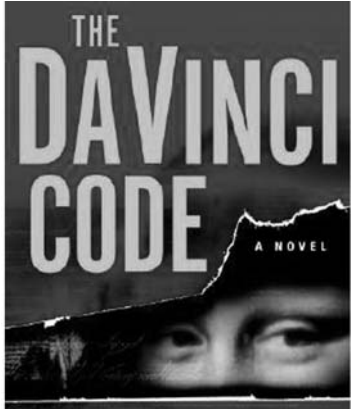


"Go back to the gospel and see what the real truth is."

The Archbishop of Bangalore lashes out at the makers of 'The Da Vinci Code'

HARSIMRAN SHERGILL

"The Da Vinci Code is a vicious attack on the divinity of Jesus Christ and as such it is diabolic. This novel is nonetheless another way to attack Christ's divinity, said Archbishop of Bangalore, Bernard Moras. "Anything that distorts the long cherished truth and affects religious sentiments has to be condemned outright, and this novel unfortunately erroneous impression against the Catholic Church and the Christian faith," wrote Archbishop in a letter that will today be distributed to all the churches in Bangalore to be read to the people attending Sunday mass.



Dan Brown's book, on which the movie is based



'Mona Lisa', one of the codes in the story. *Google Images*



'The Last Supper', another of the the famed creations of Leonardo da Vinci. *Google Images*

"Dan Brown has created the impression that his fiction is a historical fact," he said. In the letter the Archbishop has requested the Indian film board to ban the movie in India and appeals to all the Christians to boycott the movie on the grounds that the "film is going to affect the religious beliefs and sentiments of Christ's believers."

The reason why a catholic should be concerned about the film according to the Archbishop comes from the director's claims to have done meticulous research and it goes to lengths to convey the impressions that it is based on facts. According to him, many things that the movie promotes are anything but facts and go directly to the heart of the catholic faith. An example of these ideas are, see box in the end.

"These are terrible false lies rather accusation and for him, its fiction," explained Bernard Moras. Giving symbolisms and fiction and relating it to the founder of a religion can directly hurt the feelings of a religious man. If they are written as general fiction we wouldn't have bothered but why should you write fiction about a historical figure. Today the bible is accepted as the holy books or the gospel by the churches and nobody can dispute that."

"Commenting on no signs of roadside agitation, Bernard Moras says that, "we don't believe in that kind of agitation. The church throughout the century has been peace loving," and adding that he is totally against the idea of protest and violence. In addition to that, the Archbishop said that now that the ministry and representatives of the church have seen the film and given their comment, the film will be screened with a disclaimer stating firstly that it's a fiction and

secondly giving the film an 'A' certificate. We as Catholics should know how to critically view the film and keep in mind what to accept and what not to accept. And if that doesn't help then go back to the gospel, see what the real truth is."

"This is not the first time the church has been attacked and every time the church has emerged stronger and this too shall pass away," he says with satisfaction. "I don't believe in harming people, abusing people and distorting people. When you attack and portray Jesus as someone who leads a life different than what we read in the gospel, we think he's a liar because on one side, if Jesus says I am the truth, I am the way, I am the light and on the other side he's living a life of, today as we call prostitution. He's becomes a fraud and we cannot have the founder of our religion be called a fraud. The whole religion becomes baseless then." Bernard Moras admits, "the use of talent is fantastic but the matter is dirty and extremely shallow. He may be a very good writer but he should know how to use his god given talent properly."

Will The Da Vinci Code be release or not was the big question, which was answered by the Information and broadcasting Ministry, yesterday. "The movie should be in Bangalore theatres latest by next Friday," says Mr Anil Kapoor, the Joint Managing Director of Symphony and Rex theatres on M.G. and Brigade road respectively. While PVR Cinema's have confidently given the movie a green flag and stated that advance booking will start from Thursday, yet there are others who are not too sure about when the movie will be screened.



Archbishop of Bangalore, Bernard Moras *TWO photo*

" One thing the church always preaches is that no one should be forced, by anyone to change his or her religion and the church advocates this totally. A way of life can influence one, which will never happen overnight and may take years.

Ideas that the movie promotes.

- >Jesus was not God; he was only a man
- >Jesus was married to Mary Magdalene
- >She is to be worshipped as a goddess
- >Jesus got her pregnant, and the two had a daughter
- >The daughter gave rise to a prominent family line that is still present in Europe today.
- >The bible was put together by a pagan Roman emperor
- >Jesus was viewed as a man and not as God until the fourth century, when he was deified by the emperor Constantine.
- >The Gospels have been edited to support the claims of later Christians
- >In the original Gospel, Mary Magdalene rather than Peter were directed to establish the church.
- >There is a secret society known as the Priory of Sion that still worships Mary Magdalene as a goddess and is trying to keep the truth alive.
- >The Catholic Church is aware of all this and has been fighting for centuries to keep it suppressed. It often has committed murder to do so.
- >The Catholic Church is willing to and often has assassinated the descendents of Christ to keep his bloodline from growing

Will the Sprint Queen weave her magic again?

Busy coaching youngsters, P T Usha aims for 2012 Olympics.

RAVI LAKHWANI

"Indian athletes need good infrastructure, more scientific background, nutrition knowledge and national events to perform at the international level," said P.T Usha, retired Indian athlete. P T Usha was in Bangalore today for the release of the newsletter of her training school called Usha School of Athletics (USHA). Infosys Technology chairman NR Narayana Murthy released the newsletter. The event was held at Infosys campus, Electronic City.

P T Usha said, " My next target is Olympic medals in 2012 at London and I am working towards it." She is training 11 girls at USHA and preparing them for the coming Olympics in 2012.

P T Usha said, "Only after getting medals the sponsors come in but it is different for my school as my athletes are sponsored by Infosys. I am seeking more sponsorship and I would like to get sponsors as soon as possible. I want to concentrate on coaching the athletes than spending time in looking for sponsors." She said, " I need more people to help me, I can't do it alone, so I started the newsletter so that people come and help us,"

She said, " Without any nutritional food I went on to win 102 medals. What I missed in my time as an athlete should not be

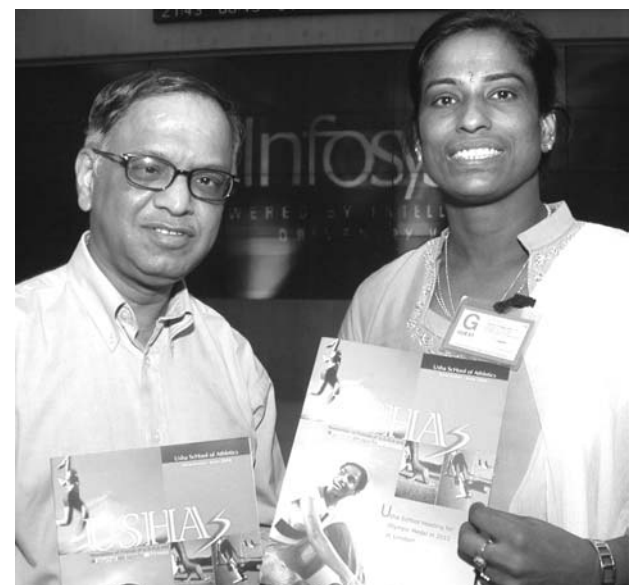
missed by those who are training today,"

She added that there are many talented girls in the country but at the grass root level they do not get any facilities. She said, "Atheletes at the age of 18 are difficult to train in comparison to athletes who are around 11 years of age."

P T Usha said that USHA stood for quality in training as eight out of her 11 atheletes had won medals in National Championships.

NR Narayana Murthy said, "Usha's effort in the school to develop athletes most welcome... I hope Indians from various parts of the state will appreciate what she is doing." T V Mohandas Pai, member of the board, Infosys technologies and S. Gopalalakrishnan, one of the founders of Infosys Technologies were also at the event and both have been associated with USHA from 2002 when the school was formally inaugurated.

P T Usha list of achievements are innumerable. She is remembered for winning five gold and one bronze medal in Jakarta in 1985. Any athlete male or female has not bettered this achievement of hers in an international event till date. She is also remembered for one of her failures, when she missed the bronze medal at Los Angeles Olympics in 1984 by a hundredth of a second. She retired in 1999. She was awarded the World Trophy for the best athlete of Asia in 1984 and 1986. She also received Padma Shri and Arjuna



Infosys chief Narayanmurthy releases a book about P T Usha *TWO Photo*

Awards in 1984. One hopes that she produces some more champions for the nation, which never made its name in athletics.