

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF - M'SILA

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH
N°:.....



DOMAIN: FOREIGN LANGUAGES
STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE
OPTION: LITERATURE & CIVILIZATION

Knowledge and Power in Dan Brown's *the Lost Symbol*

**Thesis Submitted to the Department of English Language in Partial Fulfilment of
the Requirements for the Master's Degree in Literature and Civilization**

Submitted by:

Mr. Ayoub BENTOMI

Mr. Rabeh Imad Eddine OUADOUD

Supervised by:

Mrs. Nassima AMIROUCHE

Academic Year

2022

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Board of Examiners:

Mr. Mohamed GOUFFI	University of M'sila	Chairperson
Mrs. Nassima AMIROUCHE	University of M'sila	Supervisor
Mrs. Amel BENIA	University of M'sila	Examiner

Academic Year

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DECLARATION

We hereby declare that this thesis entitled, “Knowledge and Power in Dan Brown’s *the Lost Symbol*”, is our own work, and the entire source we quoted from have been duly acknowledged by means of references.

Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION

*This work is wholeheartedly dedicated to my loving parents, who were the
reason behind every success in my life*

To all my beloved family who offered me all the support and love

To my unique supervisor Dr. Amirouche Nassima, and to all my teachers

To my friend and partner Imad

And to the most precious person in my life, thank you for enlightening my way

Ayoub

*I dedicate this thesis to my loving family, who helped me to get through all the
obstacles in my life*

To all my friends who made university a beautiful place to go to

And To all my teachers

Imad

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Our deepest acknowledgements go to the board of examiners for being kind enough to consider our humble work.

Our foremost appreciation for all of our friends for their precious pieces of advice and the joyful memories we have gathered on this educational journey.

Last but not least, my heartily thanks to our families. They have never left our sides.

May Allah bless all of you.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

LS: *the Lost Symbol*.

OED: The Oxford English Dictionary.

ABSTRACT

The detective novel is one of the most prominent examples occupying the discussion arena today, as the American detective novels have spread all over the world. It was able to master the features of excitement and suspense to achieve its universality. Dan Brown is one of the American authors, who wrote well-researched novels that centered on the secret organizations and the conflict between science and religion and had intricate plots. He was best known for the Robert Langdon series, which notably included *The Lost Symbol*, which is the essence of this study. Hence, this thesis aims to unveil an important aspect of the study, which is highlighting some aspects of power and knowledge with accordance to the theory of Michel Foucault discussed in Dan Brown's *The Lost Symbol*. Added to this, this study aims at discovering Freemasonry as a religion related to Christianity, its symbols, and its existence in the Washington DC historical buildings as revealed in the novel. This thesis is entitled: **“Knowledge and Power in Dan Brown's *the Lost Symbol*”**.

Key words: The Detective Novel, the Lost Symbol. Knowledge, Power, Freemasonry.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

The world is currently witnessing a tremendous technological revolution, which has contributed to the development of many scientific fields, including the medical, economic, industrial, and cognitive fields. Moreover, it touched the literary arena as there are now the so-called electronic books and smart tablets for reading, electronic literature and others.

One of the most prominent intellectual works that receives wide response from the majority and from all age groups is the novel. It is not possible for a literary exhibition to pass without receiving dozens and hundreds of reading addicts, and most of the styles that receive wide demand are history novels, social novels, and detective novels. The latter, made a broad line for itself in the Arab and Western literary arena, and made for itself an audible global voice.

Unsurprisingly, Dan Brown is the first skillful American writer that wrote in that genre of novels and presented it to the world in a new form. He was called the writer who revived the publishing houses. He usually relies in his topics on an idea of history and deliberately touches prohibited issues and historical secrets that are seldom searched for by humans. By this, he achieved a mass base around the world, so you will not find a person around the world who does not know his name.

From this point of view, we wanted to highlight and focus the research on Dan Brown's novel *the Lost Symbol*, by discussing the most significant aspects of power, knowledge and religion in this novel.

This research is based on a number of important questions, including:

1. How did brown depict the concepts of knowledge and power in his novel?
2. What symbols does Dan Brown use in the novel of *The Lost Symbol*?

3. How does Langdon perceive the experience before making a journey to find the lost symbol?
4. What are the meanings of the symbols?
5. How did Brown portray religion and freemasonry in his novel?

Based on the research questions, several objectives have been established in this research, as follows:

1. To find out symbols used by Dan Brown in the novel "*The Lost Symbol*"
2. To describe the notion of knowledge and power in "*The Lost Symbol*" novel by Dan Brown.
3. To state the position of freemasonry and religion in the novel.

The importance of this study lies in highlighting the most important aspects and features of the detective novel, which are knowledge, power and religion (Christianity and freemasonry) in the novel *The Lost Symbol*, especially in mystery literature, or conspiracy literature which represents an important priority for many readers in the world. In addition to the message that the writer took upon himself, which is revealing the truth to the world because the current generation deserves to know the old hidden secrets in order to avoid future catastrophes and to be able to face forward progress and avoid going back to a period of backwardness.

Among the reasons that prompted us to choose this topic for study are the following:

1. This topic is currently considered an exciting idea on the literary scene and an exciting topic for discussion and analysis.
2. This type of novel is literally loaded with historical, artistic, religious, political and other information. The reader cannot leave Brown's work without questioning and without personal, intellectual and sometimes ideological shocks.

Determining the methodology used in the study depends on the objective of the research to be reached and the answers that it seeks to collect. The method used in this research is descriptive qualitative method. This method intends to describe all that is related to the concepts of power, knowledge and religion by giving clear illustrations in the novel *The Lost Symbol*.

From previous studies that dealt with the writer, scarce works in in the Arab world, as opposed to the Western world. for example TEBBA KHALIL, DETECTING THEDETECTIVE ELEMENTS IN DAN BROWN’S THE DA VINCI CODE, UNIVERSITY OF TELEMEN, MASTER’S DEGREE, 2015-2016. A master's thesis presented at the University of Tlemcen. This study focused on highlighting the detective characteristics in Dan Brown's work, with a short and general overview on His life.

Zorinsangi (2014) in his thesis entitled “SITUATING CHRISTIANITY AND POWER IN SELECT NOVELS BY DAN BROWN” highlights the most important features of the detective novel in deferent works of Dan Brown and he related more on the novel of *Angels and Demons* more than *the Lost Symbol*.

Imran (2013) in his thesis entitled “ANALYSIS OF SYMBOL DAN BROWN’S NOVEL “THE LOST SYMBOL” . In this thesis, the writer found out some symbols according to Jerry’s theory. ,the write found one symbols: Sacred Book. All symbols used in *The Lost Symbol* Novel by Dan Brown is to show, as Unite State of America is nation build from freemason spirit. Masonry is a system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols.

These studies did not delve into the study of Dan Brown's works. Perhaps the reason is the critics' rejection of the idea of mystery literature, detective fiction, and conspiracy theory.

This study comprises an introduction, two chapters, and a conclusion. The first chapter relates to defining the nature of the detective novel, as we describe its history and development,

in addition to the concept of the knowledge and power. Since the study is related to Dan Brown, it was natural to specify the first chapter in its entirety to present the circumstances that contributed to the birth of a genius writer and the emergence of one of the most famous colors of the world -novelist.

The second chapter presents a summary and general information about the novel *the Lost Symbol*, and then it discusses the notion of knowledge, power and religion by highlighting the most important aspects of Christianity and freemasonry in it.

Finally, we touched on the nature of Dan Brown's religious symbol and the reason why he supported this idea in all his works, especially since it has a direct relationship with his private life.

CHAPTER ONE:

The Detective Novel

Introduction

This chapter deals with the historical background of the American detective novel. It is divided into three sections. The first section discusses with the origin and development of the detective novel highlighting the best well-known novels and their features. While the second section deals the two most prominent features of the detective novel, which are knowledge and power. The third section presents a biography of the writer Dan Brown and his major works.

1. The Detective Novel: Origin and Development

Literary works are distinguished by the author's creativity and imagination, and his absolute control over a whole world of different characters, events, places and times. These works differ from one author to another according to his own taste and background. Among the genres that gained great popularity and attention from many readers are the detective novel, the police novel, the investigation novel, and other names. R. Freeman Austin supports this point in his book *The Art of The Detective Story* as he says:

There is no type of fiction that is more universally popular than the detective story. It is a familiar fact that many famous men have found in this kind of reading their favourite recreation, and that it is consumed with pleasure, and even with enthusiasm, by many learned and intellectual men, not infrequently in preference to any other form of fiction (09)

Others call it the mystery and enigma novel, because it carries hidden secrets and exciting events between its lines that make the reader unable to stay away from the world of the novel, but rather he transfers those events to his real world, desiring to reach a solution. The novel has its own nature in demonstrating the extent of the intertwining of the activating processes of the literary idea in order to equalize a text that comes out from the circle of time and place to the circle of existence, preparation and verification. Therefore, the reading masses eagerly seize it for the pleasure that only the arts provide in their charming way. Thus, verify the moral connection between the book and the reader.

The detective novel was able to transcend its agreed concept that it is “a literary form dressed in linguistic robes based on a number of forms and origins such as language, characters, time, place and event. These forms are linked by a range of techniques such as narration

description and plot and the struggle to reach an end drawn with extreme precision and great care” (Tabeel 02). This is the half of the structure or the external form of the novel, its imagined world is another dimension.

1.1. The Concept of the Detective Novel

Undoubtedly, the mysterious detective literature is known to be widespread in our time; rather, it is considered an amazing phenomenon due to the flock of readers to it in book shows, and the spread of huge numbers of it in the markets. This led to its critical and technical study and the treatment of this phenomenon by scholars and researchers.

As for this concept, it is many and varied due to the different orientations and ideas, some defined the detective novel as a work of art whose main idea is based on an informational conflict between two parties representing two or more countries. It is often based on realistic facts, and overlaps in the human dimensions, embodied by the movement of characters, relying on narrative means, to provide factors of excitement, suspense and anticipation, with a focus on the feature of ambiguity, which gives the novel another dimension, which indicates the genius of the writer.

In another concept, the detective novel is defined as “a type of fictional literature that presents to the reader a set of investigations in a special form known as the investigation novel or the crime novel” (Tebba 13). The ambiguity feature is mainly responsible for attractiveness and reader possession, the ambiguity stems from the concept of beauty that is complete in itself, you see it as beautiful, but it is not possible to define what beauty is, for there is coherence and consistency between the parts and this is what the creators of the creative text want. This concept remains a general one.

Moreover, there is a more accurate concept of the detective novel, which says that “the detective or police literature is a novel or a story that is based on the investigation process

carried out by the police or a special investigation in search of the perpetrator of the crime or several crimes and closes the search process with an interesting framework” (Dahou 05). In addition to leaving the door of the solution closed to increase the strangeness and ambiguity, and to leave the space for the reader to participate in the literary work.

We find some restrict it to a special definition and say, “The detective novel is a genre dedicated above all to discovering the ways by rational means and the precise circumstances of a strange accident. As for the more accurate concept of the detective novel, Dahou mentions that:

The detective novel is a very special color of literature that moves the reader to the world of crime that contradicts its events, and its movement to the monotony of daily life. It promises it the inevitability of achieving justice in the end, its heroes, two criminals who awaken in us an anxiety about the dangers that social life may carry, and a police officer or investigator harbors our anxiety and dissipates it by the virtue of his ability to triumph over the truth. (06)

From the foregoing it appears that most of the concepts agreed on considering the detective novel as one of the new, important and distinctive literary genres, and depends mainly on two important conditions, excitement and ambiguity, in the first and last it depicts a form of human life.

1.2. The Origins of the Detective Novel

In studying any of the literary genres that entered the portal of the American literature, it is necessary to study its origin and to refer to the signs of its emergence in the Western literature and to see the cycle of its transition to the American literature and the beginning of a new art.

Most studies agree on the idea of its origin. They considered that “the father of the detective novel is Edgar Allan Poe, and that its age does not exceed two centuries. This claim is doubtful, as there is evidence that Edgar Allan Poe borrowed the idea of the detective novel from another author named Voltaire in his work *ZADIG*. Francis Lexan reveals this in his saying: “When Edgar Allan Poe sent his detective Dupin to search in the streets of Morgue in 1841, he Remembered the talents of physiognomy and cleverness in guessing that characterized the character of the hero in the novel *ZADIG* in 1747”(Charchar 31). Thus, he has confirmed that Voltaire was the one who started this movement. Whereas the Critic Michael Loban insists that, the history of the detective novel does not go back to the ninth century, but rather is a genre embraced by the popular literature.

A new concept of the detective novel is formed from another angle, the detective novel, which was called the judicial novel, found its origin and development during the first half of the nineteenth century in the tumultuous period, when the governments succeeded, and each government had its own police and secret police (32). Despite these differences, except for the origin of this literary art, which belongs to Edgar Allan Poe. His stories, whose crimes Dupin is investigating, including *The Mystery of Marie Rogêt* and *The Purloined Letter*. He is considered to be more than one who wrote in this template and excelled in it.

Then the fame of another literary work by a well-known writer in this new literary production, the writer Charles Dickens, had an early contribution when he wrote his novel *Bleak House* in 1853. It is the story of an accomplice lawyer, who was killed in his office late at night, a number of undercover people appeared on the stairs leading to the office of the murdered lawyer that night, and the investigator had to decipher the secrets of the crime to find out the killer. In this novel, there are the elements of the mysterious detective literature.

The late nineteenth century and the beginning of the twentieth century witnessed the birth of a police personality at the hands of a genius writer who launched the art of the detective novel towards the world. You cannot find a person who does not hear the name of the Detective Sherlock Holmes.

This genius detective, who was able with his intelligence and acumen to reach the solution of the crime in every event he faces, the character of Sherlock Holmes, appeared for the first time in the writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle in his book *A Study in Scarlet* in 1887. This is what made Conan Doyle give up his job in the field of medicine and take up writing due to the fame he gained because of Sherlock. The strangest thing about the matter is that most of those who became famous in this art were doctors and surgeons.

Conan Doyle focused all his attention on the exciting and seductive detective writing for every reader, and wrote many works in it due to the great demand for it. An example of this is *The Memoirs of Sherlock Holmes* in 1894 and *The Hound of the Baskervilles* in 1902. Even after the death of the writer Conan Doyle, the character of Sherlock Holmes did not disappear, this character was able to maintain its place in the world literature, especially since it has become a global character. Everyone now knows who Sherlock is, the hero of detective stories. The character was able to become more famous than his owner was.

The writings of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle contributed to the revival of the phenomenon of the detective novel. There has been a lot of literature on it across Europe and abroad, and among the many novels, the first is the novel *The Circular Staircase* by Mary Roberts Rinehart, *Innocence of Father Brown* by G. K. Chesterton. In the midst of this creative revival, an important figure was formed in the world of the detective novel, who was able to take the lead in it and managed to preserve her title in the world of literature to this day.

The talk, of course, concerns the English writer Agatha Christie, an English writer best known for writing romance novels under the pseudonym Mary Westmacott. She is considered the greatest author of crime novels in history, selling more than a billion copies of her novels, which have been translated into more than 103 languages. Nevertheless, she did not achieve the international fame that Christie did.

Agatha Christie was able to sit on the throne of the detective novel. The study of the critic Julianne Semons had a role in proving Agatha Christie's creative position, Agatha did not write in a difficult Shakespearean language, but used an easy and smooth language that was accessible to the reader. Her first novel was *Snow upon the Desert*, which none of the publishers accepted, after which she wrote *The Mysterious Affair at Styles*, in which the Belgian detective Hercule Poirot appeared for the first time. This story made her enter the world of writing when one of the publishers accepted her after six publishers refused to print and distribute her novel. Among her most famous works are *Murder on the Orient Express* in 1934, *Death on the Nile* in 1937 and *And Then There Were None* in 1939.

The period of time in which Agatha Christie lived is considered a golden period for the detective novel. Other women writers in Europe have excelled and they are called the Four Knights: Dorothy Leigh Sayers, Ngaio Marsh and Margery Louise Allingham.

In the United States of America, the detective novel flourished, and many stories and tales spread with different names, most of which were collected by "BLACK MASK" magazine. John Daley, who told stories of true crimes of violence, distortion, criminalization and the judgment of justice that they deserve, publishes most of these writings. This is a clear example of diversity in the detective story.

The second half of the twentieth century was dominated by many political events such as the Cold War and the regional divisions of many countries. The political, national, and

historical character prevailed over the literary works and the reputation of the detective novel decreased, but both the writers Alexander Soljenitsyne and Sidney Sheldon continued to accept it, and the latter is considered as the spiritual father of the detective novel.

The American writer Dan Brown is currently occupying the world literary scene, and one of his most famous works is *The Da Vinci Code*, *Angels and Demons*, *the Lost Symbol*, *Inferno* and *Origin*.

American literature was able, or the American school was able to reach the international critical arena and establish a correct base for its thinkers and researchers, especially in the field of novel. The American pens used to choose poetry as a basic form of expression, the struggle of the fictional art intensified as a result of the continuation of the trend opposing it, especially the United States of America was living in the midst of the political conflicts and bloody civil wars.

Literature gained the thought of the American intellectuals at the time, after they followed and studied the various types of English, Greek and French literature. They began to pay attention to their literary tragedy and the gap that they found in an important field like this, its importance in showing the widespread thought of an era and directing the public opinion to ideals and helping in the social and cultural mobility. English critics such as Coleridge and Carlyle, and French critics such as Victor Cousin and William Eltry influenced them. The idea of nationalism dominated their literary logic and they began a qualitative shift to the platform of the American literature with a European fabric, but with an American spirit and pen.

Perhaps what contributed to the revival of the novel in America was that fertile intellectual environment that was characterized by diversity and plurality, in view of the human groups heading towards a new world from all parts of the earth, either as slavery, or as a rule of exile, or as an escape from a dark reality. America was from the beginning an ideal and

rational experiment with regard to the civil problems, as it proved that the art of the novel, with all its ingenuity, has its own field in which the aesthetic values stand out. We are currently seeing the fictional numbers achieved by the profits of the American novels with all their themes, forms and patterns, and perhaps the mystery literature, the detective literature and the horror literature are the best-selling novels around the world.

The list of American novelists remains as rich and diverse as the European list, beginning with Edgar Allan Poe, Ernest Hemingway, Stephen King, Mark Twain, and William James Durant. Currently, the well-known writer Dan Brown tops the list. This writer, who was considered by many readers as a literary phenomenon and a unique creative talent, deserves attention. His novels raised many questions and received a lot of stinging criticism about the topics that his novels carried. He was known for his selection of the topics related to the secret government bodies or the secret international organizations, and he repeated the subject of the conflict between science and religion in all his works. He dealt with Christianity in particular in most of his writings, and his last original novel is one of the most controversial literary novels, as it combines the issues of faith and atheism, which have become of interest to many now.

2. Knowledge vs. Power

“Knowledge is Power” is a very archaic aphorism, probably originated sometime around the 16th century. It clarifies that true power grows from the knowledge, but not from physical possessions. It is the knowledge we have that decides on how powerful we are rather than our physical attributes.

Knowledge and power are abstract concepts without any reference to the tangible world. They are very powerful connotations, yet they have no clear definition so far. From the Greek philosophers up to present experts in literature, people tried to define knowledge and power

but the results are still very obscure. Knowledge is always an exercise of power and power always a function of knowledge.

Knowledge is not something you acquire unexpectedly, you have to keep reading and learning new things to increase your knowledge. It is one of the most things that will keep the increase as you grow up. Knowledge is something that you can always depend on for your whole life. It is one of the most significant and vigorous things in the world. Plato the pioneering philosopher of rationalism explains this claim by his saying:

Knowledge is a result of a reasoning process and that our sensory experience plays no role. Knowledge can be obtained only from rational reasoning grounded in axioms, like in mathematics, and it should be distinguished from opinion, which is a product of our senses. In his theory about ideas, Plato makes a difference between a “cat” which represents a particular object in the real world and the concept of “cat” coming from the eternal world of *cattiness*. While the real “cat” is born and sometimes will die, the concept of “cat” remains in the eternal world of ideas. Knowledge belongs to that eternal world. Explaining the Plato’s framework of knowledge. (Bolisani, Ettore and Bratianu Quoted in. 02)

The Oxford English Dictionary (OED) defines the term knowledge in multiple kinds of categories and differentiates between various forms. The most conspicuous and comprehensible definition says that knowledge contains all facts, information or skills that can be acquired through experience or education. Furthermore, the OED defines knowledge as “the fact or state of knowing that something is the case”. This means “the condition of being aware or cognizant of a fact or state of affairs”. Knowledge may also describe the faculty of

understanding what includes that a person has a theoretical or practical understanding of a subject. While, it defines power as “the ability to control people or things”.

Nietzsche uses many allegories and definitions of ‘power’. Each of his texts or proverbs needs a reasoning with a deep idea; one must read what he says while imagining what he suggests, he claims it; “I no longer respect the reader: how could I write for readers? ... But I make notes for my own use.” (03). He realizes that the world is based on a certain desire which exists in every human being, this will he calls power; “This world is the will to power-and nothing besides! And even you yourselves are this will to power- and nothing besides!” (xix).

In their dissertation, entitled “*Power and Horror in Joseph Conrad’s Heart of Darkness (1899)*”, DJEBBAR Ghania and FELLAG Celia illustrate the claim of Nietzsche about power. They mention:

The term power evokes the might, physical force and even violence. It is true that for Nietzsche the will to power is not primarily the strength of the great man. For what he calls a great conqueror cannot be measured in terms of wealth or in terms of territory. He argues that power, spring and object of the will are first and foremost that of the mind. He effectively 8 supports the intellectual development, he states, only a renewed aristocratic sensibility, a new cultural elitism, can save us. (8)

Knowledge and power are important notions of Michel Foucault. According to him, power does not imply "ownership" like other scholars said; according to him power is not owned but is practiced in a certain scope where there are many positions strategically related to each other” (Aksin 65).

Unlike other scholars, Foucault focuses on the person or the smaller subject rather than the authority of the State, the sociopolitical system, the capitalist-proletarian structure, the master-slave relationship, or the periphery-center relationship. In addition, Foucault also talks more about “how power is practiced, accepted, and seen as truthful and functioning in a particular field”. Nietzsche whom he called a philosopher of power influenced the idea of Foucault’s power. However, Foucault has a feature that is he always link power and knowledge together.

According to Foucault, power is always inactivated through knowledge, and knowledge always has the influence of power, he assumes that power produces knowledge, they directly affect each other.

Power and knowledge are not seen as independent entities but are inextricably related—knowledge is always an exercise of power and power always a function of knowledge. Perhaps his most famous example of a practice of power/knowledge is that of the confession, as outlined in *History of Sexuality*. Once solely a practice of the Christian Church, Foucault argues that it became diffused into secular culture (and especially psychology) in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. Through the confession (a form of power) people were incited to “tell the truth” (produce knowledge) about their sexual desires, emotions, and dispositions. (Web)

In general, power and knowledge are two interchangeable items they affect each other. This means that power is constituted through accepted forms of knowledge.

3. Dan Brown as a Knowledge Man

In the United States of America, the international writer Dan Brown, who deservedly won the title of the most read writer in the world, topped the lists. How not, and his novel is sold in millions of copies and translated into all languages of the world, the most famous of which is *The Da Vinci Code*. Many questions were raised about him. His truth provoked the curiosity of the world to search for him, know him, and see the details of his life in order to reach his own world.

Dan Brown is the best-selling author in the history. He is the author of the well-known novel *The Da Vinci Code*, which has become one of the most famous novels in the world. Dan Brown's novels have been published in more than sixty languages around the world and have sold more than 200 million copy. The American Time magazine considered him among the 100 most influential people around the world. While publishers described him as the reason for the revival of the publishing field. He renewed the interest in Leonardo da Vinci and the history of Christianity.

Daniel Gerard Dan Brown was born on 22 June 1964, in Exeter, New Hampshire, United States of America. He is the eldest boy in his family. His father worked at the Exeter Academic School, New Hampshire, where his father, Richard Brown, taught mathematics and wrote many textbooks from 1968 to 1997. As for his mother, Connie Brown, She was a conservative Christian and committed to the teachings of the church. She worked as a volunteer in the church and played the organ, and she was a member of the choir.

In an interview with him with Al Arabiya channel within the activities of the International Book Fair in Sharjah, Dan Brown talked about his childhood in particular and said:

The interest in symbols and puzzles dates back to my childhood. My father was a mathematics professor who wrote with symbols, and my mother loved music and wrote with symbols. They always taught me riddles, and even the gifts were riddles that I could discover myself. This is what made me reflect it in my writings (interview)

This method was important in his life, as he focused on mentioning it in many of the meetings and gatherings he attended, as he always points out focuses on every distinct element in his writings, and links it to his private daily life. The writer remains the son of his environment and his text is inseparable from his daily details.

Brown wrote many different books, *Angel and Demons* (2000) and *The Da Vinci Code* (2003). They were the two first influential books in his career as a writer. Tebba illustrates this claim as he said:

Brown's first book was *Angel and Demons*, and then lately he gained a phenomenal success when his fascinating novel *The Da Vinci Code* was published. With this book, Dan Brown revived the history of myths, which seemed to have no more place in the contemporary literature. Since *The Da Vinci Code* is very connected to the former Brown's written books, readers were thrilled by it and went back to his previous novels hoping to discover more about the mystery genre and thriller. By making a huge success as becoming a great writer, Dan Brown gave up teaching and shifted his academic interests towards writing. (28)

In 1998, he published the *Digital Fortress*. He mentioned that the *Digital Fortress* is his first literary work, which did not receive much fame in its beginnings except after the spread of *The Da Vinci Code*. The idea of the novel has been circulating in Brown's mind for a long

time, and it was linked to an important incident in his work and with one of the school's students.

In 2001, he again published the *Deception Point* novel, which is his third novel, after *Angel and Demons*, published on the evening of the presidential elections. It is considered as his second novel, whose name is directly associated with an American regulatory body around which many doubts and secrets revolve, which is NASA organization. Dan Brown has always been interested in all matters related to technology and the developments related to it.

In 2009, his new novel, *LS*, where Robert Langdon continued his research, appeared and sold one million copies in North America alone. In 2013, Brown returned with a strong novel that was once again linked to the Christian religion and was directly linked to a historical figure Dante Alighieri, the novel of *Inferno*, and The thorny events of which Dr. Robert Langdon lives.

His novel is the novel *The Origin*, which was published in 2017, when Langdon continues his adventures in deciphering the codes and researching the secrets of history to discover the origin of humanity. This novel, which we can describe as really new, in which he moved away from Christianity and the struggles of the secret groups. He made the topic bigger and broader and focused more on the idea of the conflict between science and religion in the issue of creation, or as he mentioned in many interviews, “Science and religion tell the same story, but in two different languages”.

As for the writer's writing routine, he described it to many:

I get up every day at four in the morning, write for three hours, and ride my bike for long miles. I write throughout the year for three hundred and sixty-five days, and most of what I write is from my dreams, but I

do not write a single line without researching the information over and over again. I wish it was easier to write this kind of novel. (Interview)

He mocked his way of writing as well, he said:

Once I wrote for a long time and my eyes got tired, I sat against the gravity until the blood reached my head, from that day on, I loved this movement, as I write daily like this. I do not forget the merit of my wife, as she helps me in research, but most of the research I do personally, and how I wish that writing novels would take less time. (Interview)

In several interviews, he mentioned that his wife helps him in research, as she is a doctor with a specialization in art history.

In general, all of Brown's works were directly related to the Christian religion and its important global centers. The Vatican Church considered Dan Brown an atheist, and his novels were considered an insult to the Christian entity and a failed call to question the Christian religion.

Conclusion

The literary genre of mystery has its own taste, its special charm and its distinct rules. This clearly claims that the detective novel has its own rules to be written such as including motifs like knowledge, power, symbols, horror and terror. That is probably what led enormous writers such as Dan Brown to produce such tremendous and intricate, yet perfect stories and novels.

CHAPTER TWO:

Knowledge & Power in Dan Brown's The Lost Symbol

Introduction

The American novel *The Lost Symbol*, written by Dan Brown, depicts key aspects of the American Masonic detective literature, its plot woven around the secrets of Freemasonry. This novel shows that the United States of America is a nation built from freemason spirit.

This chapter is divided into four main sections. The first part deals with a general introduction to *the Lost Symbol* as a detective novel, while the second part deals with the representation of knowledge through symbols in the novel. The third part deals with a detailed explanation to the conception of power and truth with accordance to Michel Foucault. The fourth part ends up with a clear explanation to the notion of Christianity and freemasonry in the *Lost Symbol*.

1. About the Novel

This novel is considered as his third novel that treat the same subject, which is the religious and historical conspiracies. Readers considered it as a part of the series of the Adventures of Dr. Robert Langdon, who is the main character in it. It was published in 2009. In his thesis, entitled “Situating Christianity and Power in Select Novels by Dan Brown” Zorinsangi mentions that:

The Lost Symbol is a masterstroke of storytelling– a deadly race through a real-world labyrinth of codes, secrets, and unseen truths, all under the watchful eye of Brown’s most terrifying villain to date. Set within the hidden chambers, tunnels, and temples of Washington, D.C.

(13)

In an interview with Brown on Al-Arabiya channel, Brown mentioned important elements related to the emergence of this novel. He said:

This novel took me about six years, I even started in it before *The Da Vinci Code*, but it required more research, especially as it was related to Freemasonry. I was doing the research in disguise for fear that my research would stop, especially since it is a patriarchal society”. It is difficult to access the accurate information presented by Brown in his book. (Interview)

In an interview with the journalist Matthew Todd Lauer, Brown pointed out an interesting fact:

I do not believe in the idea of conspiracy theory and many of my readers may be shocked by that. I wrote about Freemasonry in *The Lost*

Symbol because symbols, ciphers, and puzzles always arouse my curiosity, because the human mind tends to dark secret issues that make us expect the worst and imagine the conflict between them. (Interview)

This means that Freemasonry must entice a writer who relishes the world of mystery and loves to navigate it.

1.1. Summary of the Novel

The novel begins with a phone call to Dr. Langdon by his friend's assistant, Dr. Peter Solomon, to give a lecture at the headquarters of the federal legislature or the US Congress in Washington. Langdon is surprised by an empty room, where he starts searching for his friend. He later knows that he did not call him but he is lured here to solve a new mystery to avoid a heinous crime. Langdon begins searching to find his friend Peter's hand cut off, and on each finger a Masonic symbol tattooed. On one of his fingers, there is a ring with another Masonic symbol related to the symbol of the Great Masons, which are the pyramid and the eye in the middle. These symbols meant the beginning of the rituals for transforming a man into a god.

Without realizing from Langdon, He was kidnapped by the CIA to find Peter and decipher the mystery of the Masonic pyramid. The one who called Langdon in the beginning asked him to bring a special box that Peter had delivered to him a long time ago. Mal'akh, who is the caller, thought that the box contains the key to salvation. He tricked Peter's sister Catherine, a physicist, destroyed her laboratory and tried to kill her, which made her join Langdon in trying to find Peter before killing him. They find out that Mal'akh is the one who kidnapped Peter.

Mal'akh was able to summon Langdon and Catherine to his house in order to continue his private Masonic rituals, where he takes the blood he needed from Catherine and Peter's hand. Then, he turns into the private temple, where he threatens Langdon to give him the lost

symbol from the box in order to complete the demonic rituals. Mal'akh confesses to Peter that he is his lost son. In Peter's attempt to save his son, the intelligence helicopter destroys the roof of the house, and Mal'akh is buried under the wreckage in the world of darkness forever after having thought that he was on a journey to ascend to divinity. The secret that was in the box was not a Masonic symbol, but another historical secret that Washington embraced for many years.

2. Knowledge in *the Lost Symbol*

“Knowledge grows exponentially. The more we know, the greater our ability to learn, and the faster we expand our knowledge base.”(Dan Brown 298)

The aforementioned epigraph explains that the more we learn about the world and the deeper our learning, the more conscious, specific, and articulate will be our knowledge of what we do not know. For this, indeed, is the main source of our ignorance, the fact that our knowledge can be only finite, while our ignorance must necessarily be infinite.

In the *Lost Symbol*, Brown presents the concept of knowledge in different and multiple forms. He depicts this concept through plentiful characters and symbols. Brown states that the protagonist Robert Langdon, an expert in symbols, he teaches the religious Symbolology and Art History at Harvard University, has a capability in revealing the *Lost Symbol* because he is a source of knowledge and a knowledgeable man in this field. He is trying to rend a series of invisible enigmas related to the Masonic secrets that are hidden in some of the Washington's most famous buildings.

Mal'akh knows that Robert has the ability in uncovering the *Lost Symbol* and he knows that Robert Langdon is the one and only creature in the universe, who can disclose the mystery of the *Lost Symbol*. Langdon is able to, by relying on his knowledge of the ancient symbols

and codes, decipher the enigmatic pyramid, find the villain, and prevent him from revealing all the secrets of the Masonic brotherhood's rituals and members.

Despite not being a member of the Masons, Langdon is exposed to the Lost Word, the Bible, buried deep within the Washington Capitol building by George Washington (a prominent Mason) and is reminded of the godlike powers of the individual.

By using the hand mystery, Mal'akh wants to give a 'greeting' to Robert Langdon. He wants to make Langdon knows that he is the only man in the world who will unlock the mystery of the lost symbol for him. Langdon understands that the hand mystery has a meaning as the invitation. In other word, Langdon understands that the invitation is for him. In addition, the invitation is the tool to summon Robert Langdon in revealing the lost symbol.

Another symbol, which is prevailed in the novel, there is character named Katherine Solomon. She is one of the woman characters in this novel. She escorts Robert Langdon in revealing the Lost Symbol. In this term, Katherine Solomon is a representing of knowledge. Katherine Solomon is a neurotic scientist. A science of mind and intellectual.

Brown depicts Katherine Solomon as a 'female' in a very conservatively traditional connotation of the word, with the exception her role as a scientist. She is described as a catchy and very sensitive character, often putting herself and others in danger in order to find and save her brother. Her enduring worry for him is quite irrational at times, given the time-sensitive nature of concordant crises. This irrationality is amplified when juxtaposed with the actions of Langdon and William Bellamy, who are focused on assessing the repercussions of deciphering the pyramid, even though doing so could save Peter's life. Katherine's emotionally driven behavior pushes Langdon to decode the pyramid, an event described as grievous, with all the rebuke being allotted to the Solomon sister. She is also appeared as the overused stereotypical

archetype for female characters, that of the “damsel in distress,” with both Langdon and Peter citing her safety as rudimentary reasons for their actions and decisions. Brown mentions:

“Despite her brother’s occasional prodding, and no shortage of suitors, Katherine had never married. Science had become her life partner, and her work had proven more fulfilling and exciting than any man could ever hope to be. Katherine had no regret”. (44)

Her roomy knowledge is one of the signs that she is representing as knowledge. As Brown says:

“Katherine’s two books on Noetics had established her as a leader in this obscure field, but her most recent discoveries, when published, promised to make Noetic Science a topic of mainstream conversation around the world”. (44)

The overhead quotation portrays how competent Katherine Solomon is.

Moreover, Solomon goes on to say that what Revelation is all about is the considerable enlightenment of the humankind that is coming– coming through things like Noetic Science, but also by studying the ancient symbols in books like the Bible. He represented the bible and noetic science as sources of knowledge and enlightenment to the humanity. Solomon says:

We are in that narrow window of time during which we will bear witness to our ultimate renaissance. After millennia of darkness, we will see our sciences, our minds and even our religions unveil the truth....The Book of Revelation is a vibrant example of our shared truth. The last book of the Bible tells the identical story as countless other traditions. They all predict the coming unveiling of great wisdom. (Brown 409-410).

To sum-up, knowledge is an important indicator was portrayed in deferent forms in *The Lost Symbol*. It is a source of humankind enlightenment and prosperity.

3. Power in the *Lost Symbol*

The Lost Word is not a metaphor....it is real. The Word is written in an ancient language...and has been hidden for ages. The Word is capable of bringing unfathomable power to anyone who grasps its true meaning.” (Brown 566)

The Lost symbol is the locus and target of the story because this is the thing what Mal’akh wants. Finding the lost symbol is the viaduct for Mal’akh to realize what he is dreamed for (power and infinity).

The Hand Mystery as a symbol is Mal’akh’s desire to transform himself to be the greatest one that has a great power. The only way to get what he wants is by uncovering the enigma of the ancient symbol or the Lost Symbol. In this case, Mal’akh cannot reveal the ancient secret symbol, so he uses the hand Mystery as the “viaduct” to connect him with Robert Langdon, the person who is able to reveal the lost symbol. Brown illustrates that by his saying:

“A wave of nausea rushed over him. Langdon inched closed, unable to breathe, seeing now that the tips of the index finger and thumb had been decorated with tiny tattoos. The tattoos, however, were not what held Langdon’s attention. His gaze moved instantly to the familiar golden ring on the fourth finger. ” (69)

In this story, Brown noted that Mal’akh as a character is representing the human desires. He is portrayed as the human desires because he has a powerful wish or willingness in doing something that is changing him to be the greatest and powerful one in the world.

“Zachary became Andros. Andros became Mal’akh. And tonight...Mal’akh will become his greatest incarnation at all.” (Brown 590).

The quotation is the representament that indicates Mal’akh’s desire. It can be seen from his personal and identity alteration from Zachary, Andros, and Mal’akh. Brown adds:

“The moment Zachary received the money; he broke from the family, disappearing from the house without taking any of his belongings. He surfaced a few months later in the tabloids: TRUST FUND PLAYBOY LIVING EUROPEAN HIGH LIFE. The tabloids took joy in documenting Zachary’s spoiled life of debauchery. The photo of wild parties on yachts and drunken disco stupors were hard for the Solomon’s to take,” (281).

Brown boosts his aforementioned quotation about M’alakh transformation to be the powerful one by another explanation. He says:

“He chose a Greek name – Andros Dareios – Andros meaning ‘warrior’, and Dareios meaning ‘wealthy’.[...] he began life anew – exploring never-before-imagined pleasures. The serenity of sailing alone on the ink-blue Aegean Sea became his new heroin trance; the sensuality of sucking moist arni souvlakia right off the skewer became his new Ecstasy; and rush of cliff diving into the foam-filled ravines of Mykonos became his new cocaine”. (306)

Added to this, Mal'akh describes himself as a masterpiece and a powerful man because of the tattoos in his body (tattoos as a symbol of power). He is considered to represent the immortality and resurrection. He says, “I am a masterpiece” (Brown 416).

Mal'akh has sneaked the organization in order to secure an ancient source of power, which he believes Langdon can unlock for him in return for Peter Solomon's life. As Langdon deals with the events into which he has been thrust, Mal'akh destroys the laboratory of Dr. Katherine Solomon, Peter's younger sister, where she has conducted experiments in Noetic Science, in the process ambushing and almost killing Katherine, but she manages to escape and meet up with Langdon and Bellamy.

However, instead of just leaving Katherine's position as the sister of an remarkable male character, Peter, Dan Brown attempts to weave her deeper into the storyline by presenting her niche area of research in Noetics. It also gives her a posture of power and knowledge over the other characters in that her research is very closely linked to what the psychopath seeks and the Masons are trying to preserve the Lost Word and the power of the human mind. It is delightful to note that she discloses this research to the cleverly disguised antagonist, who burns it, while the Masonic brotherhood, who are protecting a similar secret, manage to preserve it throughout. There is an analogous here with the Eve and the poisonous apple story, where Katherine's fault nearly assures the doom of the human knowledge, with the addition of the Masonic brotherhood acting as a saving grace. She reflects upon this instance as she lies, dying, and deems upon how fruitless her life had been now that none of her research on Noetics would outlive her. Ironically, Langdon pursues a comparable thought process when he is inches away from death, ruminating upon how fruitless he and his intellect would be after his death.

In contrast, the Director of the CIA Inoue Sato is depicted as a strong-willed and powerful woman, and provides an exemption to the previously mentioned features. She is portrayed as hushing various manly features, her voice being one of them. She does hold a lot of power over many other characters, including Langdon and Warren Bellamy, a high-ranking Mason. Her ability to command and dominate even the most powerful characters in the novel.

When drawing an analogy between Katherine and Sato, especially based on their interactions, there seems to be a power-influenced hierarchy that comes into play. It is characterized primarily by Sato ordering Katherine to obey her orders, as she is a top-ranking official in the CIA (power based on position). It seems that the central theme that locates the interaction among these characters is the allotment of power.

Furthermore, Katherine insists on the concept of truth and power to enlighten the human kind. She states how truths are tampered or altered by the changing times is only a small fragment of the much larger reflection of the conflict between science and Christianity in the novel as Michael Foucault explains. Brown points out that:

“Truth has power. And if we all gravitate toward similar ideas, maybe we do so because those ideas are true...written deep within us. And when we hear the truth, even if we don't understand it, we feel that truth resonate within us...vibrating with our unconscious wisdom. Perhaps the truth is not learned by us, but rather, the truth is re-called...re-membered...re-cognized...as that which is already inside us.” Foucault uses the term ‘power/knowledge’ to signify that power is constituted through accepted forms of knowledge, scientific understanding and ‘truth’. (64)

Another symbol was used by Brown in the novel which is The double headed phoenix. It is a fabulous bird called the Phoenix size and shape resembles an eagle. This bird is said that while his death, his body open and emerged phoenix reborn. Because this bird is a reference symbol considered to represent immortality and power. Mal'akh made the double-headed Phoenix tattooed in his chest as a sign that he was reborn as a masterpiece and a powerful man. A sign of perfection.

His massive body was shaved and smooth. He lowered his gaze first to his feet, which were tattooed with the scales and talons of a hawk. Above that, his muscular legs were tattooed as carved pillars—his left leg spiraled and his right vertically striated. *Boaz and Jachin*. His groin and abdomen formed a decorated archway, above which his powerful chest was emblazoned with the double-headed phoenix . . . each head in profile with its visible eye formed by one of Mal'akh's nipples. His shoulders, neck, face, and shaved head were completely covered with an intricate tapestry of ancient symbols and sigils. (Brown 09)

Furthermore, the masonic ring is a sign that the owners of the masonic ring are powerful people in the freemasonry. Certain people only use it, which are in position 33-degree mason highest degree. Powerful Mason highest degree earned only by those who truly have come to the perfect initiation to receive all the secrets mason.

Finally, the Bible is actually considered as the true Masonic secret, which is the source of power. In his attempt to explain why the Bible has endured through the ages, Peter Solomon, Robert Langdon's mentor and a Mason states the following:

“Why do you think the Bible has survived thousands of years of tumultuous history Why is it still here Is it because its stories are such compelling reading Of course not ... but there is a reason. There is a reason Christian monks spend lifetimes attempting to decipher the Bible. There is a reason that Jewish mystics and Kabbalists pore over the Old Testament. And that reason Robert is that there exist powerful

secrets hidden in the pages of this ancient book ... a vast collection of untapped wisdom waiting to be unveiled. (Brown 458)

The Lost Symbol mentioned in the novel is the thing that will make the life of the antagonist M'alakh change and realize his dream to be the most powerful man in the world. The bible would solve such enigma and Robert Langton is the only man who can make the dream of the antagonist comes true.

The Bible is one of the books through which the mysteries have been passed down through history. Its pages are desperately trying to tell us a secret. (664)

4. Christianity and Freemasonry in *the Lost Symbol*

Most of the contradictions, and mysteries that surrounded the Freemasonry since its inception, and until the present day, the American writer "Dan Brown" solved its hidden secrets in his latest novel *The Lost Symbol*. Tracing the decipherment of its slogans to write a wonderful poem in praise of "the Freemasonry", and present a letter of thanks to the "Great Freemasons". Those who built America and its present symbol is the capital, "Washington".

It was no secret that D.C. had a rich Masonic history. The cornerstone of this very building had been laid in a full Masonic ritual by George Washington himself. This city had been conceived and designed by Master Masons—George Washington, Ben Franklin, and Pierre L'Enfant— powerful minds who adorned their new capital with Masonic symbolism, architecture, and art. (Brown 24)

With this novel, the follower of this writer's works discovers the true purpose of his two previous novels that established the world on the Catholic Church, which are called *The*

Da Vinci Code and *Angels and Demons*. In the first, he torpedoed the principle of the virginity of Christ, so a wife and a descendant appeared for him, while in the second, he exposed the Vatican Church and the College of the Cardinals in it. He showed them in a way that is no different from any mafia organization in Italy. A recent study of the Masonic lodge revealed that this church had dealt the first and decisive blow to those who considered the nucleus of establishing these lodges.

In his current novel, *The Lost Symbol*, with his fun style, and his ability to attract the reader, the writer was penetrating in the symbols of Freemasonry, and unraveling its ambiguities. In fact, he was trying to polish the image of the American Masonic lodge and Christianity.

Langdon nodded, 'A very old myth. The secret of the Ancient Mysteries is pre-Christian, actually. Thousands of years old.'

'And yet it's still around?'

'As are many equally improbable beliefs.' Langdon often reminded his students that most modern religions included stories that did not hold up to scientific scrutiny: everything from Moses parting the Red Sea...to Joseph Smith using magic eyeglasses to translate that Book of Mormon from a series of gold plates he found buried in upstate New York. Wide acceptance of an idea is not proof of its validity. (Brown 156)

In *The Lost Symbol*, It is assumed that the Christian Church is trying to suppress the fact, apparently the doctrine of Freemasonry, that everyone secretly worships the Egyptian sun god Ra. Brown again offers a new definition of Jesus Christ and a new conception of the Bible. He says:

Mal'akh gazed at the window, which displayed part of the church's doctrinal statement: We believe That Jesus Christ Was Begotten by The Holy Spirit, and born of The Virgin Mary, and is Both True man and God.

Mal'akh smiled. Yes, Jesus is indeed both – man and God – but a virgin birth is not the prerequisite for divinity. That is not how it happens.

(356)

Zorinsangi mentions that:

The Biblical references abound in the book, central to the plot is the notion that mankind can become gods through discovering the 'Ancient Mysteries,' and Brown selects strategic passages to imply the Bible secretly supports this idea.(49)

Enough signals indicate Jesus as a mythical character to heal the sick by focusing on his mental energy. On the behalf of Dan Brown, Warren Bellamy, a close friend and Masonic brother of Peter Solomon told Langdon:

'I can see your dilemma, Professor. However, both the Ancient Mysteries and Masonic philosophy celebrate the potentiality of God within each of us. Symbolically speaking, one could claim that anything within reach of an enlightened man...is within reach of God.' Langdon felt unswayed by the wordplay.

'Even the Bible concurs,' Bellamy said. 'If we accept, as Genesis tells us, tha God created man in his own image, then we also must accept what this implies – that mankind was not created inferior to God. In Luke 17:20 we are told, the kingdom of God is within you.'

‘I’m sorry, but I don’t know any Christians who consider themselves God’s equal.’

‘Of course not,’ Bellamy said, his tone hardening. ‘Because most Christians want it both ways. They want to be able to proudly declare they are believers in the Bible and yet simply ignore those parts they find too difficult or too inconvenient to believe’. (356-357)

These aspects assert that God and man are essentially alike, and that man is not inferior to his procreator.

Dan Brown has stated in his novels that the secret societies and organizations that appear in his novels are based on fact. His treatment of Freemasonry is overwhelmingly positive in *The Lost Symbol*. ‘The Lost Symbol’ is a pyramid that character Robert Langdon carries around in search of clues. The pyramid does not appear in the symbolism of regular, accepted Freemasonry or its appendant groups, the Scottish rite or the York Rite. This is a long-standing myth.

The first appearance of the masonic brotherhood in the novel was when the character Mal’akh was asked to pronounce a faithful agreement in front of the other Masonic members. This agreement is about the confession that Mal’akh is the new member of the highest degree in the Masonic brotherhood.

The aspects of freemasonry are overwhelmed in use in the novel through many symbols and motifs. *The Hand of the Mysteries* goes by many other names, including the Hand of the Master Mason, Hand of the Philosopher, and the Emblematic Hand of Mysteries. It is used by Freemasonry to tell the secret of knowledge and wisdom to the selected one.

In ancient times, the Hand of the Mysteries actually served as the most coveted invitation on earth. To receive this icon was a sacred summons

to join an elite group—those who were said to guard the secret wisdom of all the ages. The invitation not only was a great honor, but it signified that a master believed you were worthy to receive this hidden wisdom.

The hand of the master extended to the initiate. (Brown 34)

The Akedah knife, which one of the most famous objects mentioned by the masonic brotherhood. M'alakh asked peter to stab him with that knife. The Akedah knife is a masonic ritual; it is the same knife that Abraham used with Isaac. Brown mention that:

The Akedah had always been sacred in Masonic ritual. In the very first degree, Masons celebrated “the most august gift ever offered to God . . . the submission of Abraham to the volitions of the supreme being by proffering Isaac, his firstborn . . .” (295).

The masonic pyramid, which represents the humankind spiritual and physical evolution. It is a sacred object to the freemasonry to protect the ancient mysteries.

And here they built an impenetrable fortress—a hidden pyramid—designed to protect the Ancient Mysteries until the time that all of mankind was ready to handle the awesome power that this wisdom could communicate. According to the myth, the Masons crowned their great pyramid with a shining, solid-gold capstone as symbol of the precious treasure within—the ancient wisdom capable of empowering mankind to his full human potential. Apotheosis.”(Brown 29)

The Chamber of reflection, Brown shows that The Chamber of reflection is about the Mason's mortality. In this room, a mason meditates about the meaning of life in which that we have to face death than gain valuable life. The *Masonic ring*, which has different

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referencing colors to differentiate where lodge he is a member of or a certain degree of status in the society of masons (position of the mason).

Freemasonry played a significant role in Brown's *the Lost Symbol*. It shows the position where the characters of brown are in the society of masons. This also shows the importance of religion in brown's work.

Conclusion

The American detective novel *the Lost Symbol*, written by Dan Brown, depicts the main aspects of the masonic American detective literature. Brown used different symbols in order to conceptualize the fact that some individual are more powerful than others are and so are more knowledgeable than others with accordance to Michel Foucault concepts of power and knowledge. Added to this, he used other symbols to uncover and decipher the secrets of the masonry as a secret society.

GENERAL CONCLUSION

The genre of the novel that we relied on as a research model is from the detective literature. It is true that the model that has been used dealt with a murder and it was the driver of events, but most of the things were historical information, and an accurate description of many specific places in the novels. The most prominent was the ambiguity surrounding the story as a whole. Therefore, this study aimed at highlighting the most important aspects and features of the detective novel, which are knowledge, power and religion (Christianity and freemasonry) in the novel of *the Lost Symbol* as well as finding out the most important symbols used by Dan Brown in the novel. Added to this, describing the conceptions of knowledge and power in the novel as well as stating the position of Dan Brown from freemasonry and Christianity as religion in *The Lost Symbol*.

Dan Brown believed in the idea of conveying the truth to the world, regardless of the circumstances and results. The courage of Brown was prominent in the quality of the topics he chose for writing, such as Christianity, union and progress, especially the topic of Freemasonry.

After analyzing the novel in the preceding chapters, it can be noted that Dan Brown makes the conflict between knowledge and power to be the center in *The Last Symbol* because he admires the fact that power is not enough to enlighten the humankind but rather it needs knowledge. Through the symbols described by Brown about knowledge and power notions, he pointed out that all knowledgeable characters are powerful such as Robert Langton and Katherine Solomon, while individuals that are powerful lack knowledge such as M'alakh. Brown assures Foucault's claim about power that it is exercised, rather than possessed through the actions and description of his characters in the novel. He states that does not belong to anyone, nor does it emanate from one specific location.

Moreover, Dan Brown insists that Freemasonry is not a religion but it is an organization. He said about the Freemasonry: “in the world there are people who argue whose God is the rightes, I honour very much to this organization which receives people who have different religion but ‘eat together’ in the situation of brotherhood and good friendship”. Brown is interested to reveal the secrets of freemasonry and its relation to Christianity in this novel. He tried to explain to his readers that *The Lost Symbol* means the lost word of Freemasonry, which is the key to understand the novel entirely.

For Brown, religious belief required him 'to accept everything on faith' while scientific knowledge, or empirical knowledge, is much more solid and easy to trust than religious knowledge. Science became easy to trust and depend on, 'faith' or religious knowledge seemed much harder to accept and approach.

In sum, detective literature needs extensive study in order to occupy its real place in the literary arena, while some consider it police literature and others consider it historical literature, in fact it is more general than that and combines all of that.

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ملخص

تعد الرواية البوليسية واحدة من أبرز الأمثلة التي تشغل ساحة النقاش حالياً، فقد انتشرت روايات الغموض الأمريكية في كل بقاع العالم، واستطاعت أن تتمكن من ميزة الإثارة والتشويق لتحقيق عالميتها. يعد دان براون من بين أحد المؤلفين الأمريكيين الذين كتبوا روايات مدروسة جيداً تركزت على المنظمات السرية والصراع بين العلم والدين وكانت لها حيكات معقدة. اشتهر بسلسلة روبرت لانغدون، والتي تضمنت بشكل خاص رواية الرمز المفقود، والتي تعتبر جوهر هذه الدراسة. ومنه تهدف هذه الرسالة لإمالة اللثام عن جانب هام من الدراسة وهو ابراز بعض جوانب القوة والمعرفة وفقاً لنظرية ميشال فوكو التي ناقشها الكاتب دان براون في روايته رواية الرمز المفقود. إضافة إلى هذا، تهدف هذه الدراسة إلى اكتشاف الماسونية كديانة مرتبطة بالمسيحية ورموزها وكذلك تواجدها في المباني التاريخية بالعاصمة واشنطن كما كشفتها الرواية. ووسمت هذه الرسالة بالعنوان التالي: "المعرفة والقوة في رواية الرمز المفقود للكاتب دان براون"

الكلمات المفتاحية: الرواية البوليسية، الرمز المفقود، المعرفة، القوة، الماسونية.