

The Way the Main Character Achieves the Dream in Paulo Coelho's Novel: The Alchemist

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Abstract

Paulo Coelho has attracted charming readers worldwide with his fascinating fictional expertise for nearly three decades. Coelho, a writer of modern society, owns the reading pursuits of young minds. One of his famous novels is "The Alchemist". This research article delves into the captivating world of Paulo Coelho's renowned novel, "The Alchemist," and examines its impact on readers. The study employs qualitative analysis and utilizes Alfred Adler's theory of Individual Psychology as a framework. Through an in-depth exploration of the character of Santiago, the protagonist, the paper investigates his journey toward achieving his dreams and the moral values conveyed throughout the narrative. The findings shed light on Santiago's profound character development, his unwavering efforts in pursuing his dreams, and the overarching moral lessons embedded in the story. The study concludes by emphasizing the significance of embracing personal aspirations, adapting to change, and recognizing the interconnectedness of all beings. This research provides valuable insights for individuals seeking personal growth and fulfillment.

Keywords: Paulo Coelho, The Alchemist, Character Development, Dreams, Moral Values

INTRODUCTION

Paulo Coelho has attracted readers worldwide with his fascinating fictional expertise for nearly three decades. Coelho, a writer of modern society, owns the reading pursuits of young minds. He is an evolutionist writer of the brain-based organization who mainly deals with the man's heart and soul of the universe. Coelho guides every reader to live a meaningful life (Abthaheer, 2021).

This novel tells about how Santiago achieves his dream full of optimism, courage, and persistence. The persistence of Santiago is interpreted and completed by his spirituality. Santiago believes in himself, his dreams, and his ideals and tries to fight for something he wants.

Coelho's writing is beautifully poetic, but his message is what counts. His books have had a life-enhancing impact on millions of people. The mystic quality of the unique adventures of the boy, Santiago, may bring not only him but others who read this excellent book closer to recognizing and reaching their inner destinies. This fable is a roseate amalgam of spiritual quest, existential puzzle, lovely sensitivity, and profound strength (Laxmi Manogna et al., 2018).

Paulo Coelho's *The Alchemist* is an inspiring novel. This novel is not only for enjoyment but rather for motivating people who read it. It is our prior ability to see the values behind events in the novel and how we value the events to come up with conclusions. The reason

why this novel is worth reading is because it presents how comes up to make his dream come true. Everybody has different dreams and different ways to come up with their dreams (Ningrum, 2010).

Santiago's strife for success refers to the journey to find self-destiny. The treasure is a symbol of Santiago's personal legend. Its process is to compensate inferiority feeling mechanism (Farizi Ilmam dani, 2013). Character learning, especially for the millennial generation, is needed in today's technological era. It is undeniable that technology cannot replace the role of literary work in teaching human values. This can be obtained by studying characters in the novel (Arafah & Abbas, n.d.).

"When you want something, the whole universe will help you to achieve it" (Coelho, 1988). That's what the king said to Santiago before he set off on a journey inspired by his strange dream. Santiago's journey was fascinating, and we can learn many things from his journey. In this research, the researcher wants to analyze how Santiago's individualistic character and how Santiago achieves his dream. More than that, the researcher will analyze the moral value of the novel. The result will benefit many young people who want to achieve their dreams.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Alfred Adler's theoretical framework on superiority and inferiority revolves around the concept that individuals strive for a sense of significance and worthiness in their lives. According to (Adler, 1924), every person is driven by an innate desire to overcome feelings of inferiority and attain a sense of superiority. He believed that these feelings stem from early childhood experiences, where individuals develop an initial sense of inferiority due to their perceived weaknesses or limitations. To compensate for these perceived inadequacies, individuals strive to achieve personal goals and contribute to society, aiming to establish a sense of superiority. Adler emphasized the importance of social connections and the individual's ability to cooperate with others in order to foster a healthy sense of superiority grounded in empathy and community, rather than dominance or power. Ultimately, Adler's framework highlights the significance of individual striving, social connectedness, and the balance between personal growth and collective well-being in achieving a sense of superiority and fulfillment in life.

The theory can express the fundamental motivations that drive other causes. His idea of the six key concepts in personality can reveal the reasons and effects of why people do things. Adler tends to change his personality theory throughout his life, but he believes people focus on maintaining control over their lives (Meiliana, 2020).

One study by (Pratiwi & Literature, 2022) focuses on Santiago's personality type and development. The authors argue that Santiago's personality type that most prominently reflects him is his personality as the reformer, where he has a strong principle and a purpose or mission in his life to reach his dream and to find out his happiness in the world.

Additionally, (Budiyanto, 2017) focuses on the relationship between dream and reality reflected in the novel the alchemist. The author argues that the relation between literature and psychoanalytic is literature can affect the feeling and personalities of the readers. So, Paulo Coelho writes *The Alchemist* to give motivation to the readers to be a better person that never give up and always struggle although in difficult or bad condition. *The Alchemist* also gives suggestions to always positively thinking about solving the problem.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher will use qualitative methods to analyze the novel. The researcher will explain the data qualitatively. The researcher will use the Theory of Individualism by Alfred Adler's approach based on critical study and sharp analysis of the qualitative data. First, the researcher reads the novel carefully several times. This aims to learn the novel's contents intensively to prevent misunderstanding in the analysis. Then, the researcher will identify the critical turning points to know the plot is developed along with cruses of significant events to locate issues related to the main character's characteristics. Finally, the researcher will analyze the related data to be matched against Alfred Adler's theory of Individualism to find out how the main character achieves his dream.

The researcher will make use of two data sources, namely primary data sources and secondary data sources. The main data source for data collection is the novel *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho. In contrast, secondary data comes from other sources related to primary data and supports analysis, such as books, articles, and journals. The data collection method is the source of the literature from which information to support the research is obtained.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1.1 Santiago's Character

Alfred Adler's theory of inferiority and superiority focuses on the psychological dynamics of individuals and their striving for significance. According to Adler, feelings of inferiority act as a powerful motivator, driving individuals to seek superiority in various aspects of their lives. In his theory, Adler emphasizes that individuals are not merely passive victims of their inferiority complexes but possess an innate potential to overcome these feelings and achieve a sense of significance.

Paulo Coelho's novel "*The Alchemist*" provides a narrative that mirrors Adler's ideas regarding the pursuit of superiority and the resolution of the inferiority complex. The story follows Santiago, a young shepherd who embarks on a transformative journey to fulfill his dreams and find his personal legend. Throughout Santiago's quest, his experiences and encounters reflect key aspects of Adler's theory.

At the beginning of his journey, Santiago perceives his life as a simple shepherd lacking purpose or distinction, which aligns with feelings of inferiority described by Adler. Santiago's initial state of inferiority motivates him to seek something greater, a sense of meaning and fulfillment. He becomes determined to discover his personal legend, a unique purpose that grants him significance and a feeling of superiority.

As Santiago travels through unfamiliar lands and interacts with people from different cultures, he often feels inferior due to his lack of understanding of their customs, traditions, and language. These encounters with cultural and language barriers further exacerbate his sense of inferiority. However, instead of succumbing to these feelings, Santiago becomes a determined individual who does not give up easily. He actively works to overcome his limitations and learns to communicate effectively, displaying Adler's notion that individuals strive for superiority to overcome their feelings of inferiority.

Moreover, Santiago's character is portrayed as deeply connected to the spiritual realm and the universe. He experiences moments of synchronicity, where signs and omens guide him toward his personal legend. This attunement to the universe represents Adler's idea that individuals who are aware of their place in the larger scheme of things can overcome their feelings of inferiority and tap into their inherent superiority.

Throughout his journey, Santiago encounters individuals who have achieved success or possess a deeper understanding of life's mysteries. In these encounters, he often compares himself to these characters and feels inadequate in their presence, leading to moments of self-doubt and reinforcing his inferiority complex. However, Santiago's character arc demonstrates growth and resilience as he learns valuable lessons, gains self-confidence, and discovers his own unique strengths and abilities. This evolution aligns with Adler's belief that the resolution of the inferiority complex involves recognizing and embracing one's inherent worth and superiority.

In the climax of the story, Santiago faces a critical choice between pursuing his personal legend or staying with the woman he loves. Despite his deep affection for her, Santiago decides to follow his dream, realizing that his personal legend holds greater significance and represents a form of superiority. This decision reflects Adler's theory that individuals, in their pursuit of superiority, sometimes need to sacrifice their immediate desires for the greater good and long-term fulfillment.

1.2 Santiago effort

"The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho is a profound novel that explores the themes of personal dreams, destiny, and the pursuit of one's true purpose. The story follows Santiago, a shepherd who embarks on a transformative journey to fulfill his dreams and find his personal legend. Santiago's dream of a hidden treasure at the Egyptian pyramids serves as a driving force, symbolizing his quest for self-discovery and a life filled with purpose.

To achieve his dream, Santiago must step out of his comfort zone and leave behind his comfortable life as a shepherd. This decision represents a crucial step in his personal growth and exemplifies the author's message of embracing change and taking risks. Throughout his journey, Santiago faces numerous challenges that test his determination and resilience. These obstacles symbolize the hardships encountered when pursuing a dream. Santiago's encounters with the crystal merchant and the lessons he learns highlight the importance of perseverance and the need to navigate challenges with unwavering determination.

Along his journey, Santiago encounters the enigmatic alchemist, who becomes his mentor and imparts valuable wisdom. Through the alchemist's guidance, Santiago learns about the Soul of the World, the concept of the Personal Legend, and the interconnectedness of all things. This mentorship emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and the transformative power of wise guidance.

Santiago's journey is a testament to the power of perseverance in the face of adversity. Despite setbacks and doubts, he perseveres and embraces the challenges as integral parts of his personal legend. Santiago's transformation throughout the story highlights the transformative power of self-discovery and the courage to follow one's dreams.

"The Alchemist" emphasizes the importance of pursuing one's dreams and finding one's true purpose. Santiago's pursuit of his personal legend serves as a broader message about the power of fulfilling one's purpose in life and contributing to the greater harmony of the world. The novel inspires readers to reflect on their own dreams, trust in themselves, and recognize that the journey itself holds profound lessons and treasures.

1.3 Moral Value

"The Alchemist" by Paulo Coelho is an internationally acclaimed novel that explores various moral values and offers profound lessons for personal growth and fulfillment. The story

revolves around Santiago, who embarks on a transformative journey in pursuit of his dreams and personal legend. The novel emphasizes several key moral values:

1. Pursuit of Dreams: The book highlights the importance of identifying and pursuing one's dreams, encouraging readers not to settle for a mediocre life.
2. Perseverance: Santiago's journey is filled with setbacks, but he persists and demonstrates the value of unwavering determination.
3. Self-Discovery: Santiago undergoes a transformative journey of self-discovery, learning to understand himself better and recognize his own capabilities.
4. Listening to One's Heart: The novel emphasizes the significance of intuition and following one's instincts, as Santiago learns to trust and listen to his heart's guidance.
5. Interconnectedness of All Beings: Coelho presents the idea that everything in the universe is connected, promoting empathy, compassion, and a sense of unity with others.
6. Simplicity and Appreciation of the Present: Santiago learns to appreciate the beauty of simplicity and the joy found in the present moment, rather than constantly pursuing future desires.
7. Embracing the Unknown and Taking Risks: The book encourages readers to step out of their comfort zones and face uncertainties with the courage to achieve personal fulfillment.
8. Embracing Failure and Learning from Setbacks: Setbacks and failures are viewed as valuable opportunities for learning and growth.
9. Pursuit of Personal Freedom: The novel symbolizes breaking free from societal expectations and limitations, encouraging individuals to embrace their true selves and find fulfillment.
10. Reflection on Materialism and the Essence of Life: The story challenges the notion that material possessions bring true happiness, urging readers to prioritize spiritual growth and personal relationships.
11. Spiritual Unity and the Power of Faith: The novel emphasizes the belief in a higher spiritual power, guiding individuals on their journeys and promoting faith and trust in the greater plan.

"The Alchemist" continues to inspire readers to live authentically, follow their passions, and recognize the interconnectedness of all life. Coelho's storytelling and thought-provoking messages make this book a masterpiece that offers profound insights into the human experience.

CONCLUSION

In "The Alchemist," Santiago's pursuit of his dreams illustrates the themes of perseverance, self-discovery, and belief in one's potential. Despite facing challenges, Santiago remains focused on his ultimate goal, showing courage and a willingness to face the unknown. Along his journey, he undergoes a transformation from a humble shepherd to a wise alchemist, learning valuable lessons about patience, intuition, and the pursuit of knowledge through encounters with various characters. Santiago's ability to listen, learn, and adapt emphasizes the importance of being open-minded and accepting the wisdom of others.

The novel also highlights Santiago's relationship with nature and his ability to read omens, emphasizing the idea that the universe works in harmony to help individuals achieve

their dreams when they are guided by the right goals. Santiago's journey serves as a representation of the human experience, reminding readers of the significance of self-discovery, personal growth, and the courage to step out of their comfort zones. By following Santiago's example, readers are encouraged to reflect on their own dreams and take steps toward achieving them.

"The Alchemist" also emphasizes that dreams are not mere fantasies, but powerful forces that can shape lives and contribute to the greater good. Santiago's journey demonstrates that realizing dreams may not always be easy, but it can be life-changing. The novel encourages readers to reflect on their own dreams, embrace the unknown, and have faith in their abilities. Through his work, Paulo Coelho shares valuable insights and wisdom that resonate with readers worldwide.

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