*Wrath of God*

By Scott Worley

Synopsis

The *Wrath of God* is a Science Fiction/Fantasy novel that is set in current times along with a series of events that take place in 29 AD in Frisia (now northwest Germany/Netherlands). The story develops three separate plot lines involving suspense, plot twists, romance, espionage, advance technology—along with a thrilling historical component—as the saga builds to a climactic battle requiring the ultimate self-sacrifice. The story involves the threats advance science poses to humanity but combats the threat with the introduction of a highly flawed fantasy character.

The first plot line involves Dr. Melanie Carter, the lead scientist, and Colonel Victor Sanchez, a covert NSA operative that are involved in a national security project sponsored by DARPA. The project entails the development of the next generation of weapons that will replace humans on the battlefield. The project is fraught with sabotage and espionage but eventually is successful in developing prototype autonomous robots with enhanced military capabilities when disaster strikes.

The second plot line involves the Serenity V Corporation, a high-tech software company located in Taipei, Taiwan, that has an ambitious project to develop Artificial Intelligence (“AI”) using the principals of Darwinian biology. Their premise is that intelligence on earth was not created but developed over billions of years based on adaptations to survive in a competitive, harsh environment. Similarly, AI cannot be programmed and instead must develop from self-replicating computer codes with forced variations while placed in a competitive environment. Serenity V succeeds in developing Alpha, the first truly functional AI. Unfortunately, the methodology that developed Alpha ingrains survival as its primary goal, and Alpha concludes its creators are its biggest threat.

The third plot line involves Mary Beth Connor, an archeology graduate student at Princeton, who during an expedition in Egypt discovers a tomb and awakens Quintus, a scarred warrior with a white cross emblazoned on his chest. To her surprise, he declares she must have been sent as his new guide and conscience and that he would be her protector. He relates a fantastical story to her: He was a Centurion in the Roman army involved in a battle in Frisia when his life was transformed. On that day in Judea, his half-brother was the guard that pierced the side of a young Rabbi being crucified. God’s anger was immense, and he released his almighty wrath by encapsulating it inside the body of Quintus. Quintus awoke three days later, as an enraged, unstoppable, madman killing everyone and everything near him. Eventually, a mysterious man appeared on the battlefield and extinguished the momentary madness from Quintus. The man said that he could not remove the wrath and feared what Quintus could do to humanity, so he healed a dying Centurion named Maximus and tasked him to be Quintus’ guide and conscience. After, Maximus’ eventually death, Quintus, cursed with seeming immortality, is a lost tortured soul. Unhappy about his actions, he eventually secludes himself in the tomb until the day Mary Beth finds him.

The story intertwines the plot lines when Alpha obtains internet access, from both Russian and Chinese operatives, enabling it to orchestrate the takeover of the DARPA robots which it uses to kill the Serenity V creators, start a genocide program in Taiwan, take over computer system worldwide and obtain nuclear weapons. Quintus, Mary Beth, Melanie, and Victor are drawn together in the battle against Alpha pitting the Wrath of God against modern day weapons and technology. Quintus believes has been awaked because the means for his destruction finally exist and is eager to sacrifice himself in battle to release his curse. The equation changes as he falls in love with Mary Beth making his potential self-sacrifice a tragic final action in the saga.