

Writer Ashwin Sanghi took forward an enlightening discussion on a variety of topics both from and outside of his book *The Rozabal Line* at Apparao Gallery

A fiction on Jesus



AFTER his book, *The Rozabal Line* saw great critical success and continues to induce curiosity, amazement and a host of mixed feelings among readers, he just has one realisation to share, "This book is not fine dining; it's Pizza Hut, Domino's, Mc Donalds, all thrown in together. I've put together all these elements to make it interesting. It is something that will appeal to Indians."

The Rozabal Line, which was first originally published under Sanghi's pseudonym Shawn Haigins, which hypothesises that Jesus survived the crucifixion and traveled to India. It was again published in 2008 by Westland Ltd. & Tranquebar Press, under his name. It probes into the controversy that Jesus was buried in Kashmir, India. It is said to have reflected on the themes talked about in books like *Jesus Lived in India: Life Before and After the Crucifixion* by Holger Kersten and *Jesus Died in Kashmir: Jesus, Moses, The Ten Lost Tribes Of Israel* by Andreas Kaiser and *The Da Vinci Code* by Dan Brown.

"I'm not an author, I'm a writer yes. Writing is a very personal activity. I'm not an author so please excuse my communication skills, an author is expected to have. Unfortunately when I initially wrote the book and started sending out a hundred manuscripts, no one wanted to publish the book. People thought that I was crazy, insane, evil, or all of the above," admits Ashwin.

At the book discussion at the Apparao Galleries, he took forward an enlightening discussion on a variety of topics both from and outside of the book, with his vast knowledge on faiths and history. On being asked about the name Shawn Haigins, he said, "The name Shawn Haigins is a perfect anagram of the Ashwin

Pic: P Jawahar



Sanghi, if you jumble up the letters."

"What I want to show through this book, is that we have over a period of time, genuinely distorted the relevance of female power. Someone asked me why I have given so much importance to Mary Magdelene. The philosophy that I'm talking about is that you have light, there is an absence of light, which is darkness and if you have heat and an absence of heat, there is cold. I feel energy is that; either there is female energy, or there is absence of female energy, which is male energy. That is the divine feminine in this book."

The relevance he says is not just the possibility that Jesus came to India. "It lies in the fact that there is so much in common between Hinduism, Christianity, even Islam, Judaism and Zoroastrianism."

"All said and done, it is at the end of the day, a good fiction that make for a good read. Take it that way," he smiles.

— Saranya Chakrapani

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