

Tracing the Light of Spiritualistic Growth: A Study on The Select Novels of Paulo Coelho

OPEN ACCESS

Volume: 12

Special Issue: 3

Month: April

Year: 2025

E-ISSN: 2582-0397

P-ISSN: 2321-788X

Citation:

Karthick Kumar, SS, and B. Rajkumar. "Tracing the Light of Spiritualistic Growth: A Study on The Select Novels of Paulo Coelho." *Shanlax International Journal of Arts, Science and Humanities*, vol. 12, no. 3, 2025, pp. 201–03.

DOI:

<https://doi.org/10.34293/sijash.v12iS3-Apr.9089>

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Abstract

In the modern era, among many trended writers in the Literature, Coelho spotlights all his works with the theme of transforming the one's mind. It is an amazeful one to transform an individual through writings. Coelho has made all possible to his world readers by sharing his own experience with the universe. The present paper traces the theme of mental transformation in the select novels of Paulo Coelho.

In the sphere, every living thing has its own soul. Soul is a synthesis of psychical and physical in all. It always guides to the one which that suits. It is an in built one which acts at the time of revelation about the existential. One can reveal his own existential by listening to his heart that always tries to direct to the one. The one can be the answer to; who is he? How he needs to be? And for what he is fit? in the world.

Paulo Coelho, a writer of technically modernised generation claims that the journey is an unavoidable one in everyone's life to attain their own self. According to him, journey is not a process to reach the destination but to experience with the travel. Here, destination stands for the understanding of their selves. Through physical journey, one can understand the whole world and his kinship with it in his mind and also direct one to the journey of mind. It is also one of the self-sources for the author to claim that journey is a needed one to know one's self. Due to his own experience in the travel, Coelho professes the journey as one of his major themes in all his successful novels. As first time after such failures in writings, he lightened his writings from the book, *The Pilgrimage* which asserts the theme of journey in autobiographical style.

On lettering his own experiences in his novels, Paulo Coelho has clearly estimated his characters that has preoccupied with some. In *The Pilgrimage*, he has depicted his role majorly with his experiences during the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela which made him to reveal his preoccupied role as a writer. Most of his characters took journey towards the words of their souls. Almost this

may be a journey to the unknown but with trust on themselves. Before being a successful writer, Coelho experienced a lot in physically and mentally. As an incidental step, he decided to make a religious walk in the roads of Santiago de Compostela. Along his journey he has experienced and practiced many things with the Pilgrims, people of the road, all living things and lastly the universe. It has equipped him to deal with the Universe and a soul. On experiencing by himself, Coelho felt that the Universe is the main source of the souls in the whole world. He also claimed that the universe has multifacets in the world but with a soul. It will be meaningful when one understands the nothingness in himself, and the universe self.

Likely in his second book, *The Alchemist* Paulo Coelho focuses the story of an Andalusian shepherd boy, Santiago who travels by listening to his omens. Omens are the words of the universe that made by a soul. This book acquires the most of the readers' reading time by its content and the interesting supplements. In the story, Santiago who accepted himself happily as a shepherd often experienced with the dream that unsleeps himself in the early morning about the journey to the tri-pyramids in the Egyptian desert. Initially, the boy ignored it as just a dream. After a while, in the field with his lamb he recounted his day today life as a lamb. He shamed himself as a human who is living the life of a lamb that has no motto, targets and ideas about the future. With this revealed intention, he has prepared himself to step into the adventurous life that claims him as living his life like human. After all he is ready to believe the unknown future and signs. With the guidance of the Melchizedek, king of Salem whom he met in the market of Tarifa and the old gypsy woman, a foreteller who interpreted about the treasure that the shepherd boy dreamt in the Egyptian desert, he decided to step towards the treasure.

Here, the author characterises Santiago with, “You will never be able to escape from your heart. So it's better to listen to what it has to say. That way, you will never have to fear an unanticipated blow” (Coelho 124)

Thus the character converted himself to take the risk that sure that he is living. Santiago crossed the desert by selling all his lamb. He has only the trust on his dream, words of the people whom he met during his travel and some signs. In the very end of the story, the boy with his dreams after a long journey towards the words of his heart, Santiago found nothing under the pyramids and instantly asked to move where he dreamt about the treasure. During his journey in the earlier towards his heart, he felt returning to his life as a shepherd. He thought that it was very hard to the shepherd boy to be an adventurer. Even after losing all his lambs and money, he has not given back from following the omen, words of the heart. Here, Coelho reveals that the whole universe including us is made by a same hand. So, Soul of the Universe is the same of our Soul. It clears that we can communicate with everything in the universe which also can communicate with us. Behalf of existence, whole universe conspires us in every moment. Coelho insists, “When you want something all the universe conspires in helping you achieve it”. (Coelho 21)

Finally, he has found the treasure where his heart directed him. Through this character, Coelho claims that one can find the meaning of his own life by following towards the words of his soul and listening to the soul of the world. As per Coelho's perception, Souls are all same in nature. Omens are the form of a language that helps to listen to the world. Omen can be differed from one another but soul resembles as same that communicate with us.

In order to find the treasure, you will have to follow the omens. God has prepared a path for everyone to follow. You just have to read the omens that he left for you. (Coelho 30)

Like Santiago, Coelho found the writer on himself by risking with experiences in the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela which initiated by his own soul. Coelho has proved himself as a spiritually transforming writer of his reader too initially transformed himself by his own risking. Thus the way Coelho, a spiritual guide through his writings has lightened the readers of different languages

by themselves. According to Coelho, routine life is a commonly followed one by the people who never expects the change. But it is a rare one to looking into the innerness of the all to know about the change, to understand the change and to make the change. But those people who live their routines and forget to observe could not know their real self. It can be done possibly by risking with adventurous mind toward the nothingness, challenging the changes and also ready to change the routines as their own routines. As the author claims in the some of his novels, transforming one's commonly stated being into the being of himself is an essential step in the living.

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