

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Forty years ago, the truths of faith and science had battle each other. The existence of science in that century was considered as an insult and treats to the truth of God's revelation. Faith is a belief to the God. It gives way to someone to lead a life, whereas science is the real evidence of the phenomenon in the world. It can strengthen a faith of someone to God. However, when a faith and science's facts do not match, whether the scientist has in mind to oppose the God, or the faith is wrong. *Angels and Demons* takes the phenomenon. In addition, the historical stories attract the society to response the movie.

*Angels and Demons* is a movie about hypocrisy, slaughter, authority, and wisdom. This film is the most popular 2009 American mystery-thriller that is directed by Ron Howard and based on Dan Brown's novel with the same title. It is the sequel to *The Da Vinci Code* (2009), although the book is a prequel to Brown's novel *The Da Vinci Code*. The players are Tom Hanks, Ewan McGregor, Ayelet Zurer, Stellan Skarsgård, Pierfrancesco Favino, Nikolaj Lie Kaas, and Armin Mueller-Stahl. This movie took place in Rome, Italy, and the Sony Pictures Studios in Culver City, California. Then, it was released in Australia (May 14, 2009) and United States (May 15, 2009).

*Angels and Demons* movie was distributed by Columbia Pictures on DVD and VCD, which the run time is 146 minutes, became box office and it was ranked the seventh highest-earning picture of 2001. This movie produced by Ron Howard, Brian Grazer, and John Calley, music by Hans Zimmer, cinematography by Salvatore Totino, and editor by Daniel P. Hanley and Mike Hill. The languages that are used are English, Italian, Latin, France, Swiss German, German, and Spanish.

Ronald William “Ron” Howard is an American actor, director and producer. He was born March 1, 1954 in Duncan, Oklahoma. His parents were both actors. He was in his first movie at 18 months, *Frontier Woman* (1956), although his first real part was at the age of four. Soon a regular on “Playhouse 90” (1956), he was cast as Opie on “The Andy Griffith Show” (1960), and later moved from a child in *Mayberry* to America's teenager as Richie Cunningham in “Happy Days” (1974). There were some film roles, such as *The Shootist* (1976) for which he received a Golden Globe nomination, but his dream and now his focus was directing. He had begun shooting films at age 15 with a Super-8 camera. That first film was the hardest to finance, but he struck a deal with Roger Corman - he would star in *Eat My Dust* (1976) and Corman would produce *Grand Theft Auto* (1977) which Howard would direct (he also wrote the script and starred). Howard's directorial star continued to shine throughout the decade. He struck gold again with big-budget adaptations of the popular Dan Brown novels; *The Da Vinci Code* (2006) and *Angels and Demons* (2009).

*Angels and Demons* movie is a story about pope and conclave. It starts when the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) losing one of their antimatter. Meanwhile, the Roman Catholic Church mourns the sudden death of the pope in Rome. An *illuminatus*, as the member of *Illuminati* Brotherhood kidnap the 'preferatti' (the four most likely cardinals to be elected pope) before the conclave enters seclusion. He threats to kill one candidate every hour and then destroys the Vatican in a burst of light at midnight.

The Vatican summons symbologist Robert Langdon (Tom Hanks) from Harvard University and Vittoria Vetra (Ayelet Zurer) from CERN to help them solve the *illuminati's* threat, save the four *preferatti*, and replace the vial's batteries. Langdon listens to the *illuminatus* message and deduces that the four cardinals will die at the four altars of the “Path of Illumination”. However, no one knows where these altars are located.

Clues in the book lead Langdon, Vetra, Inspector General Ernesto Olivetti, and Lieutenant Valenti of the Vatican Gendarmerie Corps to the first church, (Chigi Chapel in the *Santa Maria del Popolo* Church). In there, they find Cardinal Ebner dead, suffocated with dirt and branded with an ambigrammatic word “Earth”. Then, they verify the second altar's location (Saint Peter's Square) but arrive too late to save Cardinal Lamassé, his lungs punctured and his body branded with an ambigrammatic word, “Air”. The third *preferatti*, found in *Santa Maria della Vittoria* Church, but are unable to

save Cardinal Guidera from being burned to death and his body is branded with an ambigrammatic word, “Fire”.

Langdon and two Carabinieri officers race to the “Water” altar, but the assassin murders the officers as they investigate a suspicious van. Langdon sees the assassin drop the bound and weighted Cardinal Baggia into the Fountain of the Four Rivers. Langdon, assisted by bystanders, saves the cardinal, who tells him that the *Illuminati*’s lair in Castel Sant ‘Angelo. Carabinieri, Vatican Gendarmerie, and Swiss Guard officers converge on the location, but it appears to be a dead end. Then, Langdon and Vetra realize that the *Camerlengo* is in danger, but they are confronted by the assassin before they can alert McKenna. Inside the Vatican, Vatican Police shooting Commander Richter because he expected to kill McKenna. When antimatter vial is found, McKenna seizes the vial and uses a helicopter to explode the bomb. McKenna is hailed a hero and savior, and the cardinals move to elect him as pope.

Meanwhile, Langdon and Vetra uncover that McKenna, the *Camerlengo*, is the mastermind behind the entire plot, intending to become the new pope and suppress scientific interpretation regarding religious matters. When McKenna realizes he has been exposed, he fatally sets himself afire. Finally, Cardinal Baggia is named the new pope (who takes the name Luke), and Cardinal Strauss is the new *Camerlengo*.

*Angels and Demons* reaps some responses after this movie is released. There are positive responses and negative responses. First, from Dick Stell,

who said in IMBD users, “*Angels and Demons* had a lot more plot points on science versus religion and a wealth of information that Dan Brown researched and linked together in an engaging fictional piece of work. Catholic reviewers have called *Angels & Demons* harmless, because I guess it didn't dwell on its many controversies, unlike The *Da Vinci Code* which struck a raw nerve at the centre of the faith”. Second, review aggregate website Rotten Tomatoes (<http://www.rottentomatoes.com/>) reports that 36% of 237 critics have given the film a positive review, with an average rating of 5.1/10. Third, Richard Corliss in *Time* magazine gave the film a positive review stating, “*Angels & Demons* has elemental satisfactions in its blend of movie genre that could appeal to wide segments of the audience”.

On the other hand, there are some negative responses. After this movie had been released, Vatican's Church was banning *Angels and Demons* and boycotts it. They take exception to the problematic story about homicide and hypocrisy that are concerned with Vatican's Church. In Samoa, principal film censor Lei'ataua Olo'apu banned the film. Olo'apu stated that he was banning the film because it was “critical of the Catholic Church” and to “avoid any religious discrimination by other denominations and faiths against the church”. Even, The Catholic & Christian Secular Forum (The CSF) wrote the petition entitled “Ban *Angels & Demons* Movie - based on Dan Brown's Novel” to Heads of State, Religious Leaders, Government of India, Civil Society, World Citizens, All Bishops (Christian & Catholic), United Nations

& International Human Rights Organizations. CSF said the history facts in the novel either on the movie are lies.

However, those negative responses do not make *Angels and Demons* drop. This movie got four nominations in various award events. First, in Teen Choice Awards 2009 nominated as Choice Summer Movie: Drama and Choice Movie: Drama. Second, nominated in World Soundtrack Awards 2009, with the category Film Composer of the Year: Hans Zimmer.

Third, in Art Directors Guild 2010, nominated for Excellence in Production Design Award, they are, Allan Cameron (production designer), Giles Masters (supervising art director), Keith P. Cunningham (art director), Dawn Swiderski (art director), Luke Freeborn (art director), Alex Cameron (art director), Mark Homes (art director), Patricia Johnson (assistant art director), Patte Strong-Lord (set designer), Jeff Markwith (set designer), Clint Schultz (graphic designer), Gunnar Ahmer (scenic artist), James Gemmill (scenic artist), and Robert Gould (set decorator). Fourth, nominated in Visual Effects Society Awards 2010, with the category is Outstanding Supporting Visual Effects in a Feature Motion Picture.

*Angels and Demons* is an interesting movie. There are five reasons why this movie is interesting. First, from the theme that is about pope, church, and conclave. This movie is the only story about pope and conclave. It tells us about vacuum power of pope in Vatican. When conclave (a meeting to choose new pope) will be held, the 'preferatti' had been kidnapped by murderer, who claims himself as a member of *Illuminati* Brotherhood.

The second reason is the story and the conflict of the movie. *Angels and Demons* is a fiction but the story is combined with history. It makes the story very interesting and the audiences can add their knowledge in history subject. For example about a scientist organization called *Illuminati*. *Angels and Demons* has some conflicts and unpredictable story. Moreover, to solve the problems, it takes historical facts. The reemergence issues from the *Illuminati* about faith and science threat the sustainability of conclave and bombing at the Vatican.

Robert Langdon, the main character in the movie, is a fictional professor of religious iconology and symbology at Harvard University who created by Dan Brown in his novels. Tom Hanks portrayed Robert Langdon in the 2006 adaptation of *Angels & Demons*, and he is the one of the most ingenious and gifted artists alive. Langdon's charm as a brilliant problem-solving mind and genius make this movie very interesting. As a protagonist role, Langdon has collaborate with Vittoria, who was described as being extremely curious, solve the mystery of four altars of the "Path of Illumination". That interesting characters is the third reason why the researcher chooses *Angels and Demons* movie.

The fourth reason is the casting in this movie. The character of Robert Langdon in *Angels and Demons* needs someone charismatic, relatable, and able to talk us through the ins and outs of the hunt, and frankly. Hank is the best thing about *Angels and Demons*. Although a talented group of supporting players that includes Stellan Skarsgard, Ewan McGregor, and Armin Mueller-

Stahl surrounds him, none makes an impact the way Hank's does. Even his lovely co-star, Israeli actress Ayelet Zurer, doesn't stand out. She is relegated to being a minor player in the film, while in the *Angels and Demons* novel, her role in the action was greatly expanded.

The last reason is about conflicts of faith and science, which is reflected in *Angels and Demons* movie. Ages and ages ago, the church is a rule. All of the authorities in a country hold by the church. The church has the ultimate power to determine what was right and wrong. When the scientists found a new fact but contrast with church's principle, the scientists will be punished by the church. For example is about *La Purga*. *La Purga* tells about four scientists that had been sentenced to death because their discovery. They found that the earth is round. Whereas, the church assures that the earth is flat. The church considers that the scientists oppose the God's authority. Causes of church's threat, the scientists make an underground movement organization. From here, the unification of conflicts between faith and science begins.

Based on the reasons, especially about the conflict that happen between faith and science in *Angels and Demons* movie's issue, the researcher would like to analyze *Angels and Demons* movie based on sociological perspective, entitled "**Conflicts of Faith and Science in Ron Howard's *Angels and Demons* Movie (2009): A Sociological Approach**"

## B. Literature Review

After looking for several literature reviews in the Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The writer has not found the research about *Angels and Demons* movie done by the other researcher. But there are three researchers who have conducted the study of *Angels and Demons* novel.

First by Prasetyo Dwi Martanto (2008) entitled “Hypocrisy in Dan Brown’s *Angels and Demons* Novel: A Sociological Approach”. The focus of this study is on social behavior as reflected in *Angels and Demons* novel. The result of the study reveals the relationship between the novel and the social reality. Dan Brown in his novel depicts hypocrisy in the character through social, economic, religious and science and technology aspects.

Second by Miss. Sulaikhor Samsee (2008) entitled “Roberts’s Self-Actualization in Dan Brown’s *Angels and Demons*: A Humanistic Psychological Approach”. This study focuses on the character of Robert Langdon. The conclusion of the study is the structural elements of the novel present a good unity and Dan Brown describes how self-actualization on the major character’s personalities. He gives a moral message through this novel that self-actualization is very important to our life.

In addition, the last by Dewi Listyoningrum (2011) entitled “Strife for Power in Ron Howard’s *Angel and Demon* Movie (2009): A Marxist Approach”. This study focuses on strife for power by Robert Langdon in *Angel and Demon* movie by using Marxist approach. The result of the study

is close relation between the movie production and the underlying social reality, which reflected the strife for power.

The differences between this study with three previous studies are in the issues, and in the perspective in analyzing the data. In the issues, the researcher puts about “conflict of faith and science” in *Angels and Demons* movie. Moreover, in perspective of analyzing the data, the researcher uses sociological approach, same with one of the three previous studies.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background, the problem of the research is how the conflicts of faith and science are reflected in Ron Howard’s *Angels and Demons* movie.

### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze *Angels and Demons* movie based on its structural elements.
2. To describe the conflicts of Faith and Science in *Angels and Demons* movie based on sociological approach.

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

In this research, the researcher will focus on the analyzing the conflicts of Faith and Science in Ron Howard’s *Angels and Demons* movie based on sociological approach.

## **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from this research are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give some contribution the large body of knowledge or development of knowledge particularly studies in Ron Howard's *Angels and Demons* movie.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is hoped to enrich the researcher's knowledge in literary field as references to other researchers in analyzing the movie especially based on social of life with sociological approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this study, the researcher will use qualitative research in the form of literary work.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the research is conflicts between faith and science reflected in Ron Howard's *Angels and Demons* movie.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

The types of data employed in this research are text and image. Text that consist of words, phrase, and sentences. Image that is scene of the movie itself. The data sources are classified into two categories

namely primary data and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the movie itself while the secondary data sources are script text and some references related to the research.

#### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The research uses note-taking and image-capturing in collecting data, which involves several steps, as follows:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Taking notes the important part in the both primary and secondary data.
- c. Reading the script related reference and understanding to observe the data.

#### **5. Technique of Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.

### **H. Research Paper Organization**

The writer is going to organize this research in order to make easier to understand. This research is divided into six chapters: Chapter I is introduction which explains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. Chapter II is dealing with underlying theory. It consists of sociology literature, basic

Principles of Sociology of Literature, and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III is historical background of American society at the turn of the century. Chapter IV is structural analysis: the writer wants to explain the structural elements of the movie and discussion. Chapter V constitutes sociological analysis of the movie. The last is Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.