imprinted in them the Hassassins' deadly ideas.

St. Bernard deciphered old Hebrew texts and could have found something in the texts that led him to form the brotherhood. It is because they lived in the mosque above the vault of King Solomon's Temple that their name was changed into the Templars or the Knights of the Temple.

When they developed they were not Christian brotherhood which observed the teachings of the Church anymore. Their rituals and doctrines were mysterious, occult, heretic and against the official teachings of the Church. But then they developed well and entered the church and they were within the Church and they took over the Church in a sense. Anything they did they were only responsible to the Pope. The nobility gave a lot of wealth to the order. They then became very rich and the story turned evil because they took over Europe financially. They took over all important industries, especially that of money lending. In fact it was them who invented the modern checking system (Burstein, 2005; Mcnee, 2005).

Because of the change in attitude, from being very religiously devoted to very greedily gluttonous, the Church looked at them with suspicion and took actions. They were accused of sacrilege and blasphemy, for failure to observe the usual reverence both to the Church and the teaching of the Church. The Church finally suppressed them. The Pope dismissed the order. With all their wealth they went underground. But now they developed extreme hatred for the Catholic Church. Is this the roots of the birth of the Illuminati?

The Illuminati

Adam Weishavpt established the society on May 1, 1776 in Bavaria. He chose May 1 for its satanic significance. Illuminati was translated as ‘intellectually inspired.’ He derived the word from Lucifer, holder of the light.

But to hide his society from the public view, he joined the Freemason in 1777 and he did this with a purpose and his members soon followed him. The purpose of doing this was to infiltrate the other societies from within the societies themselves. And this was and is still the philosophy of the Illuminati, to work silently but surely from within because for the secret of his society is this: “the ultimate secret is that there is no secret.”

Just as Weishavpt studied and gained knowledge from within the Church and worked from within the Church and later the other secret societies have done the same, Carlo Ventresca too worked from within the very center of the Church, very close to the most powerful head of the Church, the Pope. If Weishavpt is the lay illuminatus; Carlo Ventresca is the clergy one although in fiction. Both are fallen angels.

To hide itself, the Illuminati uses the Hassassin to carry out the vendetta against the Catholic Church. This is what they have done to Father Vetra who was trying to prove the existence of God through his scientific activities. In section 9 of *Angels and Demons*, this is what the Illuminati’s hideous work looks like as the following.

The corpse on the floor before Langdon was hideous. The late Leonardo Vetra lay on his back, stripped naked, his skin bluish-gray. His neck bones were jutting out where they had been broken, and his head was twisted completely backward, pointing the wrong way. His face was out of view, pressed against the floor. The man lay in a frozen puddle of his own urine, ... (p.47).

Black (2008:498) describes how the Illuminati came to be known by the public. In 1785 a man called Jacob Lanz, traveling to Silesia, was struck by lightning. When he was laid out in a nearby chapel, the Bavarian authorities found papers on the body revealing the secret plans of the Illuminati. From these papers, including many in Weishavpt’s own hand, and together with others seized in raids around the country, a complete picture was built up. Black then goes on to say that the aim of Weishavpt and his co-conspirators was to set up a society run on purely materialistic grounds, a revolutionary new society.

Weishavpt’s writings revealed what may later be seen in their six primary means to carry out their diabolical plans. In full, the writings as quoted by Black (2008:499) are as follows:

‘... in concealment lies a great part of our strength. For this reason we must cover ourselves in the name of another society. The lodges that are under Freemasonry are the most suitable cloak for our high purpose.’

‘Seek the society of young people,’ he advises one of his co-conspirators. ‘Watch them, and if one of them pleases you, lay your hand on him.’

‘Do you realize sufficiently what it means to rule - to rule in a secret society? Not only over the more important of the populace, but over the best men, over men of all races, nations, and religions, to rule without external force ... The final aim of our society is nothing less than to win power and riches ... And obtain mastery of the world.’



The Great Insignia of the Illuminati

The official insignia, as one can see, is the unfinished pyramid, with an eye above it emitting light to illuminate the world with its diabolical lights.

The Assassins

Since the Assassin performed all the killings in the novel, it is necessary to describe who the Assassin is and where he is from. The Assassin is also another secret brotherhood that was founded by Hassan i- Sabah, also called the Old Man of the Mountain in 1060. It was described as a small sect by Marco Polo in the mountain south of the Caspian Sea. Ali and Fatima established a school for esoteric philosophy in Cairo called the House of Wisdom. The Old Man of the Mountain emerged from this school.

Hassan was described in Marco Polo's travel accounts. According to Black (2011:331) Marco Polo claimed that Hassan "gave his young followers drugs which put them to sleep for three days. When they woke up, they found themselves in a beautiful garden they were told was Paradise. They were surrounded by beautiful girls who played them music and gave them anything they wanted." He spent a lot of his time in Alamut, his headquarters which was in the northwestern Iran. His

secret brotherhood consisted of deadly assassins. Just like other orders, this secret brotherhood also had a hierarchy.

In the Wikipedia (accessed October 4, 2015), the brotherhood had the following orders: Sabbah was on top of the hierarchy, followed by Greater Propagandists. Then came the Propagandists, and followed by the Rafiqs or Companions, and the Lasiqs or Adherents came last. Those at the bottom of the hierarchy that were trained to become the deadly and most feared assassins called 'Fida'i'. Because of their expertise in the art of killing, Dan Brown uses one of them as the killer in the novel. The Assassin is the one who killed all the great men of God, the cardinals, and Father Vetra in the novel. Through the Assassin's hands, the Illuminati's evil deeds are carried out savagely and pitilessly.

Hassan ruled from a strong hold in the mountain and indoctrinated his followers with his teachings. His approach of killing and tortures of his disciples were meant to ensure complete obedience and discipline to his teachings. According to Burstain (in Fatubun, 2011) Hassan used *hashish* to induce the feeling of invincibility in his followers. After they had gone through a ritual with the use of hashish, he sent them on dangerous missions to murder people they considered their enemies. The word *assassin* was actually derived from the word *hashashin* or users of hashish.

The Assassin talks with Langdon about what he has done and possibly do later in the novel:

'Such conceit,' the Hassassin sneered, watching Langdon's eyes. 'The two of you are nothing. You will die, of course, that is for certain. But the final victim of whom I speak is a truly dangerous enemy.'

Langdon tried to make sense of the Hassassin's words. A dangerous enemy? The top cardinals were all dead. The Pope was dead. The Illuminati had wiped them all out. Langdon found no answer in the vacuum of the Hassassin's eyes.

The camerlengo. (p.486)

The Six Primary Means and the *Novus Ordo Seclorum*

To establish the *Novus Ordo Seclorum*, the Illuminati has created six top secret primary means put forth in Macnee and in Dice (Fatubun, 2011). The sole purpose of the Illuminati is beyond our keen: to obtain complete domination of the whole world, its resources, and total control of its people. This is the *Novus Ordo Seclorum* in Adam Weishavpt's term, the New World Order. These are the six primary means of which number (6) is particularly targeted at the Catholic Church:

(1) Monetary and sex bribery would be used to gain control of men

already in high places in the various levels of all governments and other fields of endeavors.

- (2) The Illuminati who are faculties in colleges and universities were to cultivate the best students for the cause.
- (3) Influential people especially trained students under the control of the brotherhood would be placed behind the scene of all government, religious, and financial institutions and used as agents.
- (4) The secret society would develop absolute domination of the media so all news and information to convince the masses that the one world government is the only solution to our many problems.
- (5) The final phase of the operation would employ all resources in place to initiate military coup that would overthrow all opposing governments and put the under one global government controlled by the Illuminati.
- (6) Infiltrate and bring down the Catholic religion.

Point (6) is what happens in the novel: the infiltration into the heart of the Church and working from within. The demise of Pope Paul VI and the tried assassination of Pope John Paul II might have been in the scenario of the Illuminati. Why was Pope Paul VI so quickly embalmed after his death and why was Pope John Paul II shot in St. Peter's Square in the Vatican are big questions humanity should answer and therefore humanity should put a very watchful eye on these accomplices of the Illuminati who have committed these grave deeds. They tried to poison Pope Paul VI first but they missed him and killed the Russian Patriarch of that time instead. But they finally got the pope. The world knows Mehmet Ali Agsa who tried to kill Pope John Paul II on May 13, 1981. One may trace back his connections with other brotherhoods or societies.

The Illuminati has also infiltrated many other institutions all over the world. According to the latest research reports, it infiltrated the KGP of the former USSR through its members in the KGB such as Joseph Stalin and Nikita Khrushchev in KGB secret documents. The brotherhood tried to infiltrate the Vatican by placing its members in the Holy See and from inside the Holy See they could carry out their diabolical plans. According to Macnee (in Fatubun, 2011), the KGB documents referred to Adam Weishaupt by name. The periods in sentences in their secret documents are actually the insignia shown earlier and will become visible when magnified.

The Illuminati, the Anti-Christ

The main goal of the Anti-Christ is to control everything: religions, economics, politics, education, police, military, communications, etc. - to have a society without class controlled by the Antichrist. And all these are the goals of the diabolical brotherhood, the Illuminati and further back they remind us of the Knight Templar's domination. But who is this Anti-Christ? Sources eluding to the Anti-Christ is abundant, both from the religious teachings and from other literary sources.

From the holy sources one can refer to the Bible both the Old Testament and the New Testament. The New Testament gives the following account:

... and as you have heard that the Anti-Christ is coming, even now many Anti-Christ have come ... who is the Liar but the one who denies that Jesus is the Christ? This is the Anti-Christ, the one who denies the Father and the Son ... and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Anti-Christ which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world (Jo. 2.:18, 22, and 4.3, see also 2 Thes:3-12)

What we have seen around the world for sometime now may be shadows of the deeds of the accomplices of the Anti-Christ. In the Old Testament it is said that what the Prophet Daniel prophesied was about the future and not about his own time. The Prophet prophesies that:

... and the people of the prince that shall come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary and the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations were determined. And he shall confirm the covenant with Many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations he shall make it desolate (Dan: 9:26-27).

From the literary world, Vladimir Soloviev, a friend of Dostoevsky, for example, gives the following complete, comprehensive and beautiful account of the Anti-Christ:

At that time (his vision has reached the events of the beginning of the twenty-first century) there was among the few believing spiritualists a remarkable man - many call him a superman - who was as far removed from the childhood of understanding as he was from that of the heart. He was still a young man, but his superior genius had earned him at the age of thirty a widespread

reputation as a great thinker, writer and public figure. Conscious of possessing within himself a powerful spiritual force, he had shown himself to be a convinced spiritualist, and his keen intellect had always shown him the truth of those things that should be believed in: the Good, God and the Messiah. In these he believed, but he loved only himself. He believed in God but in the depth of his heart he could not prevent himself from preferring himself. He believed in the Good, but the omniscient eye of the Eternal knew that this man would bow down before the power of evil as soon as he felt its allure ... He will go on to conquer the world at a rapid rate. Nothing will stand in the way of this easy-going, happy, smiling man. He will write a book entitled "The Open Path to Universal Peace and Prosperity", which will earn him the approval of all. (Black, 2010:563-564)

The Fallen Angels

Like Lucifer who was a good angel and was with God but then because of his pride he wanted much more from God that was appropriate and good for him. Because of this, he was thrown away out of heaven with his followers.

These fallen angels like Weishavpt and Ventresca, one is in the real world and the other in the fictional world mirroring one another, are really the accomplices of Lucifer. People like them always lurk in the dark corner to seduce good people of God with their power and matter. In fact one can see that the widespread of materialism today which has made people greedier and more envy of others. Materialism is of course very related to Satanism. Satan will always seduce good people with matter. Even Jesus himself was seduced by Satan with riches of the world. Since this novel heavily targets the Catholic Church, it is fair and suitable to counter its statement by the teaching of the Church also. The Catechism of the Catholic Church signed by the late pope, Pope John Paul II on the fall of the angels (1995:110), states that:

"Behind the disobedient choice of our first parents lurks a seductive voice, opposed to God, which makes them fall into death out of envy. Scripture and the Church tradition see in this being a fallen angel, called "Satan" or the "devil". The Church teaches that Satan was at first a good angel, made by God: "The devil and the other demons were indeed created naturally good by God, but they became evil by their own doing."

The Catechism (1995:111) goes on to also state that:

“The power of Satan is, nonetheless, not infinite. He is only a creature, powerful from the fact that he is pure spirit, but still a creature. He cannot prevent the building up of God’s reign. Although Satan acts in the world out of hatred for God and his kingdom in Christ Jesus, and although his action may cause grave injuries - of a spiritual nature and, indirectly, even of a physical nature - to each man and society, the action is permitted by divine providence which with strength and gentleness guides human and cosmic history. It is a great mystery that providence should permit diabolical activity, but “we know in everything God works for good with those who love him.”

What we see in the world today is a mighty battle between the powers of God and the powers of Lucifer. The widespread worship of capitalism and materialism in our time is proof that Lucifer’s power is becoming stronger and he is holding humanity ever tightly in his grip. Human souls are at stake. But people of faith must take these chaotic situations and sufferings as part of the providence that humanity has to go through in order to save the human soul. Also, human beings should not forget that they should not glorify themselves and be deceived by materialism. The Catholic Catechism (1995:193-194) reminds people about this as follows that:

Before Christ’s second coming the Church must pass through a final trial that will shake the faith of many believers. The persecution that accompanies her pilgrimage on earth will unveil the “mystery of iniquity” in the form of a religious deception offering men an apparent solution to their problems at the price of apostasy from the truth. The supreme religious deception is that of the Anti-Christ, a pseudo-messianism by which man glorifies himself in place of God and of his Messiah come in the flesh.

CONCLUSION

From this short discussion using the New Historicism, it has been shown that *Angels and Demons*, the thriller, presents the Camerlengo, Ventresca, as both an angel in look and a demon in deed. He is actually an Illuminatus in disguise. In the real world, Weishaupt is another demon. Both are the accomplices of Lucifer but lurking in the shadows are the previous brotherhoods which have contributed ideas in the

establishment of the main tool of Lucifer in this modern world, the Illuminati, through the Masonic secret rituals, the Hassassin mysticism, killing arts and the use of hashish, the Priory of Zion's influential membership, and the Templars' wealth, power and military science. With its six secret means mentioned earlier, the Illuminati is ready to take the world in its grip. But people of faith must take these chaotic situations and sufferings resulting from these grave deeds of the Illuminati as part of the providence of the Most High and that humanity has to go through all these with patience in order to save the human soul itself.

The widespread worship of violence and materialism in our time is proof that Lucifer's power is becoming stronger and he is holding humanity ever tightly in his grip. The human souls are at stake. Humanity, awake, awake.

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