

The vision of Life in Paulo Coelho's Alchemist

M.Vasanthamullai, Guest Lecturer, Dept of English, Arignar Anna Govt Arts College, Vadachennimalai Attur

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Abstract

Paulo Coelho shows the readers a different view of nature through his novel *The Alchemist*. He pictures ancient Spain's desert life and explores the universal strength of nature in our minds when he starts his book. He portrays the life of a shepherd boy and typical characters seen in a desert and how the private hands of nature lead them to their destinies from the point of view of a boy named Santiago. He is a typical boy who dreams of achieving the impossible in his life.

Keywords: Vision of life, Dream, Paulo Coelho

Dream – It is a series of thoughts, images, and sensations occurring in a person's mind during sleep which helps us to do whatever we desire. The Dream is a state of mind that most of us don't pay any attention to, but when it becomes more personal, we give more importance to it. Former President of India, Honourable Dr.A.P.J. Abdul kalam, said, 'We all must dream, and It should not allow us to sleep. Moreover, he dreamed that India would be a superpower in

2020. It is still considered a dream, not a reality in India. It is unfortunate to tell this, but Dr.A.P.J. Abdul kalam's Dream is still a dream. I am coating this because Dreams are not just illusion; it is a state of mind that differentiates the people who are living and alive. You may ask what the difference is between being alive and living.

The Dream is a measurement scale for both; if a human chase a dream and achieves it, he is considered as living but instead of chasing his Dream, if someone lets their dreams as a simple passerby or memory, they are just alive. It is so because Dreams give purpose and vision to our lives, and it takes real guts to chase your dreams and live your life. I understood the concept, i.e., the meaning of life, when I read Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. The writer gave us the vision to see this world from a different point of view.

Paulo Coelho shows the readers a different view of nature through his novel *The Alchemist*. He pictures ancient Spain's desert life and explores the universal strength of nature in our minds when he starts his book. He portrays the life of a shepherd boy and typical characters seen in a desert and how the private hands of nature lead them to their

destinies from the point of view of a boy named Santiago. An ordinary boy who dreams of achieving the impossible in his life. Santiago believes his Dream to be a prophetic vision, and he travels to the pyramids of Egypt to find treasure. Here Coelho has made the personal thematic approach of a character to pursue his legend of life. He brings a clear picture of the desert culture and tradition. He gives the readers an idea of how a shepherd boy goes through his lifetime of happiness and sorrow.

Santiago is a universal character who represents any normal human being. Santiago can be a role model to all men and women and is considered a universal character. The main reason for addressing Santiago as a universal hero is because he represents everything we humans Dream of doing our entire life. Both Love and Life are an integral part of human society. Every human in this world dreams of loving someone, but most don't have the guts to move forward to propose to a girl; some people fall in love but don't fight for it; instead, they blame fate.

Dreams in the sense of "goals" or "aspirations" also constitute a significant theme. Santiago's Dream of the treasure provides him with a goal; Dreams are the language of God and the language of the soul. Following his dreams, Santiago travels to the pyramids of Egypt to find treasure. Here Coelho has made the personal thematic approach of a character to pursue his legend of life. He then tells a lone gypsy about this treasure. The gypsy says that if he does find the

treasure, she wants one-tenth part of the treasure.

From the novel's beginning, the writer insists that we follow our hearts, not brains. The lead character, Santiago, follows his heart and his Dream no matter what happens, and he believes that nature will help us if we trust our Dream and follow the Dream no matter what obstacles we face.

On his journey to find the treasure, he encounters love, danger, opportunity, and disaster and learns a lot about himself and the world's ways. One of the notable characters in the novel he meets is an old king named Melchizedek, who tells him about discovering his legend: what he always wanted to accomplish in his life.

“When you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it. This is the core philosophy and motto of the book.”(2)

As I said earlier, Santiago is the representation of our desire. We all would have dreamt of exploring the world and meeting new people. But we do not pursue our Dream because we don't have time or money or it is not worth it. But the writer feels; differently; he wanted us to travel the world to learn the way of nature and how it will help us when we need something to be a part of our lives. Many of us might think, what is the need to travel? or explore the world? What is the necessity? Let me tell you something, friends, the people who

achieved in their lives worldwide, had a dream to become successful. They chased their Dream across countries, and they shattered boundaries, race, skin color & language to make their Dream into reality.

A journey will show us the meaning of life, and it will also show us the importance of every relationship in our lives. Santiago met a lot of people throughout his journey, and he learned a lot of things from every one of them. Like Great Scholars say, 'Great things are spoken and done by simple people we meet in our daily life. Through the eyes of Santiago, the writer shows us the need and necessity of understanding nature and the people around us. If we want something to be done, we should not rely on others; instead, we should get down in the streets and finish the job ourselves. In this modern world, most of us depend mainly on the internet and YouTube for resources, but we want to find something other than the source of help on the internet.

The main problem with today's generation is that we speak to many people over the internet; in fact, we talk to millions of people whom we have yet to meet, but we cannot talk to a single person if they are in front of us. But Santiago does not face any of those problems cause he has the guts to face his trial. Speaking of facing issues, the most important of all the problems is facing love. The writer has also given a new vision of how to meet love.

During his journey, Santiago meets a beautiful Arabian woman named Fatima. She suggests that if he follows his heart, he shall find what he seeks. These sentences may seem small and simple, but their meaning is precious. Most of us in this modern world is not scared of falling in love, but we are afraid of facing our love in marriage. Most people say that they haven't found true love in their lives, but if you ask me, what is meant by true love? And what is meant by love? We must understand that there is no such thing as true love; there is only love, and it is true, but we use the term true love to make it more dramatic. Paulo wants us to understand the meaning of love from our hearts. He wants us to feel the essence of love deep in our hearts and nerves. The reason behind this vision is that the world's best love is self-love. We love ourselves more than anything in this whole world.

When we love someone other than ourselves, it means that we are investing our self-love in another person, and our investment is more valuable than any other thing in this world, and we feel happy when we give our love to the other person. We must also understand that if a boy or a girl sees one another and falls in love, that is because of their physical needs, i.e., He or She will take care of all their needs, and that it not loves; it is just attraction and loves not about receiving it. Still, it is about unconditionally giving our love by understanding others and accepting them for who they are, but what are we doing? We act so that the

other person will stay with us, and it is not physical love.

Paulo wants us to understand and feel love, breaking the boundaries of love to which we are bounded in today's world. We are very eager to fall in love, but when it comes to taking it another step, most fail miserably. It is because we don't try to understand the person we love; we need to satisfy our needs, which is why most love affairs never end in marriage. To change this, Paulo shows us how to succeed in our love. He says that, If you sincerely love someone and deep in your heart you feel that you want to be with that person for the rest of your life, then do not worry because nature will hear your heart and it will help you to bring that one person whom you desire a lot. He wants us to love from our hearts, not from our brains.

Santiago loved Fathima from his heart and wanted to spend the rest of his life with her, and the entire world helped him marry her. And another important message from the writer is how to find the purpose of life and living.

In the novel, Santiago encounters Alchemist who tells them about personal legends. He says that people only want to find the treasure of their tales but not the secret code itself. He feels unsure about himself as he listens to the Alchemist's teachings. Santiago feels uncomfortable because he feels that he is chasing his Dream, i.e., finding the treasure buried under the tomb. Still, after hearing the teaching of the Alchemist, Santiago begins to doubt his Dream. He begins to

question whether he is on the right path in following his Dream. The more he thinks about it, the more he gets confused and stops searching for the treasure for a little while.

But after meeting the thieves and knowing about the treasure's location, he feels relieved because he understands that the treasure he has been searching for all over the world is buried in the same place where he had his Dream. In other words, the real purpose of life is not to earn more money or buy costly jewels but to live our lives with the person we love from the bottom of our hearts. We studied in school and college to get a job so we could settle into our life, and we had to work for the betterment of our family for the rest of our lives. We forget to cherish the present while running to catch the future in this fast-moving world.

Paulo wants us to stop chasing money and other things we consider worthwhile cause all those things are not even worth it. To live our life Paulo wants us to face certain obstacles in our life. There are seven obstacles one has to follow during his journey in life. They are 1. Impossible, 2. Fear and guilt 3. personal calling is invisible 4. Fear of the defeats 5. Dreams 6. Power of love 7. Fear of realizing the Dream.

Each person must face all seven obstacles to learn about life. Paulo wants us to meet these obstacles because most of us have stopped facing even one. It is because our parents raised us to bend to succeed in life. And we teach the same to our children. That is why today's kids

cannot accept rejection, defeat, or failure. If they are in a position to face failure, loss, or sacrifice, they commit suicide for a simple reason. Paulo wants us to understand one crucial thing; if we want our sons and daughters to succeed, we must let our children face all the obstacles like Santiago.

Santiago left the comfort zone of home, learned to trust the "soul of the world," and believed that there are forces in the universe that want us to be happy. He discovered his legend; that is to say, he must find out what he is meant to do in the world. Fortunately, he listened to his heart to overcome the fear. As Santiago continues his sometimes-painful journey, he discovers that one cannot be dissuaded from pursuing a "personal legend," even if the choices seem impossible to bear. Here Coelho has shown the man's command of his Dream. Coelho assures his readers of the physical and spiritual reward. He has many obstacles to clearing his vision. He has to complete his Dream. He has to understand that the worst thing in life is to deny one's Dream. He takes help from many people. He has to believe in the interpretation of his dreamland. Paulo Coelho has shown the vision of fulfilling one's Dream and receiving genuine love.

We must never forget; we are poor when we don't have a dream to achieve, but we become rich when we have the plan to achieve. We must have a vision to move forward in our life. Thomas More, the great Reformation writer, and Martin Luther King both had a Dream to chase, and it was their Dream to create a new world where all men are equal. We are moving forward in our lives because of their Dream, and I wish us to have dreams so that our future generation may grow. Let's have a Vision, to change and shape this world into a better place from the eyes of Paulo Coelho. Let there be a Dream to chase.

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