

Excavation Study Guide

Excavation by James Rollins

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Plot Summary

Excavation, by James Rollins, is the story of a group of archeologists that happen upon an Inca Indian site with a dark secret. The gold that the Incas found and revered has a dark purpose that no one could have guessed. It seems everyone wants the gold, called Satan's Blood, for some purpose and with part of the archeologist trapped underground it will take everything they have to get out of this alive.

Henry Conklin has started a dig site in the Peruvian Andes. Henry's nephew, Sam, along with several other grad students, become trapped in the ancient caverns. Henry is away in the states having a mummy from the site tested when he is suddenly taken hostage by a group of men dressed as monks. The monks are called the Keepers of the Question. Henry is soon told that Sam and the other grad students are trapped underground and that what these monks are after is an ancient gold called "Satan's Blood." The monks believe the Satan's Blood will give them the capability of calling Christ back to earth and initiating the second coming.

Sam and the other grad students are forced deeper and deeper into the caverns until they are in a secret tunnel system and find themselves in an ancient Inca burial chamber. They soon find that humanoid creatures are hunting them and Sam urges the group on. Sam and the others are able to get out alive but find themselves face to face with living ancient Inca tribe. The Incas have been alive for hundred years and depend on the mountain and Satan's Blood to keep them alive and healthy. The grad students soon realize that the hideous creatures in the caverns are the children that the Inca people have sacrificed to what they believe is their gods. Henry and the determined monks soon find Sam and the Inca village and kill everyone there in order to get the Satan's Blood. Sam and the others are able to trick the monks into one of the caverns where the creatures descend upon the men killing them all. Satan's Blood is discovered to be extremely explosive. Henry and the others escape after setting a fire in the temple where the Satan's Blood is located.

Two years later it is discovered that the Satan's Blood is actually from an alien planet and was sent with the intent of recreating their own civilization. The Satan's Blood has the capability of changing the human embryo into the alien form and that was its true purpose. The creature that has been created shows hostile behavior and looks like the hideous creatures that had been seen in the caverns.



Prologue

Prologue Summary

Excavation, by James Rollins, is the story of a group of archeologists that happen upon an Inca Indian site with a dark secret. The gold that the Incas found and revered has a dark purpose that no one could have guessed. It seems everyone wants the gold, called Satan's Blood, for some purpose and with part of the archeologist trapped underground it will take everything they have to get out of this alive.

Francisco de Almagro is running through the jungle, trying to keep ahead of the Incas following him. Francisco is dizzy from the blood letting that was done to him to prepare him for sacrifice. Francisco runs through the jungle knowing he has only one chance for salvation for the world even if there is none left for him. Francisco has a Dominican cross around his neck. The Incas had let him keep it because they revered gold.

Francisco reaches the top of a mountain, and from here he can see twin volcanoes called the Devil's eyes. Francisco knows that the Spaniards' quest for gold is what has lead him to this point and is what will damn them all. The mountain that Francisco is on is considered holy by the Incas and it is for that reason that Francisco has traveled here. Francisco kneels on the mountain and begs God to forgive him as he slits his own throat.

Prologue Analysis

Francisco de Almagro was only in the book for seven pages but he is shown to be a pivotal character. It is his actions and decisions that shapes much of what happens in the rest of the book. Francisco de Almagro was shown to be a man of faith. He prayed to God on the mountain and cut his own throat. It isn't explained at this point why he chose that particular area to kill himself but in the coming chapters it will be shown that if someone died on their holy mountain that the Incas had to mummify the person. Francisco de Almagro will be talked about throughout the rest of the book with the exception of the Epilogue.

Francisco de Almagro had a gold Dominican cross. Francisco made note of the fact that it was important to him that they leave him his cross. In the following chapters it will be shown the significance of the cross.



Day 1

Day 1 Summary

Henry Conklin, an experienced archeologist, is at Johns Hopkins University with a mummy that he has retrieved from the Peruvian Andes. Henry meets with an old friend and colleague, Dr. Joan Engel, who was the head of forensic pathology. Joan is able to determine that the mummy was thirty-two when he died and that his throat was cut. Upon examining the mummy, they find a Dominican cross and a ring on the mummy and realize that he was a Spanish priest. The mummy is put into the CT scanner and almost immediately a yellow substance sprays all over the room as the head explodes. The substance is in liquid form, but Henry recognizes it as gold.

Back at the dig site, Henry's nephew, Sam Conklin, is working with the other grad students in the ancient Inca tunnels. Sam and Norman Fields, a National Geographic photographer, head toward the site where two grad students, Maggie O'Donnel and Ralph Issacson, are working on a sealed door. Three bands hold the door sealed with Latin writing on it that has been faded by time. There is a figure of Jesus Christ etched onto the metalwork. The grad students are able to translate a few words on the door warning that it never be disturbed. None are sure what to make of the fact that the Inca site has Latin words or the symbol of Christ on the door. That evening Henry contacts the site via satellite. Sam and Henry relate each of their discoveries from the day.

That evening, the head of security for the dig site, Guillermo Sala, and his friends begin their trek into the tunnels the grad students have been working on. Guillermo is determined that Americans won't come in and take national treasures from his country while his people and their children are starving to death. Guillermo, Juan, and Miguel come to the sealed door, and with crowbars and pry tools manage to open the sealed chamber. Inside, the room is made of solid gold with a huge statue of an Inca king. The three begin making their way into the room when suddenly Juan is killed by poisoned hooks that fall from the ceiling. Guillermo forces Miguel further into the room until they manage to reach a horde of treasure. They each take a jeweled cup and head back for the door with plans to bring reinforcements to kill the Americans and take the treasure. Before they can reach the door, Miguel triggers another tile and is impaled with spikes but not killed. Guillermo shoots his friend and exits the room.

Sam and the other grad students hear the screaming and head for the tunnels at the dig site. Maggie hears Guillermo coming and forces the others back to hide as he passes. When Guillermo is past them he throws a grenade into the tunnels to seal it until his return. Before Guillermo leaves the camp, he destroys the satellite communication system so that no one can call for help.

Sam, Ralph, Maggie, and Norman are now trapped in the tunnels. They hear something moving in the darkness. None of them thought to bring a flashlight, but Sam does have a gun. Out of the darkness the young Quechan translator Denal emerges from the



darkness. Denal had thought to bring a flashlight and a walkie-talkie when he followed Guillermo and the others. Philip Sykes is the only grad student not trapped in the tunnels. Philip is glad that he wasn't trapped in the tunnels with the others but is afraid that their deaths will reflect badly on him and his future resume.

Day 1 Analysis

Sam and Henry will be the two main characters that the author focuses on in the story. It has been shown that they both overcame great loss in their own lives and their losses worked to bring them together. As the story continues, it will begin to be evident that their tragedies, although created a strong bond between them, will also be a factor in them pushing other people away. There will be a lot to learn about Henry and Sam as the story continues. They share many of the same attributes and each will worry for the safety of those around them before their own safety. The people stuck with Sam in the tunnels will be willing to risk their own lives. Each time that this happens Sam will appear more than simply concerned. Sam will make each person's life his responsibility in many ways.

Henry is like Sam in regards to his concern for other people. As the story continues, Henry will be faced with danger to his own life but will worry about Joan Engel and Sam and the other students at the dig site. Henry will even seem to blame himself for leaving,, as if his mere presence at the dig site might have prevented some of the tragedy from happening.

There are many characters in the story that will play a pivotal role that have not been met yet. In the coming chapters there will be more added to the story and the plot will begin to become more complex. There is also a lot about Francisco de Almagro that is unknown but will be explained as the story continues. There is much that this character left for others to find that will be crucial for Henry, Sam, and the others.



Day 2

Day 2 Summary

Henry is going over the items that were found on the mummified remains. On the remains there had been a Dominican cross and a ring with the name de Almagro on it. Henry calls an Archbishop's office and is fortunate enough to talk to an Archbishop who is interested both in history and the reason that the ring was found in the Andes. The Archbishop agrees to look up old records and see if he can find out who the priest would have been.

Henry hangs up the phone and it soon rings. It is Joan Engel and she has called to ask Henry out to dinner to discuss the viscid liquid that erupted out of the mummy's skull. Henry agrees and turns back to the few articles found on the mummy. The phone rings again and this time it is the Archbishop telling Henry that they have found out who the priest was. The priest was a member of the Spanish Inquisition and his name was Francisco de Almagro. The Archbishop tells Henry that he will give the information to Abbot Ruiz in Peru in the hopes of finding out more information about the man.

Guillermo Sala walks the steps in the village of Villacuacha. Guillermo is going to meet his contact who will buy the priceless jeweled cup that he managed to retrieve from the golden Inca room. Guillermo enters the room and pulls out the cup to hand to the man. The man looks the cup over and sighs, realizing it is nothing more than ordinary gold. Guillermo realizes suddenly that he is in danger but it is too late as the man slits Guillermo Sala's throat open and leaves him to die on the floor.

The man steps over Guillermo Sala's body and into the streets. He realizes that from Guillermo's description that the golden room must be the one they are looking for and will have to work fast to get to it before anyone else does. There will be people to kill but he isn't worried about that. As he passes a woman with a small child the woman bows her head and holds her infant to the man. The man gives a quick benediction over the child. The woman thanks him, calling him "Friar Otera."

In the tunnels Sam is trying to conserve the battery on the walkie-talkie but is having a hard time getting Philip to do what he says. The tunnels are slowly continuing to collapse, forcing the group further and further into the caves. While they are in the caves they suddenly realize that they hear a ticking noise. The group goes to the golden room that Guillermo and his friends had opened and finds the bodies of Juan and Miguel twisted and ripped apart. Maggie realizes then that the ticking noise is the room and the booby traps. The tunnels continue to collapse.

Friar Otera and five other monks are making their way to the Americans' camp. Friar Otera knows the jungles and that any help will have to come along this path. Before long, two Indians run into the monks, making their way to get help, sent by Philip Sykes.



Otera grabs one of the Indians and cuts his throats as his companions silence the other Indian. This all happens without a sound. The church had trained them well.

Joan is telling Henry about the substance found in Francisco's skull. Joan is now sure that it isn't gold but doesn't know what it is. Joan and Henry discuss the possibility that the cross may be made out of the same materiel and decide that they need to do tests on the priest's cross. After dinner they head back to Henry's hotel room to get the Dominican cross and find that Henry's room has been destroyed in an attempt to find something, but all of Henry's valuables were left untouched. Henry had hid the cross well and it is safe.

Sam and the others have taken the time that they have trapped in the tunnels and work on translating the message on the iron door. It warns that behind the door is the working of the devil and speaks of a golden serpent. It is signed Friar Francisco de Almagro. Maggie decides to look at the room again. Maggie, Denal and Sam realize there is a pattern to getting across the floor and the three of them are able to make it to the golden statue in the middle of the room. The tunnels continue to collapse and Sam knows they have less than an hour before they will be killed. Once to the statue, Sam finds a dagger. Sam is wishing for a key when the dagger suddenly changes shape in his hands into a lightening bolt and unlocks a doorway behind the statue. Once the door is open, the lightening bolt changes back into the dagger. The room is shaking and collapsing and Sam, Maggie, Denal, Ralph, and Norman quickly escape into the newly revealed doorway as the last of the tunnels collapse. As Ralph walks by the bodies of Juan and Miguel, he takes a gun that had been left. They are safe in the caves and radio to Philip that they are safe and can wait until help reaches them. Sam and the others walk deeper into the cave hoping to find an alternate way out and stumble upon a golden river. Sam notes that it looks like a golden serpent.

Henry sits at his computer screen trying to connect to the dig site in Peru. Henry is beginning to worry when he gets a call from Joan. She got back to the morgue and someone had tried to break in to the mummy. Henry and Joan think it may be the same people that broke into Henry's room but Henry is unsure how to put all this information together and what it means.

Day 2 Analysis

Friar Otera is one of the characters that will have a large impact on the story. The author has given the reader an important piece of background on Otera. Otera is a mestizo, a mix of Spanish and Indian blood. Being mestizo was considered a mark of dishonor and Otera comments on the fact that he had to work very hard to get to the place where he currently is. It has been shown that Otera is a murderer and has no moral problems with ending a person's life. As the story continues, Otera's motives will become more clear. There are other priests that will be involved. The motives will range from scientific discovery, seeking God's mind, and the desire for wealth and power. Otera's background will play a role in his desires for the Satan's Blood.



Maggie and Sam obviously care about each other but at this point in the story they appear to be ready to fight with each other. This will slowly begin to change as the story progresses. Maggie has spent most of her life trying to forget her young friend that died while laying on top of her and Sam has spent most of his life trying to figure out why he was spared in the car accident that took his parents. This gives them a bond together but at the same time will contain a wedge that will keep them apart. Their past will also play a clear role in their future decisions.

When Henry talked to the Archbishop, the name Abbot Ruiz was mentioned. There was not a lot of emphasis put on the name, but in the following chapters Abbot Ruiz will be revealed as an important character. Henry seems to believe that it was the same person who broke into his room who tried to break into the morgue. The next chapters will prove this to be true. Henry and Joan care for each other although they both are reluctant to let their true feelings be known. It will take a lot for them to fully let themselves be vulnerable with each other. Henry will eventually pull himself away from Joan. Henry appears to believe that his own feelings were a catalyst for the things that happened to her and perhaps his feelings kept him away from Sam. Henry's guilt will cause him to distance himself from Joan. It is because of Henry's desire to distance himself from her that Joan has the opportunity to show what a strong character she is.

Day 3

Day 3 Summary

Sam is standing watch over the group while they sleep and is rolling the dagger over in his hands. Sam is unsure what made it transform or how to do it again. The others begin to wake up and Norman slips around a corner to use the restroom. He is gone only a moment when they hear Norman scream. Behind Norman a large group of albino tarantulas are beginning to converge on the group of students. With few options, and faced with so many poisonous spiders, the group quickly decides to find out where the passages in the cave will lead. The group moves easily ahead of the spiders but are soon stopped by a foul smell. The smell is coming from a large cavern that is filled with bats. Tons of bat guano fill the room, making it too deadly to pass through because of the fumes. While the group stands discussing options, the albino tarantulas again appear.

Henry and Joan meet up in her lab to have a friend of hers named Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick study the substance that came from Francisco's skull. Before Kirkpatrick arrives, Henry and Joan begin to look at the Dominican cross more closely and find that it has some kind of strange message hidden on the back. Joan writes down the message on a piece of paper with the intention of deciphering it at a later date. When he arrives, Kirkpatrick is confused by everything about the substance. Henry is sitting, concentrating on the Dominican cross that they now know must be common gold when the substance in the beaker transforms into the exact image of the cross.

Philip Sykes is sitting at camp when six monks come into camp. The head of the monks, Friar Otera, introduces himself to Philip and assures him that help is on the way. Philip is excited that this man speaks English and quickly tells him the whole story. Otera leaves Philip's tent and makes a call and relays what they had found. Otera is told to befriend Philip, get into the tunnel, and then to kill everyone there.

In order to escape the tarantulas, the group decides to swim downstream in a stream of water created from the melting snow that covers the Andes mountains. They are whisked quickly down the stream and away from the spiders but have to take off their clothes to keep from getting hypothermia. They begin walking again and soon come upon an underground necropolis. They quickly build a fire to take the chill off themselves.

Henry follows behind Joan and Kirkpatrick as they run tests and become excited. Kirkpatrick has named the material Substance Z and they head off to run more tests. When they reach Joan's office the door is unlocked and a man steps out with a gun. Kirkpatrick immediately tries to run and is shot in the back. The man takes Substance Z from Henry and Joan and shoots them with darts. As everything begins to go dark, Henry sees a Dominican cross around the neck of his attacker.



Day 3 Analysis

It appears that Kirkpatrick was shot and killed. Kirkpatrick will reappear later in the story. While he doesn't have a lengthy appearance in the story, he will be memorable because of the information that will be revealed by him.

The man that shot Henry and Joan with the tranquilizer darts, Carlos, will have a significant role as the story continues. It is for Abbot Ruiz that Carlos works. The Dominican crosses that they wear are a symbol of their faith, although it will appear that their faith is not what is commonly thought of in regard to priests.

Joan will begin to realize how serious the situation is when she awakens, but she will not blame Henry and will worry for him as much as he worries for her. Henry has been worried because he can't reach Sam and the others at the dig site in Peru. The men that take him hostage will assume he knows to some degree. The sudden shock of learning all this at once will seem to overwhelm Henry in many respects.

Joan has been taken hostage and Henry will feel responsible for that. Although Henry will feel a strong need to protect her and will continue to have feelings for her, he will seem to believe the best thing he can do is to push her away. Joan's true nature hasn't been completely shown to the reader at this point. When she is forced to act on her own, it will become evident what she is capable of and what an asset she is.



Day 4

Day 4 Summary

Norman nudges Sam awake and shows him a light meter that he was given by his employers at the National Geographic. According to Norman's readings it is getting lighter. The students discuss splitting up and looking for the light's origin when suddenly a large slab of rock hits their fire. Sam looks up and realizes there is nothing on the ceiling and that something in the room threw the rock. The students suddenly see a form that is pale, just like the albino spiders but much larger. It stands on two legs, naked and hairless with sharp pointed teeth. Denal tells them that it is a Mallaqui, a spirit of the underworld.

Henry awakes alone in a cell and immediately realizes he is in South America. Henry begins to yell and soon hears Joan down the hall. Suddenly Henry's door is thrown open and two robed monks stand in front of him. One of the monks is the one named Carlos that had shot Joan and Henry with the tranquilizer darts. They tell Henry to follow them and Henry and Joan are lead to a room where a man sits behind a desk. Henry realizes this is Abbot Ruiz that the Archbishop had intended to contact. Abbot Ruiz explains that they are searching for the substance that Kirkpatrick had named Substance Z. Abbot Ruiz calls it Satan's Blood. He explains that they need exact details in regard to where the rest of the Satan's Blood might be. Ruiz explains that he will show them everything in the hopes that Henry and Joan will be more compliant. Ruiz takes them to an underground chamber under the abbey. It had been an pit used to torture people hundreds of years ago but now contains a state of the art laboratory and all the equipment.

Sam and the others make a large bonfire and wait for an attack but all they hear in the cave are grunting and barks. Finally they decide the best plan is to move, making torches to take with them. The animals were confused by the sudden movement but the sounds grew closer not farther away. The animals begin to attack. Ralph and Sam begin shooting. Each animal that they shoot is attacked by the other starving creatures and quickly eaten, but this doesn't divert their main attention from Sam and the others. Ralph and Norman get separated from Sam, Maggie and Denal and they all make their own way toward the center of the necropolis where they can see a huge statue towering over the city.

Ralph and Norman are soon pinned down and make a fire and throw their gun shells on it. The shells erupt momentarily scaring away the monsters but shoot Norman's knee all to pieces in the process. Ralph is helping Norman to walk toward the center of the necropolis when a creature kills Ralph. Ralph is able to save Norman as he dies. Norman is able to make his way to Sam, Maggie and Denal who have found an entrance into the huge statue. Before they can get safely inside one of the creatures attempts and attack but is stabbed with the small dagger that Sam has. The creature



erupts into flames and they get inside the statue closing the door. With the door sealed there is a sudden rumbling and the floor begins to shake.

Abbot Ruiz is taking Joan and Henry through the rest of the Abbey's laboratories when they reach the most secret and revered room. Inside there is a golden figure of Christ laying on a table, a crown of thorns on his head. The entire figure is made from Satan's Blood. Ruiz confirms Henry's suspicions that the substance is responsive to human thought and adds their small amount of Satan's Blood to the figure. Ruiz explains that they believe that they can bring back the mind or spirit of God into this vessel so that they can initiate the second coming. Henry and Joan are speechless when Ruiz suddenly mentions the cave in at the dig site. Henry hasn't learned of the accident yet and refuses to cooperate until he knows that Sam and the others are safe.

Sam and the others are sure they have wandered into another booby trap when suddenly the floor shoots upward and they are thrust into the sun. They are in the jungle and feel that they are safe when suddenly they are surrounded by Indians. Denal translates as they are ordered to follow the Indians. Once they are in the village Sam and the others are amazed to find it looks exactly like the necropolis below and it is a living Inca Indian village. They radio Philip and let him know that they are safe and where they believe their location to be. The news excites Friar Otera as much as the others. That night the Indians have a great feast for Sam and the others before they go to bed.

Day 4 Analysis

The death of Ralph will impact all three of the students, but Maggie and Sam will seem to take it harder than Norman. The death of their friend will seem to feed into the fears that they already have from their past experiences. Although they both will have strong feelings in regards to Ralph's death they will handle it much differently.

Abbot Ruiz is the one that Friar Otera had been talking to in camp. Ruiz has explained to Henry and to Joan that anything that the members of his Abbey do they are forgiven of simply because they are on a mission for God. Although Ruiz appears to be unaffected by the murder of anyone that they perceive as a threat to what their mission is appears that Ruiz does believe himself to truly be on a mission from God. It will become clear in the following chapters that Otera and Ruiz don't have the same goals in mind and are not truly working together.

Norman seems to feel that the death of Ralph is his fault in some respects, but much of what Norman feels will be left a mystery to the reader. Norman doesn't consider himself a brave man, but he will risk his life to save his friends later in the story. Norman's knee was shot and seemingly destroyed while he was in the caverns. This will become important in the next chapter as facts about this living Inca Indian civilization are brought to light.



The creatures in the caverns that attacked the students are called by many different names. The Indians believe the creatures to be spirits or gods, but later in the story it will be Maggie who reveals who the creatures actually are. The creatures will have a direct connection to Satan's Blood, but this connection will create just as many questions as it does answers. Joan also will stumble upon many answers while held captive in the Abbey.



Day 5

Day 5 Summary

Joan pulls out the piece of paper that she had transferred the message onto from Francisco de Almagro's Dominican cross. Carlos and Ruiz hadn't realized the significance of the paper and had allowed her to keep it. Joan begins to work on the strange symbols until she gets part of the phrase translated. It mentions the Serpent of Eden, a pestilence, Satan's Blood corrupting God's good work, and that Prometheus holds their salvation. Joan remembers that Prometheus is the Greek god of fire. Carlos knocks on Joan's door and takes Joan to see Ruiz. Once in Ruiz's office, Joan leans in close to Henry so that she can whisper in his ear, pretending that she is just whispering things as a lover would. Joan quickly relates what she has translated from Francisco's warning. Henry and Joan agree that Francisco discovered something about Satan's Blood while in the mountains that these monks know nothing about. Ruiz walks in and announces that Sam and the other students are safe and have found a tribe of Inca Indians. Ruiz explains that he and Henry will take an immediate flight to find Sam and the others, and that Joan will stay there to ensure Henry's cooperation.

Sam wakes late in the afternoon and soon is talking to an excited Philip who explains that Henry is on his way down and Sam will have a rescue there within a day. After Sam relates the message to the others they are relaxed, but Denal notices something is wrong in the village. There are no children. A woman in the town who is pregnant explains that there are no children—that the children go straight to heaven. The woman goes on to explain that she doesn't have children anymore, only gods. Sam and the others gather that the newborn children are taken to the temple and offered to the god Con but they don't understand why all of the children go there. It is then that Sam notices that there are no elderly people either. Everyone in the village is about the same age. Sam, Maggie, and Denal help the Indian's carry wood to the camp and when they return they find that Norman has been taken to the temple.

Joan is allowed to go back to the laboratories despite the fact that she is a prisoner. While there, she gets a lot of information from some of the monks in regard to Satan's Blood. There are a few small samples on a tray in the room. Joan knows that she will need at least one of these samples in order to test her own theories. While waiting for the proper moment to take one of the samples, Joan is told that some of the scientists believe Satan's Blood may in fact be nanobots that have an intended purpose. Joan finds this hard to believe but is intrigued by the theory none-the-less. Joan is able to cause a small distraction and pockets two of the small teardrops into her pocket. Carlos quickly comes in with his gun and takes her back to her room. Before he closes the door, Joan gets Carlos to loan her two cigarettes and has Carlos light it before he leaves. Once Carlos is gone Joan takes a small piece of one of the drops she had pocketed. The amount is the size of an ant and Joan touches the lit cigarette to the sample and is knocked away from the desk because of the explosion, although it isn't loud. There is a hole in the desk where Joan had conducted the experiment.



Sam and Maggie are unable to retrieve Norman from the temple and fear that he is going to be put to death. After a long wait, Norman comes walking back into the village. He is completely healed from his gunshot wound and his need for glasses is completely gone as well. Norman can't remember anything, but suddenly he speaks the Inca Indian language when he couldn't before. The celebration begins and Norman admits he can probably find his way back to the temple but doesn't remember anything about going in. While they discuss it, the celebration ceases and everyone bows to a figure stepping into the light. It is the king and he looks exactly like the statues of the king from long ago that Sam and the others had seen in the cavern. The king, Pachacutec, and his shaman, Kamapak, leave to discuss the future of Sam, Maggie, Norman and Denal in the camp. Sam and Norman decide to follow them and listen in but are found out. The king tells them that the temple heals their sick and no one grows old or dies and that each member of the tribe is hundreds of years old. The king tells them about Francisco de Almagro and the Spanish that came and how they beheaded the king, but Kamapak took the king's body to the temple and the gods made the king a new body. Because Sam and Norman tried to listen in to the king in secret, they are sentenced to death in order to keep the gods happy.

Maggie hides Denal in the woods and went to try and save Sam and Norman. Maggie watches Pachacutec disrobe before Kamapak and she sees that Pachacutec's body is completely white and almost translucent. Pachacutec has no genitalia and she realizes he has the same body as that of the creatures in the caverns. Maggie realizes the story of Pachacutec being beheaded and coming back to life is true.

Day 5 Analysis

At this point in the story the plot has become more intense. Henry now knows that Sam and the others are in danger, but Joan is being held hostage also at a different location. Sam also has come to the realization that Abbot Ruiz wouldn't show him everything that he had if he did not intend to kill Joan and Sam just as he had killed Kirkpatrick. Maggie and Norman both are to the point that they believe there is something in the temple that is, for lack of a better word, magical. Sam seems unconvinced, but soon he will get a firsthand experience at how true the stories are.

Sam and Norman are set to be killed, but Sam still has the small dagger on him. In the next chapter it will again be this small piece of Satan's Blood that proves useful and will save their lives. The Inca Indians are obviously very superstitious in regard to their gods and spirits. Later on in the story the shaman will be faced with the creatures from the caverns, and despite their hideous appearance and the fact that they are frightening, he will refuse to run from them.

Maggie hasn't fully realized what the connection is between the Satan's Blood and the creatures that live in the caves. Denal will be captured and taken to the cave. It seems that soon after Sam rescues Denal from the cavern that Maggie realizes the link. Despite the information that the reader receives in regard to this connection, it will still leave many more questions unanswered.



Friar Otera is a deadly person but hasn't been seen much in the story. He will come back into play in the next few chapters as Henry reaches the dig site. Otera will prove to be a formidable adversary for Henry and the others. It will be to the American archeologists that Otera dislikes so much that he will reveal his own motives and desires for the Satan's Blood.



Day 6

Day 6 Summary

Henry demands to talk to Joan as they land at the dig site. Abbot Ruiz reluctantly agrees. Once on the phone, Joan tries to explain casually to Henry the significance of Prometheus, the god of fire, in Greek mythology. She has a hard time but finally makes Henry understand before Ruiz takes the phone.

Kamapak comes up to Sam and Norman and explains that their tongues are to be cut out so that their screams don't upset the gods. As Kamapak begins to cut their tongues out, Maggie hits Kamapak and knocks him down. Before they can run they are discovered. They don't have any weapons, but Sam still has the dagger that transformed into the key when they were in the caverns. Sam holds it up, wishing that it was something more than just a small knife. The dagger transforms once again, but this time into a snake. Pachacutec begins to cry, saying that the god Inti has blessed them and they are safe with the Inca now as family. Sam and Maggie ask what has been done to Denal, and Pachacutec explains that Denal is too young to be a man and so must be sacrificed to the gods with the other children. Sam and Maggie force Kamapak to take them to the temple where Denal has been sacrificed.

Henry stands listening to Philip Sykes explain how nothing was his fault with Ruiz and Friar Otera close behind. While they are looking over the collapsed tunnel, Norman calls down on the walkie-talkie and tells Henry what is going on and to hurry—Denal is in trouble. Henry tries to give Norman a subtle warning that Ruiz wouldn't notice but Philip Sykes takes note of the comment and scoffs at what Henry had said. Ruiz is angry that Henry would try to warn the students of what was coming and Friar Otera immediately has a knife at the throat of Philip. Henry is given the choice of who will die, Joan Engel or Philip Sykes. Henry refuses to make the choice, but Ruiz explains that it will either be Henry's choice or both of them will die. Henry knows Joan wouldn't forgive him for making Philip die and so Henry chooses Joan.

Sam and Maggie are following Kamapak to the temple. When Sam and Maggie enter the temple they find a large pool of Satan's Blood and an altar, but no blood on it. Kamapak is reluctant to follow them further into the temple but does at a great distance. Once deep in the temple they find another city that looks exactly like the necropolis below and the Inca village. This is the world that represents heaven. Denal sits in the middle of the city, naked, surrounded by the same creatures that were below in the necropolis. Kamapak comes in behind Sam and Maggie and is shocked at what he sees. Sam and Maggie begin to sneak around the buildings to try and get closer to Denal without being seen, but Kamapak walks into the middle of the city and begins to sing loudly. The creatures gather closer to him, confused by Kamapak at first, but soon one of them hits him. When Kamapak has blood pouring from his face the creatures become overwhelmed by their hunger and tear the shaman apart. Denal turns his face



from the sight and sees Sam and Maggie. They begin making their way out of the temple.

Joan is in her cell when Carlos approaches and fetches her. Joan still has the leftover drops of Satan's Blood and makes sure that she has them with her as she is escorted out. Carlos takes her to a room where she is to be tortured and killed.

Maggie and Sam are chased by the creatures but eventually make it out of the temple. Once outside, Maggie explains that the stuff from the temple, the Satan's Blood, has the capability of changing whatever it touches. She tells Sam about seeing Pachacutec's body and that the creatures in the temple are the children of the Inca Indians. Maggie explains that the people live forever but they have to give the children to the temple so that it can experiment with them. It couldn't change Denal because he was too old. While they are outside the temple, Sam and Maggie hear drums and realize that the people in the village are preparing for war. Sam and Maggie hurry, worried for what Henry will find.

Norman is hiding in the jungle, hoping that he misunderstood what Henry had meant. Norman told Pachacutec to ready the people for an attack unless Norman came back with the men. A helicopter soon lands and out of it steps Henry and several monks, most of them with fierce weapons and one holding a gun on Henry. Norman grabs a rock and tries to circle around and take the monk by surprise, but the man turns at the last moment and orders Norman to drop it.

Sam and Maggie are still a distance away from the village when the firefight and explosions begin. Sam knows Henry would never have attacked the village. Sam and Maggie soon find Norman and Henry being held by a monk with a gun. Sam tries to take him by surprise but the man, Friar Otera, pulls the trigger quickly and Sam is flung back. Henry and the others take Otera to the ground.

Joan is in the chamber, watching a monk stoke the fire. She casually gets one of the drops of Satan's Blood and flicks it into the fire while no one is watching. Joan ducks down as the explosion happens, but it still knocks her to the floor. Carlos comes in and is angry at the young monk, explaining that he obviously doesn't know what he is doing yet. Joan pulls out the cigarette that Carlos had given her and lights it. She takes one drag and offers it to Carlos. He accepts it and Joan steps away while she watches the small patch of gold on the underside of the cigarette. When the cherry of the cigarette reaches the gold mark there is a second explosion. When Joan turns around, Carlos no longer has a face.

Maggie and Norman quickly explain to Henry about the temple, Norman's leg, and Pachacutec. The two of them decide that Sam won't die and they begin the journey back to the temple carrying Sam's body. Once in the temple they aren't sure what to do when Henry and Maggie realize it is concentrated human thought, or prayers. They each begin praying and concentrating as the gold envelopes Sam's lifeless body. While they are waiting on Satan's Blood to finish with Sam, Norman and Denal head toward the helicopter to get the grenades that Ruiz's men had brought with them. While



Norman and Denal are gone, Henry and Maggie explain to each other about everything that has happened and what they have learned about Satan's Blood. Suddenly they are shouted at to stay still. Abbot Ruiz and his men enter the temple. Maggie, thinking quickly, informs them that the actual treasure is further in the temple and she will take them there if they agree not to hurt her or Henry. Ruiz agrees and she leads them deeper in the temple. As soon as Maggie has the men deep in the tunnel, the monsters attack.

With Ruiz and all of his men dead, Maggie and Henry go back to check on Sam, who has come out of the golden cocoon. Henry doesn't remember anything that happened but is alive and fine. Before they can leave the temple behind them they see Friar Otera holding Denal captive with a knife.

Norman runs through the jungle, ashamed that he left Denal when Otera jumped up and surprised them. Norman vows to go back and rescue the boy and make up for the fact that he abandoned the child.

Otera explains to Henry, Maggie, and Sam that Ruiz and the church will have to respect him now. Otera is going to use Satan's Blood to make himself rich and that is the true godly purpose of the substance. Otera forces them to hand over guns, and he aims one at Henry. Otera misses with the first shot and soon the sound that is heard is Otera's gurgling. Behind Otera Pachacutec stands with a spear that he has thrust through Otera. Norman had found Pachacutec on the way to the temple and convinced him to help. Pachacutec feels there is no place for him and his people in the world. His tribe is dead and Pachacutec decides to die as well. Pachacutec stabs his creature-like body with his golden dagger and flames erupt from his body. Maggie and Henry realize that the fire will cause all the Satan's Blood to explode and they begin to run from the mountain. They manage to make it to the helicopter and take off as the temple explodes, taking Pachacutec's village with it.

Day 6 Analysis

Maggie had found the true realization of what became of the Inca children. It has also been shown that Satan's Blood came from a meteor that hit the earth. These discoveries are very important to understanding what Satan's Blood is and where it comes from. While there is a very basic understanding of the Satan's Blood at this point in the story it will be the Epilogue where it is fully detailed in origin and the objective of the substance.

Sam and Maggie have been through a lot that has changed the way that they perceive the world. Maggie had been tormented by the fact that she had laid in a ditch as a child while her friend bled to death on top of her, too afraid to move. When Sam and Norman were in trouble, Maggie had a chance to run and hide but choose to come back and face the fight to save them. Sam had felt that his parents were taken but that he was left. Sam's death, while he will remember nothing, will force him to look at what is worth having in life.



Sam knows nothing of Joan at this point in the story. Sam and Henry had grown closer together because of the losses that they encountered. When Sam realizes that Henry has someone else to love it will shock Sam and cause him some fear. This will be the final thing that pushes Sam and Maggie together. Although neither character says so directly, it appears that Sam and Maggie both fear relationships because of what happens when the loved one dies. Henry doesn't realize that Joan could have escaped since it was him who sentenced her to death. Because of this he has too much guilt to talk about Joan even to Sam.

Kamapak had believed so completely that the creatures in the temple were his gods that he refused to be scared of them despite their appearance and behavior. In the epilogue it will be shown that Dr. Kirkpatrick, just as Kamapak, will refuse to be afraid of the creatures when they show obvious signs of aggression.



Day 7

Day 7 Summary

Sam and the others are on a plane heading for civilization. Sam can't remember anything about dying but is happy to be on a plane with Maggie asleep beside him. The plane lands and Henry reminds them all to tell the press they have no comment if they ask about anything specific. Henry had heard that the Abbey where he and Joan had been held had been in a massive firefight with the police but he didn't hear if there were any survivors. They exit the plane as cameras flash and many different languages begin to chatter at the same time. Out of the crowd comes a figure that Sam doesn't recognize. Henry becomes emotional as Joan walks up to him. Henry makes rushed introductions as he holds onto Joan. Norman is taking Denal to the states with him to sponsor him with National Geographic.

Sam looks at the people around him and begins to cry. He asks Maggie why he was allowed to live on the mountain, and be resurrected, while those around him didn't live. Maggie grabs him and tells him that the point of life is not to escape death, but to live life to the fullest. Maggie and Sam kiss and Sam realizes that at that moment he was living life to the fullest and that is what life is all about.

Day 7 Analysis

Maggie and Sam eventually overcome their feelings of shame, regret, and guilt over their pasts. Ultimately, it appears that it is seeing Henry and Joan together that causes Sam to realize what life is worth. Maggie seems to recognize what Sam is feeling and is able to be there for what he needs.

There is no mention made of what happened to the mountain or the Satan's Blood that was found. It is unclear if any in the Abbey survived to the extent that they would continue to be a threat to Sam and Henry. Denal's mother had told him to be brave before she died. This will be what causes Denal to act many times in the book. Norman's own guilt over leaving the child when Otera attacks will be a very shaming point for Norman. It isn't explained if it is Norman's guilt or a genuine caring for Denal that causes him to sponsor Denal in National Geographic.

The connection between these characters and the Satan's Blood appears to end at this point and these characters won't be seen again in the book.



Epilogue

Epilogue Summary

Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick hadn't died at Johns Hopkins University when he was shot by Carlos. Kirkpatrick had been reported dead by the government and given a lab and a large amount of money to study the Substance Z that he had managed to keep from his encounter with Joan and Henry. Kirkpatrick has discovered the goal of the nanobots in Substance Z. Kirkpatrick explains that the Substance Z is an extraterrestrial spore. An alien civilization sent the nanobot probes into space to seed other planets when their own race began to die out. Substance Z has an effect on early embryonic tissue.

Kirkpatrick looks at the small forms in the tube as it pulls back its lips into a hiss with sharp teeth showing. Kirkpatrick ignores the fact that the creature is acting aggressive and simply says "Welcome to Earth".

Epilogue Analysis

The end of the story leaves the reader with a "what if" rather than a definite ending, but this ending served a purpose in answering many questions about the Satan's Blood, or Substance Z as Kirkpatrick refers to it. Maggie O'Donnell had come up with much the same basic principle as Kirkpatrick but it had been unconfirmed. Kirkpatrick seems to be so excited that he has been able to create these creatures that he doesn't care if they have the potential to be dangerous or not.

Nothing more is said in regard to Henry or Joan. It is unclear if Joan or Henry ever remembered that Kirkpatrick had taken a separate sample of the Satan's Blood. It is possible since Kirkpatrick was part of a secret government experiment with the Substance Z that they couldn't have gotten any answers if they had tried. These are all questions that will be left to the reader.



Characters

Sam Conklin

Sam is the nephew of Henry Conklin. Sam lost his parents in a car crash when he was young. Sam has survivor's guilt, remembering his mother and father's bodies being pulled out of the car crash and himself being left unharmed. Sam and his uncle have a very tight bond that comes in part from Sam and his uncle Henry both losing people close to them. Their grief brings them together but will also keep Sam from connecting with others around him on a deep level.

Sam has feelings for Maggie O'Donnell but will be afraid to show them. Sam will justify his need to keep his feelings hidden because he and Maggie work together, but eventually Sam will have to face the fact that he still hurts and is afraid to let people too close. It will take Maggie and Sam's feelings for her for him to realize that you aren't living life unless you allow love into your life. Sam will act as a leader for the students that are trapped in the caverns and will seem to feel a great amount of responsibility for their safety. One of the focuses of the book will be Sam's need to balance the feelings he has and the fears that he must overcome.

Henry Conklin

Henry Conklin is an archeologist that got funding to develop a dig site in the Peruvian mountains with the thought of proving that the Inca Indian's stole their building skills and other renowned technology from the Moche Indians. Henry's team finds the body of Francisco de Almagro and takes it back to be tested. Henry lost his wife several years earlier to cancer at about the same time that his nephew, Sam Conklin, lost his parents. The two develop a strong bond and Sam is one of the students that becomes trapped on the dig site with Henry away. Henry will blame himself for much of what has happened on the dig site because he left.

Henry and Dr. Joan Engel had had a relationship when they were much younger, but their lives had gone in different directions. Henry will become caught up in Joan and his feelings for her. When Henry discovers that Sam, the nephew he bonded with and raised, is in danger, Henry will attempt to distance himself from Joan, feeling that his attention to her may have contributed to Sam's predicament. It will only be when Henry believes that Joan is dead that Henry will be forced to face how much he really loves her.

Francisco de Almagro

Francisco de Almagro is a Spanish monk that manages to escape the Inca Indians and leave a message for whomever finds his body. The message is a warning about the Satan's Blood that is so heavily sought after.



Maggie O'Donnel

Maggie is one of the students that is trapped in the caverns. Maggie is from Belfast and has stressed induced seizures that began when she was a young girl after her friend bled to death while laying on top of her. Sam doesn't know she has these seizures until after they are trapped in the caverns and she begins convulsing and later acts as if it is normal. Maggie is in love with Sam.

Dr. Joan Engel

Dr. Joan Engel is the love interest of Henry Conklin. It is Joan who translates the message on the back of Francisco de Almagro's cross and then discovers the reaction that Satan's Blood has to fire.

Denal

Denal, the translator on the dig site, is a thirteen-year-old Quechan Indian boy. Denal will be trapped in the caverns with Sam and the others. Denal will risk his own life for the others several times, explaining that his mother told him before she died to always be brave.

Normal Fields

Norman Fields is a photographer with National Geographic. He is one of the characters that will become trapped in the cave. It will be Norman that is shot in the leg and later is taken to the Inca's Temple and miraculously healed.

Ralph Isaacson

Ralph is a member of Henry Conklin's expedition. Ralph is Southern Baptist raised and will die saving Norman Fields from the creatures that live in the underground caverns.

Abbot Ruiz

Abbot Ruiz is in charge of the Keepers of the Question, a secret group of Spanish Inquisitors still in practice. Abbot Ruiz will have Henry Conklin and Dr. Joan Engel kidnapped because of their finding of Satan's Blood. Abbot Ruiz will explain that they believe that Satan's Blood holds the ability to call down the spirit of God to earth.



Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick

Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick is a colleague of Dr. Joan Engel. Kirkpatrick is shot by one of the monks retrieving the sample of Satan's Blood. After he is thought dead the government sets him up a secret research lab to investigate the effects of Satan's Blood on human embryos.

Friar Otera

Friar Otera is a member of the Inquisition that is sent to look after the dig site where Sam and the others are trapped. It is Friar Otera that had hired Guillermo Sala to raid the caverns and it is Friar Otera that kills Guillermo Sala. Friar Otera doesn't want to call down the spirit of God as the other Inquisitors but wishes to use the Satan's Blood to make himself rich.

Guillermo Sala

Guillermo Sala is the ex-policeman that works as the head of security for Henry Conklin's dig site. Guillermo will be the one that throws the grenade that traps Sam and the other students in the underground Inca caverns.

Philip Sykes

Philip Sykes is the student at the dig site that Henry Conklin leaves in charge. Philip dislikes the other students and is worried when they become trapped that if they die in the caverns it will be a blemish on his record.

Carlos

Carlos is one of the Inquisitors. It is Carlos who kidnaps Dr. Joan Engel and Henry Conklin. Carlos is also the one who shoots Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick. Carlos will be killed by Joan Engel when she booby traps one of Carlos's cigarettes.

Pachacutec

Pachacutec is the ruler of the lost Inca tribe found by Sam and the others when they find the way out of the underground caverns. Pachacutec is hundreds of years old and was beheaded by the Spanish. Pachacutec's religious leader took his head to the temple and prayed that the gods heal him. Pachacutec was given a new body resembling that of the creatures that live in the caverns.

Kamapak

Kamapak is the shaman of the Inca Indians. Kamapak will be eaten by the creatures in the caverns that they believe are spirits.



Objects/Places

Satan's Blood

The name given to the golden substance that fell to earth from meteors. It is also referred to as Substance Z, the Finger of God, and several other names depending upon the group of people.

The Keepers of the Question

The Keepers of the Question is the name that refers to the group of monks that remain of the inquisitors. The Keepers of the Question are highly focused group of Friars that are looking for the gold referred to as Satan's Blood.

Mallaqui

The creatures found in the cave that attacks the grad students trapped there. The creatures are thought to be spirits by the Inca Indians but are actually humans that have been genetically manipulated by the golden metal referred to as Satan's Blood.

Peruvian Andes

The dig site where the archeologist become trapped is in the Peruvian Andes. Much of the story will take place here.

Nanotechnology

Nanotechnology is what Satan's Blood is determined to be. There will be explanations on nanotechnology and how it pertains to Satan's Blood and what it means.

Dagger

Sam finds a dagger that transforms into a key while he holds it. It will be this dagger that saves their lives while they escape the caves, although they don't realize what they have found.

Tarantulas

There are albino tarantulas that attack the grad students after they are trapped in the cave. It will be because of these creatures that Sam and the others race deeper into the cave.



Francisco de Almagro's Cross

There is a silver Dominican cross found on the mummified remains of Francisco de Almagro. On the back of the cross there is a message warning everyone against Satan's Blood and tells how to destroy the substance. The message will be in symbols and will be deciphered by Dr. Joan Engel.

El Sangre

The vault of El Sangre is an ancient Inca Indian torture chamber. El Sangre had an abbey built upon it by the Keepers of the Question. It has been transformed into a high tech science lab.

Prometheus

Prometheus is described as being the salvation by Francisco de Almagro in regard to Satan's Blood. Prometheus was the Greek god of fire. It will be this clue and his name that allows Dr. Joan Engel to discover the adverse reaction that Satan's Blood has to fire.

Temple of the Sun

The name given to the Temple by the Inca Indians. It is here that the Satan's Blood resides and where the Incan Indians go to be healed and sacrifice their children.



Themes

The Need for Love

The need for love in the book is a theme that is focused on for two different sets of characters. Sam Conklin and Maggie O'Donnell are archeology grad students that are trapped together in the caverns after Guillermo Sala detonates a grenade at the entrance. Maggie and Sam both have what could be described as "survivors guilt" because of what they lived through as children. This allows them to understand each other in many respects, although they do not act on their feelings for each other. Sam will push Maggie away and she also will keep her distance. Both of these characters seem to shove their feelings aside because they work together and need to remain professional. It won't be until the end of the story that Sam realizes it is love and the people that you have around you that allows you to live life.

Henry Conklin and Dr. Joan Engel are the other set of characters in the book who realize a need for love. These two had had a relationship when they were younger and never truly lost their feelings for each other. Henry had what appears to have been a good solid marriage that ended when his wife died of cancer, leaving him mourning her loss. Joan Engel had been married and it had ended in a nasty divorce, leaving her grieving in her own way. These two characters in the book are older and more mature than Sam and Maggie, but it will become evident that they need each other. The need for love doesn't diminish with age and it brings a spark of life to both Sam and Henry.

Fear

Fear becomes a driving force for many of the characters in the book in different ways. There will be different forms of fear shown and some seem to be insignificant, but to the characters experiencing them, the fears will be immense and all-consuming. Philip Sykes is a character in the book that is viewed as shallow and self-absorbed. When his fellow grad students are trapped in the caverns he will be concerned with the impact their deaths will have on him long-term. This fear that he has will seem insignificant and skewed, considering there are lives at stake, but to Philip Sykes it will be a factor that forces him to try that much harder.

Henry Sykes is an older man and the fears that he has will never seem to be focused on himself, but on those around him. He will worry for Sam and the others trapped in the caverns, for Joan when she is held hostage, and for Philip Sykes when Philip's life is threatened. His worry for those around him will be the driving force for Henry in all his actions and decisions.

Sam and the others trapped in the caverns have fears, and although the fears differ in some ways, their fears work collectively to pull them together to find a way out of the collapsed caverns. Sam and Maggie will both have fears that derive from their



traumatizing memories from their youths. Ralph and Norman's fears will come in other forms. Denal is only thirteen, and he is afraid of many of the things that they see while they are on their adventures, but the thing that Denal fears the most is letting down the memory of his dead mother. Denal will continually take on tasks that put his own life in danger with the explanation that his mother told him to always be brave. The fear of disappointing his mother in her dying request will continually triumph anything Denal faces.

Every character in the story will seem to face a fear of some type. The first fear in the book, the one that starts the story into motion, is the fear of Francisco de Almagro. It will be Francisco's fears that sends him to the top of the mountain to take his own life. If Francisco's fear of what Satan's Blood would do to the world had not been greater than his own fear of death, then the events would have been changed drastically.

The Quest for Understanding

The quest for understanding can be seen from several different vantage points in the story. Henry Conklin and the others at the dig site in the Peruvian Andes begins because they are on a quest for understanding of lost civilizations. This search for answers is understood and readily seen, but there are other groups in the book that are on quests for different understandings.

The Keepers of the Question are on a mission to find out the true potential of Satan's Blood. In addition to this, they are seeking a way to bring Christ's soul back to earth in the form that the Satan's Blood will take on. They explain that this is so they will be better in tune to God's wants and be able to better understand the will of God.

Dr. Joan Engel and Henry Conklin will both be on a quest to find what Francisco de Almagro wrote on the back of the cross and was warning the others about when he died. It will be Dr. Joan Engel who is able to find the answer to this question and how to destroy the Satan's Blood.

The true nature of Satan's Blood and what its purpose is will be hinted at throughout the story, but it will be Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick who discovers what it actually is. His quest for what the Satan's Blood is will lead him to the creature of creatures that answer to the compounds origin. The quest for understanding will be the drive for many characters in the book.



Style

Point of View

The story is written in third person with the point of view coming from several different characters. This allows for an omniscient view that gives the reader detail in regard to what each person is thinking. While the point of view in the story will come from many different characters, the two characters in the story that are most often shadowed are Dr. Henry Conklin and his nephew Sam Conklin. While much of the story will come from these two characters, the other characters in the book will each be focused on in order to show the reader what that particular character knows that the other did not. The collective point of views in the story will give the reader knowledge enough to piece together facts and opinions before the individual characters.

This point of view will provide the reader a clear motive for individuals as well as group motives throughout the story. These motives otherwise would not be explained, and they allow the reader to understand the characters' personalities and give insight as to what their future actions may be. The author uses exposition to explain much about the characters that happened in the past, but current events are often explained with the use of dialogue. When the author changes from shadowing characters, there will be a double space in paragraphs to denote a change in view. The point of view is easily understood.

Setting

The story takes place in several different places and times. The story begins with the story of Francisco de Almagro in the year 1538 in Peru. While this is a significant basis for the story, it only consists of a few pages and the majority of the story will take place in modern times; although the year for these passages are not given, the month and the day are.

The story takes place in Peru for the majority of the story after Henry Conklin and his archeology grad students uncover Francisco de Almagro's mummified body. The story will follow several sets of people, which will take the reader to several different areas. Henry Conklin will be in the United States with Francisco de Almagro's remains at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. Much of Henry and Joan Engel's discoveries will be made while they are here. Eventually, Henry and Joan will be taken to South American to an Inquisitioner's Abbey. While the setting changes dates and physical location several times, it is easily followed and understood when these changes take place.

The final setting in the book will be described as taking place two years after Henry and Sam's adventures have ended. This setting will take place in a secret government



facility on the West Coast at the Institute of Genetic Studies at Stanford. The last chapter will show the reader many answers that were not answered earlier in the book.

Language and Meaning

The language in the story is very informal and easily understood from the main characters. There are riddles and translated phrases in the book that will need to be deciphered by the main characters before the character has a good meaning of them. The first of these translations that seem almost to be a riddle is that of Francisco de Almagro's warning on the door that was sealed to the chamber in the caverns. There also is the message that Francisco left on the back of the Dominican cross that was found on Francisco's mummified body.

When Sam and the others find the lost Inca tribe in the book, Denal and Norman will be the two characters that do much of the translations. Despite the fact that the characters can ask questions, they will receive answers that don't make much sense immediately, such as when they ask the pregnant woman where the children are. The woman will explain that they don't have children, that she now gives birth to gods. This is confusing to both the reader and the grad students but will be explained as the story continues.

Many of the phrases and words in the story will have more than one meaning. The substance called Satan's Blood is viewed differently by the different organizations in the book. The Incas revere it, while Francisco de Almagro hated it and said "it corrupts the work of God." The Keepers of the Question have decided it is a gift from God and have renamed it God's Finger, and the scientific community has dubbed the material Substance Z. There is a lot of deeper meaning to many of the phrases used that describes a lot about the characters involved as well as Satan's Blood.

Structure

The story consists of 416 pages and is divided into nine sections. The first section is called the Prologue and the last is the Epilogue, with the sections between being named by the day in which they take place. Each chapter is named with a simple word or phrase that is significant that happens in that chapter. The character that the author is shadowing will change quite often in the story. This change will be shown with a double space.

The story's main plot is focused on the Satan's Blood and its story. There are many subplots in the story that take up large portions of the story. There are two different love stories that take place in the book as well as individual characters overcoming fears and past memories. There is also a minor plot involving the Keepers of the Secret and their part in the story. While there are many subplots in the story, these will not take away from the main plot or its focus. Many of the plots in the story will be resolved, but the author will end the story with a plot that is just beginning. Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick will have some of the Satan's Blood and will have discovered what it was designed to do and why it was sent to Earth. While this last chapter answers many questions in regard to what

the substance actually is and what it was meant to do, it will leave the reader wondering what becomes of the creatures that Dr. Kirkpatrick creates. The structure of the story is easy to follow and makes the story easy to read. The plots will be entertaining and will add to each other with the way they connect to each other.



Quotes

"He touched the warm metal against his forehead. Gold. Here was the reason the Spaniards had struggled through these foreign jungles—the dream of riches and wealth. Now their lust and greed would damn them all." Prologue p. 6

"He didn't know what surprised him more—that the mummy was a member of the Spanish Inquisition or that he had a date." Part 2: p. 87

"Though it made no sense at all, Henry had a feeling that tonight's events were somehow intertwined: the burglary at the hotel, the attempted break-in at the morgue, his difficulty in reaching Sam. It was nonsense, of course, but the small hairs on the back of Henry's neck stood on end." Part 2: p. 139

"The chemical and molecular attributes of the material, though intriguing, were nothing compared to the fact that the material had transformed on its own." Part 3: p. 185

"As pale as the albino tarantulas, it stood on two legs, naked, hunched, knuckling on one long, thickly muscled arm. Sam's first thought was ape, but the creature was hairless, bald-pated." Part 3: p. 197

"'If we bring together enough of this divine substance, God's mind will reach out and enter our vessel here, bring it to life.' Abbot Ruiz turned to Henry, his eyes bright with zeal. 'Our goal is to bring a living God back to this earth.'" Part 4: p. 253

"She held the paper up. A chill passed through her as she read: Here is my last willed words. May God forgive me...the Serpent of Eden...pestilence...Satan's Blood corrupts God's good work... Prometheus holds our salvation...pray...may the Serpent never be loosed." Part 5: p. 274

"Several of us...the younger researchers among us...think maybe the metal is actually some dense accumulation of nanobots." Part 5: p. 294

"As she scooted the papers aside, a highlighted sentence from a personal paper caught her eye: We have come to believe that each particulate structure of the metal may actually be a type of microscopic manufacturing device. But this raises two questions. To what purpose was it designed? And who programmed it?" Part 5: p. 298

"From the neck up, the king's skin was the familiar mocha brown of the Andean Indians, but from the neck down, his skin was as pale as something found under a rock. It reminded Maggie of the beastly predators that haunted the caverns below. But Pachacutec's skin was even paler, almost translucent. Vessels could be seen moving blackish blood under his skin; bones appeared as buried shadows." Part 5: p. 325

"That's the price for eternal life here. The children! It takes their offspring and...and I don't know...maybe experiments with them. Who knows? But whatever the purpose, the



temple is using the Incas' children as biologic fodder. The villagers are no more than cattle in a reproductive experiment." Part 6: p. 367

"'It's prayers! Concentrated human thought!' Henry stared at them as if this was answer enough. 'This...this gold, Devil's blood, whatever the hell it is...it responds to human thought. It will mold and change to one's will.'" Part 6: p. 384

"I have come to believe that the gold meteors discovered by the Incas were, in fact, some form of extraterrestrial spore. Unable to transport themselves physically, an alien civilization seeded these nanobot probes throughout the stars. Like a dandelion gone to seed, the probes spread through space, hoping to find fertile ground among the countless planets." Epilogue: p. 415

"The lips of the tiny figure pulled back in a silent hiss, exposing its row of sharp teeth. Dale ignored the infantile display of aggression, content with the success of his handiwork. He rested one palm on the glass. 'Welcome,' he whispered to the newcomers. 'Welcome to Earth.'" Epilogue: p. 416



Topics for Discussion

There are two developing relationships in the story, Henry and Joan, and Sam and Maggie. In what ways are the two relationships similar? In what ways are the two relationships dissimilar? Do the relationships add to the main plot of the story or detract? Explain.

Look at the two characters Kamapak and Dr. Dale Kirkpatrick. These characters are very different, yet both of them seem to revere the creatures created by the Satan's Blood or Substance Z. What causes each of these characters to view the creatures in awe? Does the way they treat the creatures make these two characters more the same or show greater differences in them? Explain.

Maggie has stress-induced seizures. Explain the importance of these seizures and what it says about Maggie. Does this work to make Maggie more believable as a character?

Norman fled from Friar Otera when Denal had been taken captive. Was Norman's initial response to run complete cowardice? Was Norman's response involuntary or did he make a conscious choice?

What role does Philip Sykes play in the book? Was his role a necessary one? Explain.

The Inca tribe that Sam found had been alive for hundreds of years. Given what we know about the Incas, would the Indians have continued to give their children to the temple if they had known what the Satan's Blood was and what it was doing to their offspring? Explain.

Guillermo Sala is an interesting character. He claims to want the wealth for his people and even makes mention of children, although he is quick to hold a gun to his own friends. Speculate on Guillermo Sala's true motives. What does it say about Guillermo that his last thought was praying "Please, not like this"?

Henry and Joan kept Francisco de Almagro's warning about Satan's Blood a secret from Abbot Ruiz. Given what is known about Ruiz, would he have changed his tactics in any regard if he had known? Explain. Did Abbot Ruiz truly believe he was on a mission from God? Otera? Carlos? Explain.