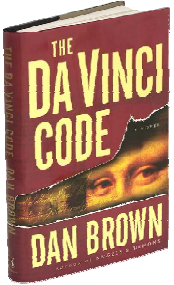


# Staff Musings: The Da Vinci Code



The Da Vinci Code hit the streets with a big bang recently.

The call to ban the film in many countries has largely gone unheeded and the Da Vinci Code, like the Great Flood during Noah's time, has influenced the masses with its persuasive delusion.

In the height of the controversies, a friend asks, "What then, is your church's response to the movie"? The clarion call by the churches in Malaysia is to continue to pray that the truth will eventually triumph, while making the facts of its case known to all.

While the newspapers have hyped up the movie, with the media campaign deemed generally a success, the Da Vinci Code is not the only challenge facing the Christian Church over the centuries.

History has seen countless challenges faced by the Christian church but the Church continues to triumph at the end of the day.

The Bible has been dissected and bisected over the centuries by people including the more recent atheists-turned-believers like C.S. Lewis and Josh McDowell, who subsequently became believers and wrote books such as "The World of Narnia" and "Evidence that Demands a Verdict," which have sold in the millions.

The Christian Church has also seen books like "Chariots of the Gods" and "The Gospel of Judas" which are nothing but efforts by a few individuals, who want to ride on the crest of controversies to reach the height of their own fame.

It is strange that the masses, otherwise not believing in the historical Jesus, would suddenly choose to believe in a fiction like the Da Vinci Code. If these fictions by various controversial writers are put together, there is a serious disagreement even among themselves as to who the real Jesus is.

The Christian response to the Da Vinci Code can be summed up with one word, "longsuffering" which is clearly depicted by the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, and the resurrection that follows three days after.

The other mega blockbuster, "The Passion of Christ" was never allowed to be screened in the cinemas. In this movie, Jesus of the Bible was whipped, and his flesh was torn apart by the impact of the Roman whip. Finally, the nails that went through his wrists held the dead body for public ridicule, yet he did not fight back, waiting for the third day, which he had foretold to his disciples was the day he would be raised from the dead.

The silence of the Malaysian Christian community is therefore not a phenomenon. It may appear unusual in the eyes of many why Christian leaders have not generally reacted violently to the Da Vinci Code except to present its case.

If it took 20 centuries for Dan Brown to decode what he believes to be the Da Vinci Code, either he has finally done the world a great favour like many of his counterparts that had come and gone, or he needs to take a serious review of his claims.

A quote from a Christian website (<http://www.gnmagazine.org/realstory/>) puts it so well: "Today Jesus continues to be a controversial figure who continues to arouse passions." To echo the words of another author, who studied the claims of Jesus Christ, the Jesus of the Bible is either a liar, a lunatic or he is what he claims to be – Jesus the Messiah.

The Christian community knows that while the rest of the world choose to believe in the fiction of the Da Vinci Code, the real Jesus who has suffered more than the ridicule from this one movie, will eventually triumph amidst the controversies.

Will the real Jesus please stand up?

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