

### Vision of Life in Paulo Coelho's Alchemist

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Paper Received on 23-10-2022, Accepted on 08-12-2022, Published on 10-12-22; DOI:10.36993/RJOE.2022.7.4.32

#### Abstract

Paulo Coelho shows the readers a different view of nature through his novel *The Alchemist*. He pictures an ancient Spain desert life and explores the universal strength of nature in our minds when he starts his novel. He portrays the life of a shepherd boy and also of typical characters seen in a desert and how they are led by the secret hands of nature to their destinies from the point of view of a boy named Santiago. A common boy who dreams to achieve 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. Dream, a state of mind which 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' and more over he to had a dream that India will be a super power in 2020. It is still considered as a dream not a reality in India. It is very sad to tell this but Dr.A.P.J. Abdul kalam dream is still a dream. The reason why I

am coating this is because, Dreams are not just illusion, it is a state of mind which differentiate the people who are living and who are alive. You may ask what the difference between being alive and living is.

Dream is 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 vision i.e. meaning of life, when I read Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist*. The writer gave us a 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 an ancient Spain desert life and explores the universal strength of nature in our minds when he starts his novel. He portrays the life of a shepherd boy and also of typical characters seen in a desert and how they are led by the secret hands of nature to their destinies from the point of view of a boy named Santiago. A common boy who dreams to achieve the impossible in his life. Santiago, believes his dream to be prophetic vision and he decides to travel to the pyramids of Egypt to find treasure. Here Coelho has made the personal thematic approach of a character to pursue his own 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 taken as a role model to all men and women, and he is considered as a universal character towards the end. The main reason for addressing Santiago as a universal hero because, he is the representation of everything what we humans dream of doing their entire life. Both Love and Life are integral part of human society. Each and every human in this world dream of loving someone but most of them don't have the guts to move forward to propose a girl and some people fall in love but they don't fight for it, instead they put the blame on fate.

Dreams in the sense of "goals" or "aspirations" also constitute a major theme. Santiago's dream of the treasure provides him with a goal; Dreams are the language of God, As well as language of the soul. Following his dreams, Santiago decides to travel to the pyramids of Egypt to find treasure. Here Coelho has made the personal thematic approach of a character to pursue his own 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 beginning of the novel, the writer keeps on insisting us to follow our heart not the 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 obstacle we face.

On the way of his journey to find the treasure there are encounters love, danger, opportunity, disaster and learns a lot about himself and the ways of the world. One of the significant characters in the novel he meets is an old king named Melchizedek who tells him about discovering his personal 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 really need something to be a part of our lives. Many of us might think that, what is the need to travel? or to explore the world? what is the necessity? Let me tell you something friends, the people who achieved in their lives all over the world, had a dream to become successful in their life. They chased their dream across countries and they shattered boundaries, race, skin color & language just to make their dream in to reality.

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Journey will show us the meaning of life and it will also show us the importance of each and every relationship in our lives. Santiago met a lot of people throughout his journey and he learned a lot of things from each and every one of them. Like Great Scholars say, 'Great things are spoken and done by simple people whom we meet in our day today life. Through the eyes of Santiago, the writer shows us the need and necessity of understanding nature and 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. Most of us, in this modern world rely mainly on internet and YouTube for resources but we don't want to find the source of the resource in the internet.

The main problem with today's generation is that, we speak to a lot of people over the internet, in fact we speak to millions of people, whom we haven't even met but we are unable to speak to a single person, if they are in front of us. But Santiago, does not face any of those problems because, he has the guts to face his problem. Speaking of facing problems, the most important of all the problems is facing love. The writer has also given a new vision on how to face love.

During his journey, Santiago meets a beautiful Arabian woman named Fatima. She suggests him that if he follows his heart, he shall find what it is he seeks. These sentences may seem small and simple but the meanings they

hold are very precious. Most of us in this modern world are not scared of falling in love but they are scared of facing their love, when it comes to 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 heart. He wants us to feel the essence of love deep in our heart and nerves. The reason behind this vision is that, world 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 to another person and our investment is more valuable than any other thing in this whole 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 is not love, it is just attraction and Love not about receiving it but it is about giving our love unconditionally by understanding the other and accepting them for who they really are but what are we doing, we act so that, the other person will stay with us and it is not but 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 much eager to fall in love but when it comes to taking it to another step, most of us fail miserably. It is because, we don't try to understand the person we love, we just need to satisfy our needs and that is why most of the love affairs never end in marriage. In order to change this Paulo shows us a way to succeed in our love. He says that, If you deeply love someone and deep in your heart if you feel that, you want to be with that person for the rest of your life, then do not worry because the 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 heart not from our brains.

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

In the novel, Santiago then encounters Alchemist who tells about personal legends. He says that people only want to find the treasure of their personal legends but not the personal legend itself. He feels unsure about himself as he listens to the Alchemist's teachings. Santiago feels uncomfortable because, all along he felt that, he is chasing his dream i.e., finding the treasure buried under the tomb but after hearing the teaching of the Alchemist, Santiago begins to doubt his dream. He begins to question himself that, he is really in the right path in following his

dream? The more he thinks about it he gets confused and stops his search for the treasure for a little while.

But after meeting the thieves and knowing about the location of the treasure, he feels relieved because, he understands that, the treasure he was searching all over the world is buried in the same place where he had his dream. In other words, we can say that, the real purpose of life not earning more money or buying costly jewels, but to live our life with the person whom we love from the bottom of our heart. We studied in school and college, to get a job so that, we can settle in our life and we have work for the betterment of our family for the rest of our lives. In this fast-moving world, we forgot to cherish the present as we are running to catch the future.

Paulo wants us to stop from chasing money and other things which we consider valuable, cause all those things are not even worth it. In order to live our life Paulo, want 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 the seven obstacles in order to learn about life. The reason why Paulo wants us to face these obstacles because, most of us stopped facing even one. It is because, our parents raised us to bend in order to succeed in life. And we teach the same to

our children. That is why, today's kids cannot accept rejection or defeat or failure. If they are in a position to face their failure or defeat or rejection, they committed suicide for simple reason. Paulo wants us to understand one important thing, if we want our sons and daughters to succeeded in life, we must let our children face all the obstacles like Santiago.

Santiago left the comfort zone of home, learn to trust the "soul of the world," and believe that there are forces in the universe that want us to be happy. He discovered his personal legend that is to say; he must to discover what he is meant to do in the world. Fortunately, he listened to his heart to overcome over 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 own command on his dream. Coelho assures his readers, is physical and spiritual reward. He has many obstacles to clear 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 persons. . He has to believe in the interpretation of his dream land. Paulo Coelho has shown the vision

of fulfilling ones dream and receiving the real love.

We must always remember; we are poor when we don't have a dream to achieve but we become rich when we have a dream to achieve. We must have a dream to move forward in our life. Thomas More, the great Reformation writer and Martin Luther King both of them 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 Dream, so that our future generation may for further in their lives. Let's have a Vision, to change and shape this world a better place from the eyes of Paulo Coelho. Let there be a Dream to chase.

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### How to cite this article?

**M.Vasanthamullai " Vision of Life in Paulo Coelho's Alchemist**  
 " Research Journal Of English(RJOE)7(4),PP:280-284,2022,  
 DOI:10.36993/RJOE.2022.7.4.32