

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the portrayal of the protagonist in Paulo Coelho's *Adultery*, I would like to draw some conclusions in this chapter. The protagonist of the novel is Linda, a married woman in her thirties who starts an affair as a way to deal with the boredom and weariness she experiences in her life.

At the beginning of the novel, Linda is portrayed as a world-weary, secretive, and faithful person. Linda's being world-weary can be seen when she feels so bored with her daily life to the point that she suffers from depression. Her being world-weary is also seen when she is bored with her sex life. In addition to being world-weary, Linda is also depicted as someone who is secretive. This trait can be seen when she tries hard to conceal her depression from both her friend and her husband. Other than being world-weary and secretive, Linda is also portrayed as someone who is faithful. This characteristic can be seen when she still sticks to her husband and makes an effort to have sex with him despite the fact that she no longer feels excited towards him.

However, in the course of the novel, Linda experiences an awakening that causes her characteristics to change. This first awakening happens when Linda realizes that her life becomes so boring because she never takes a risk in her

life. This realization then triggers her to have an affair with Jacob as a way of changing her life.

After Linda decides to start an affair with Jacob, she is still a secretive person but she changes into a passionate and unfaithful person in the process. Linda's becoming passionate can be seen when she suddenly feels aroused towards her husband after being kissed by Jacob in his office. This characteristic can also be seen when she is depicted to have a strong emotion towards Jacob. Meanwhile, Linda's being unfaithful can be seen when she dates Jacob and decides to have sex with him.

Nevertheless, the first awakening does not last long as the second awakening hits her. Linda realizes that Marianne, Jacob's wife, knows about their affair. The fact that Marianne knows about the affair causes Linda to feel guilty and realize that the affair will go nowhere.

After the second awakening, Linda becomes an open person, which can be seen when she decides to disclose her affair to her husband even though in the end her husband does not want her to tell him about the affair. Other than that, she also becomes faithful again, which is seen when she ends her affair with Jacob for good as well as when she decides to erase her lingering feeling towards Jacob totally.

Based on the analysis of the portrayal of the protagonist, it can be concluded that Coelho has several purposes in creating such a character. First, Coelho wants to show that people who have everything in life may get fed up with their perfect and stable life. This idea is shown through Linda's characteristics at the beginning of the story. Linda is depicted to be so bored with her perfect life that she eventually suffers from depression. Nevertheless, she remains faithful to her husband and keeps her depression a secret from anyone.

Second, Coelho wants to show that people who are fed up with their life may look for other source of excitement and follow their passion. This idea is shown when Linda starts an affair with Jacob as a way of dealing with her boredom and thus turns into someone who is passionate but unfaithful. However, at the same time, Coelho also wants to show that this kind of excitement easily fades, just like a rollercoaster that goes up and down quickly. This can be seen when Linda experiences the second awakening and realizes that her affair will go nowhere.

Last, Coelho also wants to show that people should try to love better. This idea can be seen after Linda experiences the second awakening. She realizes that she actually has already had everything good in life and that she only needs to appreciate and love her husband, her family, and her life better. As a result, she becomes open, passionate and faithful again.

In general, I think that Coelho as the author has succeeded in discussing the topic of spiritual awakening in this novel. Through the vivid portrayal of the protagonist, Coelho enables the readers to put themselves in the protagonist's shoes and experience the awakenings along with the protagonist. Thus, considering his success in delivering his message to the readers, it is safe to say that Coelho is indeed an author who writes in a universal language and that this book is worth analyzing.