

The Da Vinci Code
Part Three

I. What does the Bible say about Mary Magdalene?

Mt. 27:56, 61 28:1 Mark 15:40, 47 16:1,9
Luke 8:2 24:10 John 19:25 20:1, 11, 16, 18

II. What about the Grail Legend

A. Holy Blood, Holy Grail

1. Mary is the Holy Grail
2. Mary is Jesus' wife

B. In fact, there is no story of the Holy Grail until the 11th century.

C. "The Grail is literally the ancient symbol for womanhood, and the Holy Grail represents the sacred feminine and the goddess, which of course has now been lost, virtually eliminated by the Church." 238

D. No reliable historical record claims that Jesus was married to anyone.

E. Though The Da Vinci Code argues otherwise (p. 245) Jewish males were not required to be married.

III. What do the Gnostics say about Mary Magdalene?

A. Mary says in her only quote in the *Gospel of Thomas*, "Whom are your disciples like?" (section 21, trans. Thomas O. Lambdin).

B. She is mentioned one other time in the Gospel of Thomas: Simon Peter said to them, "Let Mary leave us, for women are not worthy of Life." Jesus said, "I myself shall lead her in order to make her male, so that she too may become a living spirit resembling you males. For every woman who will make herself male will enter the Kingdom of Heaven." (section 114)

C. In the Gospel of Peter she is simply called "a disciple of the Lord."

D. In "The Dialogue of the Savior" she is called a woman "who knew the all."

E. In "The Sophia of Jesus the Christ" Mary asks questions of Jesus "Holy Lord, where did your disciples come from, and where are they going, and (what) should they do here?" (section 114, trans. Douglas M. Parrott).

F. The Pistis Sophia

1. Mary "whose heart is more directed to the Kingdom of Heaven than all [her] brothers" (Chapter 17, trans. Carl Schmidt and Violet MacDermott).
2. Jesus says she is "blessed beyond all women upon the earth. because [she shall be] the pleroma of all Pleromas and the completion of all completions" (section 19).
3. She is the blessed one who will "inherit the whole Kingdom of the Light" (section 61).

G. The Gospel of Mary

1. Peter asks, "Sister, We know that the Savior loved you more than the rest of women. Tell us the words of the Savior which you remember-- which you know but we do not nor have we heard them" (section 10, trans. George W. MacRae and R. McL. Wilson).
2. "Peter, you have always been hot-tempered. Now I see you contending against the woman like the adversaries. But if the Savior made her worthy, who are you indeed to reject her? Surely the Savior knows her very well. That is why he loved her more than us" (section 18).

H. Gospel of Philip

1. "There were three who always walked with the Lord: Mary his mother and her sister and Magdalene, the one who was called his companion" (section 59).
2. The word *companion* in the Greek original is *koinonos*. It means "partner", and is used several times in the New Testament with this ordinary meaning (for example, when Paul refers to himself as Philemon's *koinonos* in the Philemon 1:17).
3. The second passage in *The Gospel of Philip* that concerns Mary is the most suggestive: "And the companion of the Savior is Mary Magdalene. But Christ loved her more than all the disciples and used to kiss her often on her mouth. The rest of the disciples were offended by it and expressed disapproval. They said to him, 'Why do you love her more than all of us?' The Savior answered and said to them, 'Why do I not love you like her?' When a blind man and one who sees are both together in darkness, they are no different from one another. Then the light comes, then he who sees will see the light, and he who is blind will remain in darkness" (sections 63-63).

That is the total of biblical and non-biblical evidence of the relationship between Mary and Jesus.

IV. Early church Fathers on Women:

- A. Clement of Alexandria
"Woman does not possess one nature, and man, another. Rather, they have the same."
- B. Cyprian
"The mercy of Christ...was equally divided among everyone—without difference of sex..."
- C. Constantine and his own mother

V. The Code's story about the church and women:

- A. From the Code: "...the Church had a deceitful and violent history. Their brutal crusade to "reeducate" the pagan and feminine-worshipping religions spanned three centuries." (124)
- B. According to those who hold a belief in the Great Goddess, Europe was once ruled by a matriarchal egalitarian religion. Their belief dictates that Old Europe was a culture that worshiped a matrifocal (mother-focused), sedentary, peaceful, art-loving, goddess between 5,000 and 25,000 years before the rise of the first male-oriented religion. They maintain that this egalitarian culture was overrun and destroyed by a semi-nomadic, horse-riding, Indo-European group of invaders who were patrifocal (father-focused), mobile, warlike, and indifferent to art.(3) The ease with which the peaceful goddess worshipers were subdued confirmed to the war-like Indo-European invaders their feelings of natural superiority. The matriarchal religion of these early settlers was eventually assimilated into the more dominant patriarchal religion of the invaders. As these invaders imposed their patriarchal culture on the conquered peoples, rapes(4) and myths about male warriors killing serpents appeared for the first time in their history. The serpent was a symbol of the goddess worshipers. As the assimilation of cultures continued, the Great Mother Goddess became fragmented into many lesser goddesses.—Russ Wise, *The Goddess and the Church*
- C. "Constantine and his male successors successfully converted the world from matriarchal paganism to patriarchal Christianity by waging a campaign of propaganda that demonized the sacred feminine, obliterating the goddess from modern religion forever." (Da Vinci Code 124).
- D. "[H]istory is always written by the winners. When two cultures clash, the loser is obliterated, and the winner writes the history books—books which glorify their own cause and disparage the conquered foe. As Napoleon once said 'What is history, but a fable agreed upon?' (256)

- E. When was this time of matriarchal paganism the overriding view of a culture?
- F. "It is true...that all the claims so glibly made about societies ruled by women are nonsense. We have no reason to believe that they ever existed."—Margaret Mead as quoted in *Cracking Da Vinci's Code*, p. 61
- G. Most ancient cultures did not value women.
- H. Plato taught that cowardly men would be reincarnated as women.
- I. Aristotle believed women to be less than men, but more than slaves.
- J. Christianity brought a new role to women.
- K. *Da Vinci Code* says Eve ate the fruit first bringing sin into the world.
- L. Bible says Romans 5:17—It's Adam's fault
- M. The Bible exalts women
Ruth
Deborah
Proverbs 31
5 women in Jesus genealogy
Woman first witness to the resurrection
- N. Why does the Bible and Christian history include the faults of its figures?

Peter, Paul, Augustine, Luther,
- O. Brown claims that the church killed 5 million women.
1. He is referring to the witch hunts
2. There were about 50,000 executions over 300 years.
3. With about 25% being men.
- P. Whether the individual seeks the goddess through witchcraft, the feminist movement, the New Age, or the liberal church, he or she is beginning a quest to understand and discover the "higher self." The higher self, often referred to as the "god self," is believed to be pure truth, deep wisdom. In actuality, this so-called "truth" or "wisdom" embodies the oldest lie in the Book, the lie of self-deification: "Ye shall become as Gods." As Christians we must learn to discern every spirit lest we too become deceived.—Russ Wise