

Secret Societies in Dan Brown's *Angels And Demons* (2000)

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Abstract

*Secret societies have always been interesting topics for novelists of thriller and conspiracy theories and Dan Brown is one of them. With the dawn of the twenty first century a new interest in secret societies spread through all venues of life and shaped the way of this centuries' culture, in literature, arts, movies, industry; it even reached politics and religion. Terms like Illuminati, Hassains, Masons as well as their symbols like the All Seeing - Eye, the pyramids, and many more are everywhere in songs, novels, in cartoons, even in many famous trademarks. Many criminal acts, terrorist attacks, wars and controversial political issues are blamed on one of these secret societies. Dan Brown's novel, **Angles and Demons (2000)** is a perfect example of a conspiracy novel that is rich with the most prominent secret societies in the world; The Hassassins, and the Illuminati. In this research both secret societies are analyzed and compared to facts, authentic references and sources. The research will answered questions like what is a secret society? Who are the Hassassins? Who are the Illuminati? How much of the information provided about them in this novel is true how much is not and why? What are the conclusions that the researcher came up with?*

Keywords: Secret societies, conspiracy fiction, Hassassins, and the Illuminati.

1. Introduction :

A Secret Society, According to Wikipedia, is "a club or an organization whose activities, events, and inner functioning are concealed from non-members."¹ Although it is complex to judge a certain organization as a secret society, most definitions agree that in order for an organization to be secret society it should "insists on secrecy," higher members should either provide or withhold "secret knowledge" from other members, having certain binds among members, and "the use of secret rites or rituals which solidify members of the group."²

In other words, secret societies coexisted with mankind, since there is knowledge there is an urge to hide it from those who either want to misuse it or destroy it. Over the years many secret societies emerged some existed for a short period of time others lasted for longer periods, some of these famous societies are The Knights Templar³, the Assassins⁴ the Freemasons⁵, The Illuminati⁶, the skull and bones⁷ and many more. Since all these societies have secret agendas and history, they are associated with conspiracy theories.⁸

Although secret societies and conspiracies are as old as history, the term Conspiracy fiction was coined in the twentieth Century. Conspiracy fiction or conspiracy thriller is a subgenre of thriller fiction in which the protagonist investigates a thread that reveals a great conspiracy.⁹ During the twentieth century the public was highly interested in secret societies as a result of the World Wars, economic depressions, the fall of great nations and the rise of new ones, and innovations in science and religions. In the United State of America Conspiracy fiction "reached its zenith" in the 1960s and 1970s due various famous scandals and letdowns including the Vietnam War, John F. Kennedy's assassination followed by many assassinations, the Watergate scandal and many more.¹⁰ The public started to pin every change in their social, political or religious lives to a secret society with a secret agenda that targets them. Writers of fictions used this interest well; they started providing novels with rich information about these secret societies and the conspiracies they are involved in. The best

¹ "Secret Society," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

² Ibid.

³ Knights Templar, were among the wealthiest and most powerful of the Western Christian military orders and were prominent actors in Christian finance. The organization existed for nearly two centuries during the Middle Ages."Knight Templar," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁴ Assassins (from Arabic: *حشاشين Hashashin*) is the name used to refer to the medieval Nizari Ismailis. Often characterized as a secret order led by a mysterious "Old Man of the Mountain", the Nizari Ismailis were an Islamic sect that formed in the late 11th century from a split within Ismailism, itself a branch of Shia Islam. "Assassins," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁵ Freemasonry or Masonry consists of fraternal organizations that trace their origins to the local fraternities of stonemasons, which from the end of the fourteenth century regulated the qualifications of stonemasons and their interaction with authorities and clients. "Freemasonry," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁶ "Illuminati," usually refers to the Bavarian Illuminati, an Enlightenment-era secret society founded on 1 May 1776. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁷ Skull and Bones is an undergraduate senior secret society at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut. It is the oldest senior class landed society at Yale. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁸ "A conspiracy theory is an explanatory or speculative hypothesis suggesting that two or more persons, or an organization, have conspired to cause or cover up, through secret planning and deliberate action, an event or situation typically regarded as illegal or harmful." "Conspiracy theory," Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

⁹ "Conspiracy fiction", Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁰ Ibid.

conspiracy fiction during the twentieth century is Richard Condon's¹¹ *The Manchurian Candidate* (1959)¹², Robert Shea¹³ and Robert Anton Wilson¹⁴'s trilogy *Illuminatus!* (1969 – 1971).¹⁵ Umberto Eco's¹⁶ *Foucault's Pendulum* (1988),¹⁷ and Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons* (2000).

It is undeniable that Dan Brown is considered the most famous conspiracy novelist in the twentieth and twenty – first centuries with his novels revolving around great historical and modern secret societies. His novels were adapted into films maintaining the same popularity and arousing great interests in the societies he portrayed in his novels. John Helfers, in his book *the Unauthorized Dan Brown Companion*, states that Dan Brown's novels became a phenomena; "more than four hundred books have been published to date to amplify, or challenge the four published novels."¹⁸

1.1. Dan Brown

Daniel Brown (1964 -) is an American author famous for his unique themes of symbols and codes that the protagonist must solve within 24 hour time frame. Brown was born in Exeter and grew up in the Philips Exeter Academy campus. His father being a mathematics teacher provided his son with many puzzles, anagrams, crosswords, codes, and treasures hunts. These childhood games clearly developed into well planned novels. He attended Amherst College and after graduation he became an English teacher as well as a songwriter and a pop singer. It was not until 1998 that Brown published his first novel *Digital Fortress*. Two novels followed *Angles and Demons* (2000) and *Deception Point* (2001) however his career as a bestselling novelist was set with his fourth novel *The Da Vinci Code* (2003). Due to the great success of both *Angles and Demons* and *The Da Vinci Code* Brown completed this series writing *the lost symbols* (2009), and *Inferno* (2013) these four novels tackle the theme of conspiracy planned by real strong secret societies and through extensive

¹¹Richard Thomas Condon (March 18, 1915 in New York City – April 9, 1996 in Dallas, Texas) was a prolific and popular American political novelist whose satiric works were generally presented in the form of thrillers or semi-thrillers. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹²*The Manchurian Candidate* (1959), by Richard Condon, is a political thriller novel about the son of a prominent U.S. political family who is brainwashed into being an unwitting assassin for a Communist conspiracy. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹³Robert Joseph Shea (February 14, 1933 - March 10, 1994) was an American novelist and former journalist best known as co-author with Robert Anton Wilson of the science fantasy trilogy *Illuminatus!*. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁴Robert Anton Wilson (born Robert Edward Wilson; January 18, 1932 – January 11, 2007) was an American author, novelist, essayist, editor, playwright, poet, futurist, psychologist, and self-described agnostic mystic. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁵*The Illuminatus! Trilogy* is a series of three novels written by Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson first published in 1975. The trilogy is a satirical, postmodern, science fiction-influenced adventure story; a drug-, sex-, and magic-laden trek through a number of conspiracy, both historical and imaginary, related to the authors' version of the Illuminati. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁶Umberto Eco OMRI (5 January 1932 – 19 February 2016) was an Italian novelist, literary critic, philosopher, semiotician and university professor. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁷*Foucault's Pendulum* (original title: *Il pendolo di Foucault*) is a novel by Italian writer and philosopher Umberto Eco. It was first published in 1988, and an English translation by William Weaver appeared a year later. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

¹⁸John Helfers, *the Authorized Dan Brown Companion*, New York: Citadel Press, 2006), p 10

knowledge of these societies the protagonist, Robert Langdon, solves the dilemma and prevent a catastrophe.¹⁹

1.2. Angels And Demons 2000

In 2000 Dan Brown published his novel *Angels And Demons*. The novel was an instant hit and soon became the bestselling mystery thriller that tackles New World Order Conspiracy and was adapted by film in 2009.²⁰ It was published by Random House, Pocket Books and then by Corgi Books.²¹ It introduces the character Robert Langdon, the hero of all following sequels.

The novel is rich with the most famous secret societies known to Man; The Knight Templar, the Hassassins, Freemasonry, Illuminati, Rothschilds²², Rosicrucians²³, and The Bilderberg Group²⁴. To investigate and analyze each secret society one will need more than this research permit thus only the Illuminati and the Hassassin secret societies will be thoroughly examined because they are both portrayed as main characters in the novel.

1.3. Angles & Demons' Plot

The novel is about two historical secret societies, the Illuminati and the Hassassins, teaming up to destroy Vatican City during Papal Elections. Robert Langdon, a symbolist and a professor, is asked to examine an ambigram branded on the chest of a murdered priest – scientist Leonardo Vetra. The ambigram is of a secret society called the Illuminati. Langdon, along with Vittoria, Vetra's daughter, and Maxillian Kholer, the director of CERN set out to search for the stolen antimatter canister that has been taken from Vetra's lab. On the other hand, the pop in the Vatican city is poisoned and murdered thus a new pop must be elected. The Vatican is filled with religious men from all over the world to perform the papal elections when they get a threat from an Arab claiming he is a descendent of the Hassassins executing the plan of the illuminati to destroy the Vatican using the antimatter canister planted inside the city. This destruction is their revenge against the Vatican's repression of both secret societies in the past. Although the canister will explode at midnight, the hassassin promised to kill each of the four candidate cardinals for papacy in public churches, each cardinal in a different church ending in the Church of Illumination.

Langdon and Vittoria try to help the Vatican police to find the antimatter canister before it explodes and the cardinals before they are killed. Langdon, being a specialist in secret societies and their symbolism gives rich information throughout the novel in solving

¹⁹ "Daniel Brown" Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016

²⁰ "Angels & Demons" Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

²¹ Ibid.

²² "Rothschild Family," "The Rothschild family is a wealthy family descending from Mayer Amschel Rothschild, a court Jew to the German Landgraves of Hesse-Kassel, in the Free City of Frankfurt, who established his banking business in the 1760s. Unlike most previous court Jews, Rothschild managed to bequeath his wealth, and established an international banking family through his five sons, who established themselves in London, Paris, Frankfurt, Vienna, and Naples. Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

²³ "Rosicrucianism," "A mysterious doctrine of the aforementioned order, it is allegedly "built on esoteric truths of the ancient past", which "concealed from the average man, provide insight into nature, the physical universe and the spiritual realm." Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

²⁴ "The Bilderberg Group, Bilderberg conference, Bilderberg meetings or Bilderberg Club is an annual private conference of 120 to 150 people of the European and North American political elite, experts from industry, finance, academia, and the media, established in 1954 Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 3/5/2016.

each clue after the other. The novel ends up with all four cardinals killed but the antimatter is found and destroyed by the Camerlingo, the priest that later on Langdon discovers is behind this terrorist plan from the very beginning using the name and reputation of these two secret societies to achieve his own plans.

Dan Brown, in his author's note, states that all the information in his novel is factual, a statement that ranked the novel successful, page turner and a great thriller. As a research though, one must separate facts from fiction on one hand, and appreciate the novelist art and craft in mixing facts with fiction to offer such a bestselling novel.

The Protagonist, Robert Langdon, faces two masterminds to save the day, the Hassassin and the Illuminati.

2. The Secret Society of The Hassassins :

The Hassassin is the very first character introduced in the novel along with the victim Leonardo Vetra, the physicist. He is portrayed torturing the scientist by branding his chest with the ambigram 'Illuminati' to get a certain pass for antimatter canister. When the old man refused to give the pass, the Hassassin simply pulled the old man's right eye from its socket and murdered him.

After murdering Vetra and stealing the canister, the Hassassin plants the antimatter canister under the Vatican City to explode at midnight. After completing the first phase of his job he rewards himself with sadistic intercourse with a prostitute. Feeling energized he moves to phase two by disguising himself as a priest and kidnapping four candidate cardinals for Papacy.

All protagonists of the novel are in great confusion lost in searching for answers until the Hassassin initiate contact and provide answers along with a clear threat. He first introduced himself stating that he is a messenger of the Illuminati and they intent destroy the Vatican City for revenge. The Camerlengo questions his abilities of accessing the City, the Hassassin added insult to injury by bragging of kidnapping the four favorite cardinals from within the City. The Camerlengo was overwhelmed

Camerlengo : what do you intend with these men?

The Hassassin: what do you think I intend? I'm a descendant of the Hassassin.²⁵

The name of this secret society gave Langdon the shivers and for a good reason, the Hassassin threatened to kill one cardinal every hour starting at eight till midnight and their manner of death will carry the trade mark of the Hassassin. He intended to brand them and kill them in public places and not in random places; in churches.

The Hassassin describes his method proudly 'Public killings have intoxicating horror about them, don't they?'²⁶ and continues stating that "history repeat itself, does it not? Of course, we will be more elegant and bold than the church was. They killed privately, dropped bodies when no one was looking. It seems so cowardly."²⁷ He ended his phone call by placing personal sadistic threat to Vittoria stating that he will find her and when he does he will rape and kill her. The Hassassin successfully murders all four cardinals, kidnaps Vittoria and was about to rape her when he is caught by Langdon and after a hectic fight with Langdon and Vittoria, the Hassassin fell died from the balcony.²⁸

²⁵ Dan Brown, *Angles And Demons* (New York : Pocket Books, 2000), p194

²⁶ Ibid

²⁷ Ibid, p196

²⁸ Ibid, P 558

Dan Brown provides a detailed background for his character stating that he is a descendent from a historical Islamic secret order that existed in the 10th century. The Hassassin is portrayed as a Middle Eastern Muslim man. Physically, he is well built and skilled in the art of assassination. His voice was "metallic, cold and laced with arrogance,"²⁹ and his body, his pride and joy, is "well – tuned, lethal machine,"³⁰ that he refuses to harm with narcotics. Throughout the novel he is shown to be dedicated to his cause, professional at executing his plans and is sadistic towards women.

The inconsistency in Brown's portrayal of his character lies in the fact that he keeps repeating that the killer is descendant of the Hassassin. Although Brown gives the perfect background of this sect, his character falls short of his ancestors. To be more accurate, the Hassassin is a pure mixture of all Islamic terrorist³¹ movements that existed throughout history and has very little in common with his so called ancestors.

Historically, the Hassassins are a secret order founded by a religious intelligent man called Hassan –i Sabbah³² who was devoted to the Nazari Ismaili doctrine against the Sunni Seljuq Authority.³³ Hassan took a remote castle on high mountain in Persia called Al Mount and used his fame and popularity to recruit followers and form a strong militant group.³⁴ The aim of this group was to defend this doctrine and its believers from all those who try to suppress and attack them including the authorities back then.³⁵ The recruits were trained as typical Islamic worriers in the art of war, linguistics, strategies as well as equestrian, combat and disguise.³⁶ This training was directed to execute assassination and espionage against important political and religious figures who "committed massacres against community,"³⁷ or those who threaten their doctrine.³⁸ Many of the recruits are trained as a Fidai, devoted soldiers who are planted among the private men of political targets for some time it can take years or months before he is asked to assassinate his target and if killed during his mission he is considered a martyr.³⁹ It is important to note that the Hassassin Fidai is not a suicide attacker because they are trained on the principle "no suicide unless absolutely necessary."⁴⁰ The Hassassins follow unique assassination strategies, first they only killed political figures that threaten them and never target civilians,⁴¹ secondly, all assassinations are performed in public places and usually during important days to guarantee the existence of many witnesses that would spread the

²⁹ Ibid, P190

³⁰ Ibid, p 44

³¹Islamic terrorism "is terrorist acts committed by Muslim groups or individuals who profess Islamic or Islamist motivations or goals. Islamic terrorists have relied on the tenets of the Quran and the Hadith, citing these scriptures to justify violent tactics including mass murder and genocide." Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

³²Hassan-i Sabbāh (1050s-1124) was a Nizārī Ismā‘īlī missionary who converted a community in the late 11th century in the heart of the Alborz Mountains of northern Persia. He later seized a mountain fortress called Alamut . He founded a group of fedayeen whose members are often referred to as the *Hashshashin*, or "Assassins". Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

³³History Of Secret Societies" Documentary On History Channel, see Also Al – Hashashin" Al Jezera Documentary Channel, and "Assassin" Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

³⁴ Ibid

³⁵ Ibid

³⁶ "Assassin" Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

³⁷ Ibid.

³⁸ Ibid

³⁹ Ibid

⁴⁰Edward V. Linden, *Focus On Terrorism*, Vol. 6 (New York: Nova Science Publishers Inc, 2003)

⁴¹ Ibid

event and to demonstrate power,⁴² thirdly, they always threaten their target first and if the target does not listen he is assassinated.⁴³ Fourthly, they were considered "defensive response"⁴⁴ thus they held many truces with their enemies both Muslim and non Muslim. History proved that The Hassassins made truces with the Knights Templar⁴⁵ and the Crusaders.⁴⁶ With the Knights Templar they exchanged ransoms and tributes, they negotiated treaties and occupied castles next to each other to meet and discuss religion.⁴⁷ Over three hundred years, the Hassassins successfully killed two caliphs, many viziers, sultans as well as crusader leaders.⁴⁸ Most Hassassins were hunted down and killed along with their families by the Mongols in 1256 and all their secret archives were destroyed. Very few Hassassins, however, managed to escape.⁴⁹

One of the inconsistencies of Brown's Portrayal of this ancient group lies in the origin of the name. The name, the Hassassin, is a highly disputed issue, many sources state that the term Hassassin is derived from hashish eaters⁵⁰ yet all these resources are based on the same reference; Marco Polo.⁵¹ Polo was well – known traveler who recorded his journey to the Middle East and described in details the Hassassins and their manner of recruitment. According to Marco Polo, Hassan –i Sabbah, whom he nicknamed the Old Man of the Mountain, selects a man then drugs him using hashish till the recruit loss conscious. When the recruit wakes up he find himself in garden designed exactly like the Garden of Eden described in The Holy Quran with rivers of milk and wine, exotic fruits, and beautiful maidens. The recruit is given drugs again till unconscious and when he is conscience again he is told that he is chosen for a mission and upon completing it successfully he is rewarded with the paradise he dreamt of.⁵² The problem with this story is it lacks historical evidence. When the Hassassins' fortresses were captured by the Mongols no such garden or any type of gardens existed. Moreover, many sources that quoted Marco Polo's disagreed with this story and refuted the Hassassins use of hashish in recruitment or in celebration for example James M. Lutz and Brenda J. Lutz in their book *Global Terrorism* after giving a detailed description of

⁴² James M. Lutz and Brenda J. Lutz. *Global Terrorism*. 3rd Edition (London: Routledge, 2013), p1648

⁴³"an Oculists Guide to the Assassins and The Illuminati" interview with James Wasserman

⁴⁴Lutz, p 1648

⁴⁵ The Knights Templar "were among the wealthiest and most powerful of the Western Christian military orders and were prominent actors in Christian finance. The organization existed for nearly two centuries during the Middle Ages." Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

⁴⁶ The Crusades were a series of intermittent Papal sanctioned military campaigns beginning in the late 11th century. They commenced with a call to arms by Pope Urban II who was responding to a request for military support for the Byzantine Empire. Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

⁴⁷Helfers, John. *The Unauthorized Dan Brown Companion* (New York :Citadel Press Books, 2006), p 154

⁴⁸"Assassins" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

⁴⁹All references motioned above.

⁵⁰ John. p 154 see also " Assassins" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, History of Secrete Societies." Documentary, "Al – Hashashin." Al Jezira Documentary Channel, "Shaik Al Jebal Wa Qaid Al Hashashin." Documentary on Hassan –i Sabbah, and "an Oculists Guide to the Assassins and The Illuminati" interview with James Wasserman

⁵¹Marco Polo 1254 – January 8–9, 1324 was a Venetian merchant traveler whose travels are recorded in *Livres des merveilles du monde* (*Book of the Marvels of the World*, also known as *The Travels of Marco Polo*, c. 1300), a book that introduced Europeans to Central Asia and China. Wikipedia the free – online Encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016.

⁵²"Assassins" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia, History of Secrete Societies." Documentary, "Al – Hashashin." Al Jezira Documentary Channel, "Shaik Al Jebal Wa Qaid Al Hashashin." Documentary on Hassan –i Sabbah, and "an Oculists Guide to the Assassins and The Illuminati" interview with James Wasserman

this sect and their strategies they state "any individual under influence of narcotic would not be an attacker."⁵³ Furthermore, they state that the Hassassins are considered an "important early example of terrorism precisely because they were so effective."⁵⁴ Almost all sources describe this sect as being "highly spiritual"⁵⁵ and "maintain high ethical standards"⁵⁶

Some believe that the term Hassassin to refer to the followers of Al – Hassan⁵⁷ while other like Amin Maalouf⁵⁸ in his book *the Crusade through Arab Eyes* (1983) believes that according to texts Hassan called his followers Asasiyun meaning "people who are faithful to the Asas, the foundation of faith, which was clearly misunderstood by foreign travelers to be hashash."⁵⁹

Although the origin of the term Hassassin is highly disputed, the origin of the English term Assassin being derived from the Hassassin remains undisputed.

Other than the origin of the name Hassassin; two main issues rises in the Hassassin's characterization. Brown described his hassassin character as a sexually sadistic Muslim terrorist, traits that are inherited from his ancestors.

The Hassassin is a Muslim terrorist that Brown said to be descendant from an ancient organization that he keeps proving throughout his character's actions unfortunately these actions not only prove his character not to be a Hassassin descendant only but also modern updated terrorist profile of a collective Islamic Terrorist movements. The Hassassin, after committing his first murder, becomes proud and imagines his ancestors "smiling down on him"⁶⁰ because he was fighting the old battle between his sect and the crusaders who captured his lands, killed and raped his people because they thought them to be infidels thus destroyed their temples and gods.

Unfortunately, actions speak louder than words, the Hassassins actions and assassination strategies does not match that of his ancestors, on the contrary, they match actions of a mixture of modern Islamic terrorists groups. This point can be further analyzed through two main actions; actions towards non – Muslims and actions towards women.

As mentioned earlier, the Hassassin were "defensive response"⁶¹ not terrorist who try to destroy Christianity and condemn Christians as infidels, a belief held by many modern Islamic terrorist groups namely Al – Qaeda and ISIS. History shows that the Hassassin had one enemy, their own Islamic authorities and in some rare incident when their sect is threatened by the crusaders. History proves that the Hassassins made many treaties with the crusaders and the Knights Templar, both were Christians.

Women is another highly disputed issue, the Hassassin is portrayed through the novel as a sexually sadistic⁶² and hedonistic⁶³ man who takes pleasure in forcing himself on strong –

⁵³Lutz, p 1648

⁵⁴ Ibid.

⁵⁵Dan Burstein and Arede Keijzer. *Secretes of Angles and Demons* (A Weidenfeld & Nicolson E – Book, 2005)

⁵⁶"an Oculists Guide to the Assassins and The Illuminati" interview with James Wasserman

⁵⁷ John, p 154.

⁵⁸Amin Maalouf (Arabic: أمين معلوف, born 25 February 1949 in Beirut) is a Lebanese-born French.

⁵⁹"Assassins" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

⁶⁰ Brown,

⁶¹ Lutz, p1648

⁶² "Sexual sadism disorder" "is the condition of experiencing sexual arousal in response to the extreme pain, suffering, or humiliation of others." Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

⁶³ Hedonistic adjective to describe Hedonism is "a school of thought that argues that pleasure is the primary or most important intrinsic good. A hedonist strives to maximize net pleasure (pleasure minus pain)." Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

willed women. Brown, in the novel states that the Hassassin sees women of his country as 'possession'⁶⁴, 'weak,'⁶⁵ 'tools for pleasure,'⁶⁶ cattle to be traded like livestock,⁶⁷ thus he took pleasure in raping strong and independent European women because "forcing them into physical submission was gratification he always enjoyed,"⁶⁸ and "seeing terror in a woman's eyes was his ultimate aphrodisiac."⁶⁹ Brown portrays his Hassassin as being addicted to this type of intercourse thus described as his favorite type of narcotic and sometimes it is an appetite he inherited from his ancestors.⁷⁰

No records were found of any type of rape committed by the Hassassin against any women. Hassan did not allow the existence of women in his many recruiting fortresses⁷¹ including his own wife and daughters.⁷² Women were never a target nor a mean for this sect thus these characteristics of his Hassassin does not match the historical facts although Brown keeps repeating that he inherited these practices from his ancestors, facts does not prove his claim. There are modern Islamic terrorist groups, however, that has these practices in their doctrines for instance Al – Qaeda and ISIS. In both groups women are kidnapped and used for sex.⁷³ Al – Qaeda fighters, according to their doctrine, can have any woman they judge as infidel and is considered reward for his achievements.⁷⁴ These rewards can be traded one for another as a sex salve or a concubine.⁷⁵ Both groups view women as cattle thus treated accordingly.

3. The Secret Society of Illuminati :

Dan Brown in his Author's Note states that "The brotherhood of the Illuminati is also factual." But who are the Illuminati? Brown enriches the reader with a full detailed account of this secret society providing encyclopedic information and historical facts. Brown continues stating that since this group challenged the church, the Catholic Church hunted them down ruthlessly thus they became extremely secret and met regularly in Rome in the Church of Illumination. The illuminati wanted to fight back against the church yet Galileo Galilei, the "most reverend member"⁷⁶ refused eventually Galileo was caught and "severely punished"⁷⁷ for claiming that the sun is the center of universe which according to the church it is blasphemy to claim that God created mankind and placed them far from the center of universe. The church became furious and started to become violent, it arrested four illuminati members tortured them by branding them alive with the symbol of the cross then threw their bodies in the streets of Rome as a warning for joining this society.⁷⁸ As a response, the Illuminati hid deeper and mixed with other groups that were hunted by the Catholic Church

⁶⁴Brown, p82

⁶⁵Ibid

⁶⁶Ibid

⁶⁷ Ibid

⁶⁸Ibid

⁶⁹ Ibid, p 489

⁷⁰ Ibid, p 44

⁷¹ Al Jezira Documentary, "Assassin" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

⁷² Ibid

⁷³ "Islamic Terrorism" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 10/5/2016

⁷⁴Ibid

⁷⁵ Lutz p1648 and Ibid.

⁷⁶ Ibid

⁷⁷ Ibid

⁷⁸ Ibid, p 42

like Muslims, Jews, occultists, etc and became "the single most dangerous anti – Christian force on earth" with mysterious rites and deadly secrecy whose sole aim to revenge on the Catholic Church. The group was doomed as "Shaitan" an Arabic Islamic word considered to be "the root of the English word ...Satan"⁷⁹ They fled Rome and were taken in by the freemasons in 1700, they fell a victim and the front for illuminati recruitment, a secret society within another secret society they grow stronger and wider, they took most of Europe and moved with the masons to the united states "they took advantage of infiltration and helped found banks, universities, and industry to finance their ultimate quest ...the creation of a single unified world state – a kind of secular New World Order.

Unfortunately, rich as it may seem, Brown's account of this secret society was judged inaccurate. According to Mark Dice⁸⁰, the author of *The Illuminati In Hollywood, Angles and Demons* (2009) is considered "the biggest Illuminati – themed film to date hit the theaters....Filled with historical and scientific inaccuracies and served to introduce a highly distorted version of the illuminati to millions of people who had not yet heard of it"⁸¹ Mark Dice, in his other Book *The Illuminati : Facts & Fiction* accused Brown of "muddying the water for real researchers of the illuminati"⁸² this research is an attempt to clear the waters for researchers interested in the secret society of Illuminati while appreciating inaccuracies in this great piece of fiction.

3.1. Who are the Illuminati :

According to Wikipedia "the illuminati is a name given to several groups, both real and fictitious, historical, the name refers to the Bavarian illuminati."⁸³ Simon Cox, in his book *Illuminating Angles And Demons* states that "the term illuminati is taken on by many several groups throughout history from ancient Egypt till modern times, yet it is usually used to refer to the Bavarian illuminati."⁸⁴ Almost all 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.

If Dan Brown was referring to one of the many 'several groups' that took on the name then all dates and members can be accepted as facts. Brown gives the date 1500s as the beginning date of this group thus he made many enlightened figures of this century members of this secret society like Galileo, Raphael,⁸⁵ and Bernini⁸⁶. Most criticism was directed to Brown's Statement "Galileo was an Illuminatus."⁸⁷

⁷⁹ Ibid, 43

⁸⁰ **Mark Dice** is an American author and conspiracy theorist based in San Diego, California, who argues that the New World Order secret societies, such as the Illuminati, Bilderberg Group, Skull and Bones and Bohemian Grove, direct human affairs and global politics, particularly those of the United States.

⁸¹ P 239

⁸² P313

⁸³ "illuminati" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁸⁴ "Illuminating Angles and Demons Documentary". www. Youtybe.com

⁸⁵ Raffaello Sanzio da Urbino April 6 or March 28, 1483 – April 6, 1520), known as Raphael was an Italian painter and architect of the High Renaissance. His work is admired for its clarity of form, ease of composition, and visual achievement of the Neoplatonic ideal of human grandeur. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁸⁶ Gian Lorenzo Bernini 7 December 1598 – 28 November 1680) was an Italian sculptor and architect. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁸⁷ Brown, p 41

Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) was an Italian scientist who specialized in astronomy, physics, engineering, philosophy and mathematics. He played a great role in the scientific revolution of the seventh century thus it is no wonder that he is called the "father of science."⁸⁸ Since Galileo was an astronomer, he believed that the earth revolved around the sun a matter that caused him problems with the Church during his lifetime. A series of trials⁸⁹ was conducted to make Galileo change his statements, just like Brown describes exactly but with one major difference, torture. Brown portrays the church as a violence oppressor that tortured Galileo severely for his heresy yet history proved that the church only house arrested him till his death of natural causes at the age of eighty.⁹⁰

Brown build the entire novel on Galileo as a highly influential member of the Illuminati and most symbols and ambigram are tribute to his love of symmetry. The path of illumination leading to the Illuminati church is encoded in one of Galileo's forbidden books hidden in the Vatican's Archives. As a researcher one can only admire the craft in using many historical facts as a base for such plot. The inaccuracy here is so clear that is impossible to overlook. Although many groups throughout history took up the name of Illuminati, Dan Brown more than once specifies this Illuminati group as The Bavarian Illuminati.⁹¹ The Bavarian Illuminati was founded on May, 1, 1776 by Dr. Adam Weishaupt (1748 – 1830) who was a "Jesuit – trained professor of canon law at the University of Ingolstadt."⁹² The aim of this secret society was "to oppose superstitions, obscurantism, religious influences over public life and abuses of state power."⁹³ The society was outlawed by Charles Theodore with the encouragement of the Roman Catholic Church.

In other words, Galileo was dead two centuries before the Bavarian Illuminati so was Raphael and Bernini thus they couldn't have been illuminatus as Brown claims. Brown changed date, place, and members of this secret society to design a rich plot. He changed the date to incorporate the most influential persons in arts, architecture and science. He changed the place from Bavaria to Italy to incorporate the Vatican City, the city of religion. He changed the founding members to include Galileo, the father of science, to start a fictional war against the Holy Father. Brown benefited from the well known fact that some of Galileo's books were forbidden and that the Vatican archives were forbidden too

Brown, to add fuel to fire, made up a historical event that he called 'La purge' in which the church branded four illuminati scientist with the symbol of the cross in 1668 to purge them from their sins then they murdered them and dropped their bodies in public locations around Rome to warn people of joining this society.⁹⁴ This historical event is purely fictional simply because there was no Bavarian Illuminati at that time; however, this story serves as a great motive for revenge on the Catholic Church.

⁸⁸ "Galileo," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁸⁹ For more information check "Galilio Affair" Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁹⁰ "Galileo," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁹¹ Brown p124 and p199

⁹² "Illuminati," Encyclopedia of Religion in American Politics, (USA : Oryxpress, 1999), p126

⁹³ "Adam Weishaupt" Wikipedia, the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

⁹⁴ Brown p195

3.2. The Illuminati And Luciferian Doctrine:

Brown states the belief system of this secrete society in details by describing them as being Luciferian not Satanic. The name Illuminati, as quoted earlier, 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. Thus they outlawed this society and condemned it as "the world's oldest and most satanic cult"⁹⁵ but then Brown states "Satanic but not in the modern sense"⁹⁶ modern Satanism that consist of black magic animal sacrifices, and pentagon rituals are lies by the church.⁹⁷

Again one piece of information changes a whole frame of mind why state that Illuminati are Luciferian and not Satanic? Satanism "is a group of ideological and philosophical beliefs based on the character of Satan who is considered as a supernatural deity."⁹⁸ Luciferianism, on the other hand, "is a belief system that usually reverses Lucifer not as the devil, but as a liberator, guardian, or guiding spirit or even the true god as opposed to Jehovah."⁹⁹ Thus according to Luciferians or Illuminati Lucifer or Satan enlightened mankind with the knowledge he seduced Adam and Eve to take from the forbidden tree of knowledge. Lucifer elevated mankind from pure slaves to think tanks and of course scientists appreciate this gift. Again, an excellent choice of belief system to set up the readers' frame of mind that the Illuminati are scientists that provide knowledge on oppose to the church that keeps people in the darkness of ignorance to protect them from knowledge that could harm their faith if used incorrectly.

Prominent religions, namely Christianity and Islam, believe the Illuminati is the Antichrist. In Christianity, the bible prophesies describes the Antichrist with Luciferian characteristic just 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,¹⁰⁰ as one eyed being.¹⁰¹ Thus the All 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, smart phones, social media, net work and world wide web are all associated with Al Dejal.

3.3. Illuminati Symbols :

Dan Brown portrays Vatican City as a large labyrinth for the Illuminati. The entire scene is architected according to the illuminati belief systems and carries their symbols. All artists, painters and architects are illuminatus namely Bernini and Raphael. In order for illuminati members to meet in secret, a meeting place was dedicated for this reason. This secret place was called the church of illumination and for members to find it they should follow certain clues engraved on prominent art works and statuses in plain sight yet only those who know the symbols can find the path consequentially, the church.

⁹⁵ Brown 43

⁹⁶ Ibid, 46

⁹⁷ Ibid

⁹⁸ "Satanism," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 2/8/2016

⁹⁹ "Luciferiansim," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 2/8/2016

¹⁰⁰ Al-Masih ad-Dajjal (Arabic: المسيح الدجال Al-Masīh ad-Dajjāl, "the false messiah", or "the deceiver") is an evil figure in Islamic eschatology.^[1] He is to appear, pretending to be al-Masih (i.e. the Messiah), before Yawm al-Qiyamah (the Day of Resurrection). He is to be an anti-messianic figure, comparable to the Antichrist in Christian eschatology and to Armilus in medieval Jewish eschatology. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 2/8/2016

¹⁰¹ Dice, 2009, p17

Ironically most artworks mentioned in the novel are real and are exactly like Brown described, yet other works are misplaced or misinterpreted so as to fit the plot and theme of the novel. The Vatican City was built over many other ancient cities each has its own belief system and symbols that lived on till this day. Some symbols and artworks are considered pagan and unfitting to the new Christian city yet these artworks were not replaced or removed, so Dan Brown played skillfully on these pagan remains of ancient religions and considered them illuminati simply because the illuminati are considered pagan or luciferian as mentioned earlier. Professor Langdon, the protagonist, explains this fully in his class and called it "conquering religions"¹⁰² or "transmutation"¹⁰³ "it helps people acclimatize to the new faith. Worshipers keep the same holy dates, pray in the same sacred locations, use a similar symbology...and they simply substitute a different god."¹⁰⁴

In order to give these artworks their due justice another research is required. In this research, however, only the most famous symbols of illuminati will be explained namely the all - Seeing Eye, pyramid, and the Egyptian obelisk.

Most secret societies relay heavily on ancient religious belief systems that are condemned as being pagan thus such societies as the Illuminati are always associated with Occult.¹⁰⁵ Although the Illuminati are repeatedly accused of being Luciferian and Satanic, their symbols show that they adapted the ancient Egyptian pagan belief system.¹⁰⁶ The most famous Illuminati symbols all – Seeing Eye, the Pyramid and the Obelisk are all connected to one famous Egyptian legend or myth.

Legend¹⁰⁷ has it that Osiris, the god king of ancient Egyptians was married to his sister, Isis, the god of fertility. Set, their brother, was jealous and wanted the kingdom for himself so he murdered his brother and dismembered him throwing his body parts all over the underworld. Isis looked for her husband's 14 body parts and managed to collect all of them except his penis that was eaten by fish in the river Nile. Isis by the use of magic placed the body parts together and replaced the penis with a golden one. After magical rituals and intercourse Isis claimed that she is pregnant and eventually gave birth to Horus, the god of sky, war and hunting. His right eye represented the sun while the left eye represented the moon. Horus started a war on Set to revenge this 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 deity that protects his worshipers and provides them with power.¹⁰⁸

The All – Seeing Eye is the eye of a pagan god inside a triangle that represents the pagan trinity Osiris, Isis and Horus; the mother, father and holy son. This same pagan symbol was adapted 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.¹⁰⁹ The All Seeing Eye symbol was and still is widely known throughout history

¹⁰²Brown, p 303

¹⁰³ Ibid

¹⁰⁴ Brown, pp303 – 304

¹⁰⁵Michael Cage, *Illuminati Secrets : Unmasking the New World Order*, E – Book, Illuminati Publishing, 2015.

¹⁰⁶ Ibid

¹⁰⁷ Kevin Tucker, *Web Of Illuminati*, Tucker Inc, 2013, p 15 see also "Osiris" Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 2/8/2016

¹⁰⁸ Horus, see also "Eye of Horus", "the eye of providence" Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 2/8/2016

¹⁰⁹ Albert M. Potts, *The World's Eye*, (USA: The University Press of Kentucky, 1982), p68

and cultures and is famous for being the Eye of Horus. One can see this eye almost everywhere, it appears on coins, altar decorations, logos, clothes, modern currency like the one dollar bill and many more. In 18th century, the Freemasons adapted this symbol and ever since then this symbol is always associated with the freemasons and Illuminati.

The Pyramid is another symbol frequently used by the illuminati. Pyramids are one of the wonders of the world with mysteries unsolved. It is widely known that these pyramids were built as tombs for pharos; however, the illuminati believe that they are schools for teaching mystery to secret societies. Man can become a god if he is provided with the right secret knowledge and with this knowledge he can rule the ignorant. The pyramid represents a social hierarchy in which very few elite on the top rule over many "masses of ignorant working bees on the bottom"¹¹⁰

The last of illuminati symbols is the Egyptian obelisk. An obelisk, according to Wikipedia "is a tall, four-sided, narrow tapering monument which ends in a pyramid-like shape or pyramidion at the top. These were originally called "tekhenu" by the builders, the Ancient Egyptians."¹¹¹ The origin of designing such a phallic architecture was that Isis ordered these obelisk monuments to be erected in temples to be worshiped in honor of her husband's lost penis.¹¹² Off course if this obelisk is erected inside a circle which stands for a woman's vagina it refers to "the very act of copulation."¹¹³ The Obelisk in St. Peter's square is an Egyptian obelisk erected in the middle of the circular square.¹¹⁴

The Illuminati is an old secret society that adapted ancient beliefs in their symbols yet the irony is that we are now surrounded with all these illuminati – Egyptian symbols more than ancient cultures ever was. Almost all western world singers use the symbol of the All Seeing Eye in their songs, some of them dress up as Isis like Madonna in the opening ceremony of the 2012 Olympic Games, the music industry lunched many songs with the word Illuminati in them. Egyptian pyramids and Obelisks are the number one architectural design in the western world. In fact in United States of America there are more Egyptian Obelisks than in Egypt itself! The highest Egyptian obelisk not in Egypt but is founded in St. Peter Square ! How and why did these symbols invade the western world?

3.4. The Illuminati and New World Order Conspiracy Theory

Every secret society has its own agenda that is why it is secret. The Illuminati has one major goal; establishing New World Order ruled by very few enlightened elites. To achieve this goal there are famous techniques that Adam Weishaupt, the founder of the Illuminati, introduced. The most famous of these techniques is conquering finance, politics, media and religions. As we mentioned earlier, the Catholic church outlawed this secret society and tried hard to oppress them but the result was that this secret society only became more secretive and blended with another strong secret society, the Freemasonry.

Brown traces accurately the development of the illuminati and how, after being chased and by the Catholic Church, they moved to the new Continent, America, along

¹¹⁰ Mark Dice. Inside *the Illuminati: Evidence, Objectives, and the Methods of Operation* E – book, 2014.

¹¹¹ "Obelisk," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

¹¹² Chris Relitz, *Antichrist Osiris: the History of the Luciferian Conspiracy*. (Canada: Daniel 1133 Books, 2012), P105 see also Kevin Tucker, *Web of the Illuminati*, Tucker Inc, 2013, p 17

¹¹³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴ Ibid

with the Freemasons to build their New World Order. As Brown mentioned in his account of the illuminati, the freemasons were infiltrated by the illuminati and became a secret society within a secret society allowing a new branch of masonry to emerge, "illuminized Masonry."¹¹⁵

According to conspiracy theorist, this order compromised finding a world government by destroying all religions and political systems ruled by elites of this secret society.¹¹⁶ The Illuminati enforce their power through finance and politics. In finance they were the first to establish banks and played a great role in issuing the first American currency. They worked themselves up till they became some of the most powerful leaders of the American Revolution thus gained political status. George Washington, the very first president of the United States nicknamed the founding father of the United State who drafted the present day constitution¹¹⁷ was a freemason.¹¹⁸ Nine signers on the declaration of the independence were freemasons so was thirteen presidents of the United States.¹¹⁹ Although many conspiracy theorists believe "America itself was a secret Masonic project,"¹²⁰ the influence of the Masons was no secret at all. During the ceremonies of dedicating the US capital, President George Washington wore the Masonic garb and performed Masonic rituals. Washington, the capital of the United States of America was architected and built with Masonic symbols some hidden while other are lying in plain sight like the Washington monument which is clearly an Egyptian obelisk.¹²¹ The design of the great seal¹²² and the United States' currency also carries great Masonic symbols. It is important to notice that each society has its own belief system and symbols so the reader can clearly discern that Langdon is signaling out the illuminati symbols not the freemason's symbols. In his lengthy detailed account of the One Dollar Bill symbols, Langdon states that the "One – dollar bill US currency is covered with illuminati symbology"¹²³ then continues clarifying that the obverse of the United States great seal is Masonic and leaves all its symbols unexplained. The seal shows an unfinished thirteen steps pyramid above it is an eye. The thirteen steps are thought to represent the original thirteen colonies, the pyramid is unfinished means that America is not complete yet, the three sides of the pyramid represent the three branches of government. Conspiracy theorists thoroughly studied this seal and found out that the Eye is the All Seeing Eye; watching over the population. Under the pyramid there is a Latin phrase *novus ordo seclerum* which means New World Order. The Latin numbers at the base of the pyramid are actually the founding date of the Illuminati (MDCCLXXVI = May 1st 1776).¹²⁴ Conspiracy theorists believe that the seal is the incarnation of the freemasons' and illuminati's power and influence in America and the establishment of New World Order.

¹¹⁵ Ibid

¹¹⁶ "New World Order," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

¹¹⁷ "George Washington," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

¹¹⁸ Peter Knight, ed, *Conspiracy Theories In American History; Encyclopedia*, Vol 1 A – L. (Oxford: ABC – CLIO, Inc, 2003). Also all Documentaries

¹¹⁹ "The Secret History of Freemasonry" History Channel. www. Youtube.com

¹²⁰ Ibid.

¹²¹ "Washington Monument," Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

¹²² "the Great Seal of the United States" is used to authenticate certain documents issued by the U.S. federal government. The phrase is used both for the physical seal itself (which is kept by the U.S. Secretary of State), and more generally for the design impressed upon it. The Great Seal was first used publicly in 1782. Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia. Retrieved at 1/6/2016

¹²³ Brown, p 139

¹²⁴ Dice, 2009, p 39

3.5. Illuminati As Terrorist Group:

Brown refute the idea that the illuminati are terrorist¹²⁵ and states that they are more of moralists; "They wielded their power through political and financial means not through terrorist acts. Furthermore, the illuminati had a strict code of morality regarding who they saw as enemies."¹²⁶ He rejects the idea that they target scientists because the illuminati "held men of science in the highest regards"¹²⁷ this contradicts the aims of his secret society and of course the latter definitions that he gave to terrorism. Brown state that terrorist have one single goal which is "to create terror and fear. Fear undermines faith in the establishment. It weakens the enemy from within...causing unrest in the masses"¹²⁸ the Illuminati's aim is to find a New World Order by destroying all governments from within and this is done through making citizens lose faith in their political systems. So according to his own definition of terrorism and the aims he stated for this secret society it is a terrorist group. When threats of murdering the four cardinals in churches were declared his protagonist, Langdon, quickly tries to label the Illuminati's acts "Calculated terrorism"¹²⁹ or "planned chaos."¹³⁰

Assassinations, planned chaos and terrorism are always associated with the Illuminati. Public Assassinations of religious, political figures and even famous stars are mostly attributed to the illuminati.¹³¹ Many beloved celebrities are widely known to be assassinated by illuminati like Michael Jackson.¹³² Many Pops were killed yet few of them were killed under suspicious circumstances and conspiracy theorists accused the Illuminati of their deaths. Brown waves in the real story of one of seven Pops allegedly murdered by secret societies to strengthen the backdrop of his novel and link it with facts that readers already know.

In 1770 George Hegel, a German philosopher, introduced a political technique called *ordo – chao* which is a Latin phrase meaning "order out of chaos" this technique has been used by governments since its introduction worldwide. The technique requires the government creating a problem that in order to solve it; people willingly give up some or all of their rights to the government.¹³³ The 9/11 attacks is considered to be a great example of such technique. The government made an attack on its own citizens and blamed it on Islamic terrorist groups. The citizens were in panic and in order for the government to protect them from such attacks, they were asked to give up all their civil rights and agreed to start a war on terror. The government had the right to spy on its citizens using one – eyed technology, arrest them without charges and invade countries in the name of fighting Islamic terror.¹³⁴ Great holy wars among the most prominent religions in the world Judaism, Christianity, and Islam was started to achieve the great aim of demolishing all religions. Is it really a coincidence to nickname a terrorist Islamic group whose goal is to destroy Islam ISIS, just like the Egyptian goddess Isis?

Media is another powerful means that the Illuminati skillfully manipulate for spreading their agenda and recruiting members. Many broadcasting agency are financed by the Illuminati and has their symbols encoded in their logos like the CBS News with their One – Eyed logo. In *Angles and Demons*, The Hassasin, with or without the consent of his Illuminati Leader,

¹²⁵ Ibid, p 114

¹²⁶ Brown, p 52

¹²⁷ Ibid

¹²⁸ Ibid, p217

¹²⁹ Ibid

¹³⁰ Ibid

¹³¹ Dice,

¹³² Mark Dice, *The Illuminati In Hollywood* (San Deigo: Resistance Manifesto), 2016

¹³³ Cage.

¹³⁴ "9/11 conspiracy Theories" Wikipedia the free – online encyclopedia, retrieved at 7/9/2016

contacts the BBC reporter and informs him of their plans of killing the four cardinals in churches and blowing up the Vatican City at midnight. The Hassassin ends the phone call with this excellent quote "media is the right arm of anarchy."¹³⁵ Langdon when he is asked to come and investigate the murder of Leonardo Vetra, he was astonished to see how they, Kholer and Vitoria, know so much about the Illuminati. All media and social media are rich with information about this society. Vitoria recognizes the secret society immediately from the very popular video games that her fellow scientists play "Bavarian Illuminati: New World Order. Steve Jackson¹³⁶ computer games. Half techies here play it on the internet."¹³⁷ Kholer too was able to find everything he wanted to know about the Illuminati from a simple web search¹³⁸

Although books and novels are rich with illuminati information like the one we are studying, television, film, music, video games, card and board games have their fair share. All Illuminati conspiracy theorists agree on this point. Mark Dice in his book *The Illuminati In Holleywood* believe that children and teenagers are a fresh target to invest in. Walt Disney cartoons, Nickelodeon, Hollywood and most of the film and music industry are filled with illuminati symbols and serve Illuminati aims. Their aim is familiarizes audiences of all ages and cultures with Luciferian doctrine; homosexuality, child abuse, pornography, criminology, devil worshiping etc. In addition to that, the illuminati aim at distorting regions and patriotism making it hard for citizens to keep faith in their religions and governments.

3.6. Does the Illuminati Secret Society Exist ?

After an excellent informative journey to the Illuminati secret society Dan Brown shouts out "Absurd! The illuminati are ancient history! All academics know that!"¹³⁹ Conspiracy theorist and those who believe in them do believe that the Illuminati secret society exists. Mike Dice states

"The surprise ending serves to reinforce the idea that anyone who believes the illuminati continued to exist after their discovery in the eighteenth century is just a paranoid conspiracy theorist. The film serves to instill in the mind of the viewers that the illuminati is just a fictional group of bad guys from Hollywood movie."¹⁴⁰

4. Conclusion:

Dan Brown in *Angles And Demons* gracefully incorporated two strong secret societies as antagonists; the Hassassins and The Illuminati. Although the Hassassin secret society does not longer exist, the western interest in this society lives on. Islamic terrorism became very popular theme in western literature a matter that led many novelists to search for historical backgrounds for such groups and the Hassassin stands out as the one and only secret society that shock the world during its reign. Brown provided accurate historical account of his Hassassin yet his character's action falls short of his historical ancestors. His hassassin is a typical updated Islamic terrorist that has nothing to do with the historical secret society with its strict moral values. The Illuminati, on the other hand, is a secret society that is believed by many to exist nowadays much stronger than they ever did in history. The rich encyclopedic

¹³⁵ Brown, P 259

¹³⁶ **Steve Jackson Games (SJGames)** is a game company, founded in 1980 by Steve Jackson, that creates and publishes role-playing, board, and card games, and the gaming magazine *Pyramid*. Wikipedia the free on line encyclopedia. Retrieved on 16/8/2016.

¹³⁷ Brown, p 124

¹³⁸ Ibid, p 38

¹³⁹ Brown, p 57

¹⁴⁰ Dice, 2016, p 240 -241

information and the deliberate inaccuracies that Brown provides for this society left conspiracy theorist investigating about Dan Brown himself. As a literary researcher one can only admire Brown's manipulation of facts and inaccuracies to serve his literary elements. Dates, places and members are changed to create perfect setting, plot, theme and characterization. Dates were changed to incorporate prominent figures in all fields of life. Places were changed to include the Vatican City, the core of Christian religion as well as the perfect scene for incarnating the clash of religions. Members were changed to show the enormous size of the Illuminati web. As a conspiracy researcher, however, one can only suspect Brown's involvement in this secret society especially after his great conclusion that is it absurd to assume the Illuminati still exist. Illuminati Conspiracy theorists, namely Mike Dice, traced Dan Brown's life and education to conclude that Brown graduated from Philips Exeter Academy that is "largely funded by the Illuminati."¹⁴¹ Students are educated and prepared to serve the Illuminati goals. Brown's books including *Angels and Demons*, are all initially published by Random House, an illuminati publishing company before being adapted by other publishers.¹⁴² In other words, Dan Brown after receiving a rich Illuminati – funded education, published illuminati – themed novel by an illuminati publishing company concluded his novel stating that the Illuminati does not exist! What a conclusion.

¹⁴¹ Dice, 2016, P316

¹⁴² Ibid, P317

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