

0. PATH of ILLUMINATION - FOUR CLUES - Story Preface

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8. ANTIMATTER EXPLOSIONS



In this image, via CERN, we see the antimatter cannister (trap) at issue in the film "Angels & Demons." CERN has provided helpful [lesson plans about antimatter](#).

During a Papal Conclave, voting Cardinals are allowed no access to the outside world. In *Angels & Demons*, the four top contenders are missing - kidnapped from their Vatican rooms - before the Conclave begins.

As a result, Professor Robert Langdon has been summoned to the Vatican. His job is to interpret clues to their whereabouts (and prevent their murders).

Langdon has another, even more urgent, task.

As it happens, a cannister containing antimatter has been stolen from a CERN laboratory. As long as antimatter, in a cannister (or in anything else), is not touching the container in which it's housed, all is well. However, as we have learned, if antimatter comes into contact with matter (such as the sides of a cannister), annihilation (in a light-filled, high-energy explosion) will take place.

Sophisticated clues, which an assassin has devised for anyone who wishes to stop him, are at angel sculptures or reliefs in Rome and Vatican City. Each clue is also associated with a form of matter: Earth, Air, Fire and Water. (Ancient Greeks believed that everything in the world was made from one of those substances.)

In order to find the clues, Langdon and his cohorts must follow the Path of Illumination (which has been orchestrated by the assassin). Let's tag along:

- Habakkuk and the Angel (in the Chigi Chapel of Santa Maria del Popolo) contains the clue for Earth;
- West Ponente (at Saint Peter's Square) has the clue for Air;
- Ecstasy of St Teresa (a sculpture at Santa Maria della Vittoria) will reveal the clue for Fire;
- The Four Rivers (a famous fountain at Piazza Navona) contains the clue for Water.

And ... while he's tearing around Rome and the Vatican at breakneck speeds ... Langdon must also make a stop at Castel Sant'Angelo. The former papal fortress, which began its 1800-year existence as Emperor Hadrian's tomb, is reached by crossing the Bridge of Angels. It has a safe passage (the Passetto di Borgo) which connects the castle to St. Peter's Basilica.

The professor doesn't quite get where he needs to be, at the time he needs to be there, however. So ... does that mean the cannister of antimatter (which is being held in place by battery-operated magnets about to run out of power) will explode and decimate most (or all) of Vatican City?

See [Alignments to State and Common Core standards for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicAlignment/PATH-of-ILLUMINATION-FOUR-CLUES-Angels-Demons>

See [Learning Tasks for this story online at:](#)

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/AcademicActivities/PATH-of-ILLUMINATION-FOUR-CLUES-Angels-Demons>



Angels & Demons - Earth, Air, Fire, Water Brandings

Ambigram image online, courtesy [Drexel University](#).

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Angels-Demons-Earth-Air-Fire-Water-Brandings>



Angels & Demons - Habbakuk and the Angel, by Bernini

Photo taken by Bede735 in May, 2013. Online courtesy Wikimedia Commons. License: CC BY-SA 3.0.

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<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Angels-Demons-Habbakuk-and-the-Angel-by-Bernini>



Angels & Demons - Chigi Chapel

Photo of the Chigi Chapel, at Rome's Santa Maria del Popolo, by Francesco Gasparetti. Image online, courtesy Flickr.

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Angels & Demons - Exterior View, Santa Maria del Popolo

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Angels & Demons - West Ponente at St. Peter's Square

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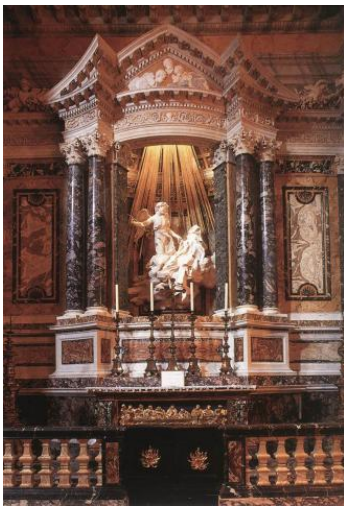


St. Peter's Square - Vatican City

Photo of St. Peter's Square, by DAVID ILIFF. Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Angels & Demons - Ecstasy of St. Theresa

Image online, courtesy studyblue.com website.

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Ecstasy of St. Theresa - Santa Maria della Vittoria

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Angels & Demons - Fire and St. Teresa

Image online, courtesy the radford.edu website.

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Fountain of the Four Rivers - Piazza Navona

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Piazza Navona

Image online, courtesy the italian-architecture.info website.

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Castel Sant'Angelo

Photo by Andreas Tille, online courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Bridge of Angels - Rome

Image online, courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

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Angels & Demons - Secret Passage

Exterior view of Passeto from Castel Sant'Angelo to St. Peter's Basilica, online courtesy Saint Peters Basilica.org.

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PATH of ILLUMINATION - FOUR CLUES

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Trailer - Angels and Demons

Trailer for "Angels and Demons," a film by Imagination Entertainment and Columbia Pictures. Copyright, Imagination Entertainment, all rights reserved. Clip provided here as fair use for educational purposes.

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Earth, Air, Water and Fire - Views of the Ancient Greeks

Video clip from *Our Friend the Atom*, a 1957 Disney production, online courtesy banyt's channel at YouTube.

View this asset at:

<http://www.awesomestories.com/asset/view/Earth-Air-Water-and-Fire-Views-of-the-Ancient-Greeks>