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## MYSTIC BINDING GRASSROOTS OF RELIGION: TRUE RESURRECTION AND UNIVERSAL ONENESS IN THE ROZABAL LINE BY ASHWIN SANGHI

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The Rozabal Line is a thriller mystery, which redefines the whole notion of religion. The plot's fictional stories are supported by the non-fictional facts that actually happened or were written about. A thriller to the core based on the theory that Jesus survived the crucifixion and came to India to spend rest of his life in Kashmir, not only questions the faith but the religion in itself. The outcome in this novel is in Srinagar where the 3 ladies meet and make Vincent realize the nature of their existence.

Sanghi has been hailed as the "Indian Dan Brown". *The Rozabal Line* is a theological thriller that revolves around the popular speculation that Jesus visited India. It can also be termed a 'Historical Fiction' novel which revolves around the conspiracy theory of the supposed survival of Jesus from the crucifixion, his marriage to Mary Magdalene before the crucifixion, and his subsequent settling and finally death in what is now in the modern day Indian Kashmir.

This novel is fast paced and on similar lines as the world famous "Da Vinci Code" by Dan Brown, where it talks about Jesus and Mary Magdalene marrying and having a daughter. But this novel doesn't stop there, it goes many steps further and goes on to derive that Jesus was inspired by Hinduism and Buddhism as a youth and his preaching's are in line with those of these two religions. Sanghi presents an exhilarating trumped-up story of religion, politics and spirituality in an elite manner. The novel manages to touch all the major religions and draws a link between all of them, strengthening the claim that all religions evolved from one. Sanghi has woven different Mythological stories with contemporary world very flawlessly. His research carries an authority of a Historian and his writing a mark of excellence.

An interesting thing about the name 'Shawn Haigins' is that it is the anagram for 'Ashwin Sanghi'. Sanghi has used many anagrams in this novel too. One such anagram is 'Isabel Madonna', for 'Osama Bin Laden'. *The Rozabal Line* is dark, full of anagrams, hidden truths and clandestine societies. It traces back the history of Christianity, Buddhism, Islam and bits of Hinduism to their very roots. It establishes that Jesus lived after Crucifixion and not just visited but stayed, lived and died in India and that different people fighting for the religious superiority are basically cousins from a large clan spread all around the globe fighting for the ultimate supremacy and power. The peculiarity of the *Rozabal line* is that several stories go parallel to each other until they intersect at the climax, everything making perfect sense. The book spans the globe with Vatican, London, Jerusalem, Pakistan, Japan, In India with Kashmir, Goa and Delhi, then Afghanistan, Tibet and America,...He has presented religion, spirituality, Karma, politics and terrorism in a unique blend and has written about it with grace and flowing ease. He is a master of facts and anagrams, ciphers, codes and decoding. The story takes place across continents and time zones.

The *Rozabal Line* begins with the murder of Professor Terry Acton. Before being murdered he had passed over some secret documents to Vincent Sinclair. Were those documents the reason for Acton's death? Is that why the *Crux Decusuta Permuta* is following Vincent? Why is the *Crux Decusuta Permuta* funding the *Isabel Madonna Trust*? What is the role of the *Illuminati* in these happenings?

The plot is woven around the destruction of the world on 21.12.2012, and in his version terrorists, religion and politics are an indispensable element in the wheel. At one side, there is Church, and at the other side, there are *Illuminati*, Church wants to hide facts about Jesus being a normal man, and his lineage afterwards, and *illuminati* wanted just the opposite, even by hiring Terrorists, and bombing a nuclear device in Pakistan. But the truth is not so simple, it is tangled, and the characters are merged in between, like Father Vincent Sinclair, his psychic aunt Martha, RAW chief Prithviraj, a Japanese killer woman on loose, Swakilki, and the head of *Opus Dei* Alberto Valerio, his aide Father Thomas Manning, and the terrorist head Ghalib. The main plot is linked to a sub plot which traces the life of Jesus and throws light on the oft debated question of Christ being buried in India. The story revolves round the protagonist Vincent Sinclair and his hunt around the world to unveil the mystery of his present and past life which concludes in India. The existence of three supplementary characters viz. Alissa, Martha and Swakilki and their correlation to Indian goddess, the holy trinity will definitely swirl your mind that is resolved in the end and that elaborates oneness of all religions.

In England, a professor is killed and his head is found in a library. Vincent Sinclair is a Christian priest, who starts seeing flashes from his previous lives at the time of his parents' funeral. He being a Christian priest initially doesn't believe in rebirth, how can he question his faith but to his surprise, his aunt Martha is a healer who helps him see his previous life flashes and he realizes he was the one who bore Christ's cross, as Simon in

a previous life and realizes that Christ didn't die on the cross but survived the ordeal. This opens up a lot of questions on his faith on his core being which prompts him to travel to India in search of truth which the Vatican City wants to stay hidden forever. Shadowing his every move is the Crux Decussata Permuta, a clandestine society which would rather wipe out creation than allow an ancient secret from being disclosed. In a parallel thread, a terrorist group of 13 Jihadis are planning mass destruction, to mark the end of the world and to prove to the world that their religion is the supreme one. So a group Crux Decussata Permuta inspired by Opus Dei is helping the Jihadis and financing a Japanese assassin. The story depicts them in the same light as Jesus and his 12 disciples, not mentioning specifically but the question does arise in mind, whether the leader of this group is the descendant of Jesus, his bloodline.

The gist or the storyline of *The Rozabal Line* is Jesus Christ had not died on the cross after all but was drugged, revived and spirited to safety. If it is established that he like St. Thomas survived for decades in India that news could overthrow the church pecking order and chain of command. A Vatican sect the "Crux Decussata Permuta"; militant Muslim agents reporting to a Bin Laden join together known only as The Sheikh; and even the shadowy Illuminati contest to contour the world's beliefs and progress their pointed schema. The author points to a real subject ripe for further investigation "The Roza Bal Line" and comes down firmly against resentment between major religions which may be more directly associated than any imagined before.

At a talk delivered in Chennai, the author explained, "We assume the different faiths are distinctly different, but once you start tracing back the roots of their beliefs, you find their origins are much closer that you might imagine."

The novel spins its yarn around this concept that whole of *humanity believes redemption and salvation is in store when the souls arise and come together with that supreme Soul. That is the true resurrection or rebirth. If this universal truth of oneness in religion, faith and humankind is understood by each and every one, then sublime peace thrives over all differences.*