



Book Review

The mystery of Rozabal

Troubled Kashmir has not seen many western tourists over the past few years, but a small nondescript shrine in Rozabal locality here continues to quietly attract inquisitive visitors from abroad. Rozabal is the shrine of medieval Muslim saint Yuz Asaf, but several alternative theories floated in the West, describe it as a tomb of Jesus Christ. Of late, a flood of literature, including a Da Vinci Code-type potboiler called *The Rozabal Line* by Ashwin Sanghi, has had tourists flocking to the Rozabal shrine in recent months.

Such was the popularity that its caretakers were forced to close the shrine for Western tourists, lest it 'hurt local sensitivities'. Some believe Jesus survived crucifixion, travelled to Kashmir, adopted the name of Yuz Asaf and is buried at Rozabal. The shrine as well as Ashwin Sanghi's thriller, *The Rozabal Line*, has found mention in the *Lonely Planet Guide* - a bible for most tourists - leading to renewed interest in the West.

At the crux of Sanghi's fictional plot, lies the possibility that Jesus survived the crucifixion and travelled to Kashmir. Sanghi's thriller, which has remained a national bestseller for several months consecutively, shocks the reader at almost every page, but the author takes pains to assure his audience that his book is a good old yarn and that they should read it as such.

