



The Holy Grail

The Da Vinci Code claims that Mary Magdalene is the real Holy Grail. She is seen as the vessel which held the holy blood of Christ in the form of a royal bloodline.

In legend, the Holy Grail is typically the cup from which Jesus and his disciples drank from during the Last Supper. Alternatively it is a cup that drops of Jesus' blood were collected into as he died on the cross (there is no historical evidence for this event). Sometimes it is both!

While a cup is mentioned in the Biblical accounts of the Last Supper (Matthew 26, Mark 14, Luke 22), it is not described as special and the Holy Grail is not mentioned in the Gnostic Gospels either. In fact, there appears to be no record of the Holy Grail until the publication of Chretien de Troyes' *Perceval, the Story of the Grail* in the 12th century. It tells the story of an English knight that stumbles upon a castle containing the Holy Grail. He awakens the next morning to find the castle deserted. A string of Grail romances followed and the legend grew.

There is no real evidence to support the claim that Mary Magdalene is the real grail. In the Da Vinci Code, Teabing asserts that the Holy Grail cup isn't in Leonardo's 'Last Supper' and that Mary Magdalene is the real Grail. However, Leonardo wasn't painting the sharing of the cup. Instead he depicts the Apostles' reaction to Jesus announcement that one of them would betray him (See John 13:18-30).

MORE INFORMATION - See the poster on Jesus