

# Did Jesus spend his final days in Kashmir?

*And was Mary Magdalene from Maghada? Ashwin Sanghi's thriller, The Rozabal Line, shocks you at every page. But the author assured us, it's nothing more than a good old yarn*

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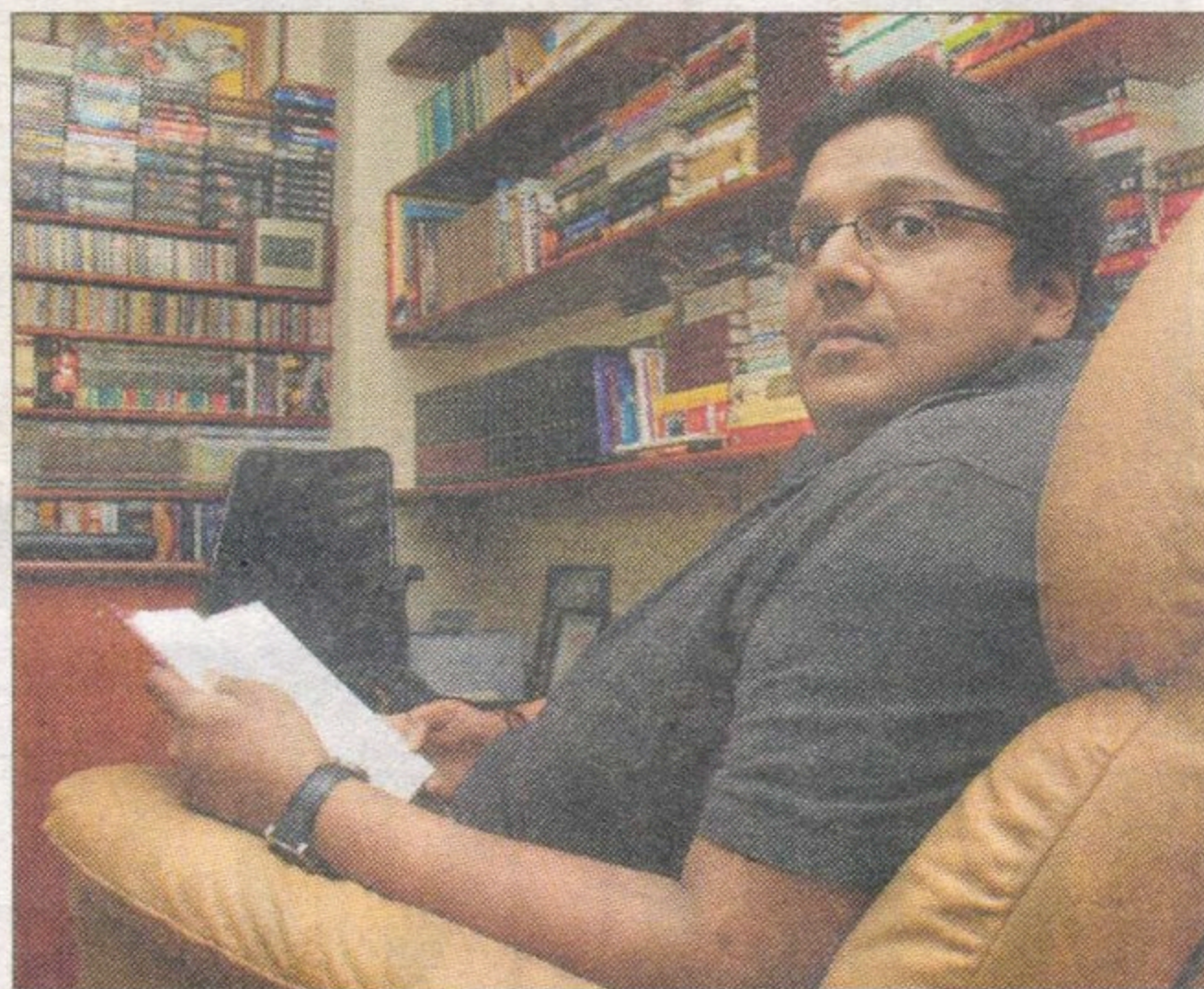
Jacob was the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Issa, who married Mary Magdala. Issa and Mary had a child by the name of Sara, who was born to them in India, but was later sent to Gaul with her mother. Issa remained in India, where he married a woman from the Sakya clan on the persistence of King Gopadatta, and had a son, Benissa. Benissa had a son, Yoshua...

If you are one of the millions who lapped up every page of The Da Vinci Code, here's a book that's even better. Instead of spinning a yarn about slumdogs and NRI angst, Ashwin Sanghi takes us into a world of intrigue and conspiracy, almost having us believe that all religions in the world are linked. He makes us wonder if Jesus spent his final days in Kashmir, and that may be his bloodline continues till today. Could his

descendant be a Muslim terrorist, funded by the cult Illuminati, which includes the president of the United States? "It was hard getting this book published," says the 40 year-old businessman, who first self-published the book in the United States in 2007. Now, a revised edition has hit the stores, and we spoke to Ashwin about the eyebrow-raising content.

**The book moves from India to Japan, the US, Middle East, interlinking their religious beliefs and history. How did you conduct all this research?** It all started when I read Jesus Lived In India by Holger Kersten. After that, for almost a year, I just read everything I could get my hands on. The research had already been done for me.

**Were you in any way apprehensive about how the world would perceive the explosive content?** Not at all. Unlike the Da Vinci



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Code, which claimed to be based on facts, I have no such agenda. I am a fiction writer, and this is just a story.

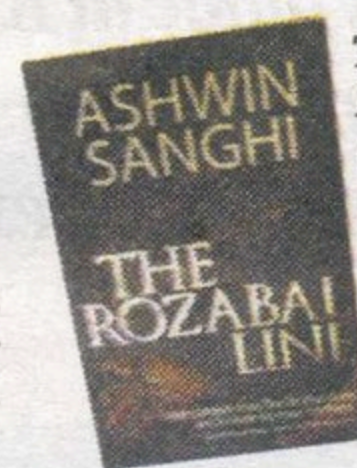
**Do you believe that Jesus lived in India?**

I don't think it's in any way relevant if he came here or not. But do I wish it was true? Yes, completely. Isn't that such a romantic notion?

**One of the major themes in your book is reincarnation. Do you believe in it?**

Yes, because I think it explains a lot of events that occur in our present life. But as a story-

writer, I also wanted to tie up loose ends. How could I describe the crucifixion of Jesus and the eventual resurrection, if I didn't have a spectator, who actually saw it happening? That's why my central character, goes through a regression session, and finds out that in a past life, he was a spectator at Jesus's crucifixion.



**The Rozabal Line** is available at all leading book stores, Rs 250