

# Unravelling the truth

*A religious conspiracy thriller that remains gripping throughout, but is capable of creating a certain degree of information overload.*

It's a dangerous world out there. Many wars are being fought in the name of religion. Is religion greater than human life? Well, we suppose so, after Ashwin Sanghi's *The Rozabal Line*, the book that attempts to highlight an alternative theory that Jesus survived the cross and travelled to India where he died.

Woven around the life of Father Vincent Morgan, an ordinary diocesan priest, the story races ahead with Vincent experiencing flashes of his previous lives quite often. Helping him decipher the truth behind these flashes is his aunt Martha, a trained yoga teacher and a spiritual consultant of renown. During one such past life regression sessions, Vincent learns that one of his previous lives was entwined with that of Jesus Christ. To add to his dismay is the document handed over to him by Professor Terry Acton which drives him to believe that Jesus Christ did not die on the cross at all, but travelled to India in search of one of the ten lost tribes of Israel and breathed his last in Kashmir. To Vincent's horror, Prof Terry is murdered immediately after handing over the documents containing this holy truth.

Another mystery he has to crack is that of the Rozabal Tomb in Srinagar, believed to be that of Yuz Asaf. But, who exactly was Yuz Asaf? Was he Jesus Christ himself? And, how did Jesus Christ's bloodline flow? Are his descendants still in Kashmir as Islam converts? Is it they who are fighting a bloody jihad for the liberation of Kashmir?

Ghalib-bin-Isar, the leader of a band of twelve elite warriors known as the Lashkar-e-Talatashar, that operates under the umbrella of Lashkar-e-Taiba, plans to unleash terror across the world, culminating in a major nuclear explosion on December 21, 2012, the day marked in the Mayan calendar as the 'end of the world'. Is he one of Christ's descendants?

Determined to unravel the truth and find answers to

queries that kept gnawing at him, Vincent lands in India. At this point in time, little does Vincent know that he is the target of none less than the secretive Crux Decussata Permuta, a fundamentalist Catholic organization, the Illuminati and the al-Qaeda, each for their own reasons.

Close at his heels is Swakilki, a beautiful but deadly Japanese female assassin who carries out orders for Cardinal Alberto Valerio, a member of the Crux Decussata Permuta. Vincent's attempts to get to the bottom of the truth and the subsequent currency of this truth threaten to shake the balance of power across the globe. Does Vincent succeed in his mission? Do the fundamentalist forces allow the truth to emerge at all? Well, *The Rozabal Line* proceeds thus.

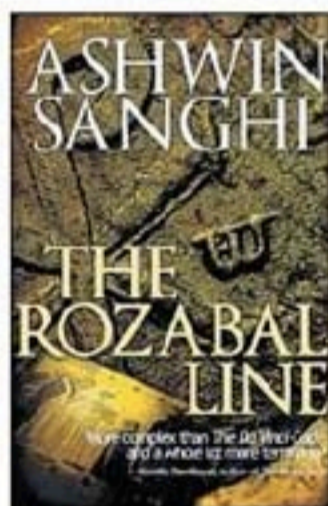
A suspenseful novel that can be termed a religious conspiracy thriller, *The Rozabal Line* makes for a gripping read right from the word 'go'. The various games of

assassination, terrorist plots, religious mysteries and the rich details outlined in the book leave the reader asking for more. Another appealing characteristic of the book is the extensive use of past life regression to explain the theory of *karma*. The simplicity of language and captivating characterization add to the allure of the book. As for the rest of it, one might say that it's certainly quite a change to read a novelist who 'elucidates the unsaid'. It is also quite refreshing to note the many references

to Buddhism and Hinduism. The wealth of historical and religious information contained in the book only speaks for the intense research that must have gone into its writing.

One word of caution though — at times, *The Rozabal Line* overwhelms with information overload. Navigating from the ancient world to the near future, set in 2012, the various elements in the book are confusing to the reader. To add to the complication are innumerable references and copious notes given at the end of the novel. Also are many significant historical milestones that are touched upon once every few pages.

However, despite these shortcomings, it is a must-read for all those who enjoyed Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. A fine combination of history, religion, spirituality and mystery, the book is thought provoking and definitely not for the faint-hearted.



**The Rozabal Line;**  
Ashwin Sanghi,  
Westland, 2008,  
pp 373, Rs 250