

APPENDICES

Synopsis of The Zahir

One day, a famous author who writes about spirituality, goes on a pilgrimage along the road to Santiago. And when he comes back, he suddenly finds Esther, his wife, a war correspondent, has disappeared along with a friend, Mikhail, who may or may not be her lover. The narrator does not have any answers but he has plenty of questions of his own, though he does not know where to start looking for Esther. In fact, he wants her back. The narrator becomes 'zahir' to his wife. The Zahir is a fixation on everything that has been passed from generation to generation; it leaves no question unanswered; it takes up all the space; it never allows them even to consider the possibility that things can change. The narrator begins to change his life and understand more about life after his wife leaves him. Then, one day, Mikhail finds the abandoned husband and promises to bring him back together with his wife. In addition, in his attempt to recapture a lost love, the narrator discovers something unexpected. Then the narrator, accompanied by Mikhail, finds his wife in Ithaca, Kazakhstan, a place where Mikhail was born and meets the narrator's wife. Finally, the narrator meets his wife who is learning to make carpets besides teaching French.

Both of them are very happy, and they talk with each other for a while. The narrator's heart breaks after he knows that his wife is pregnant by someone. She does not want to tell his name, but the narrator thinks that there is not much to do. He just places his hands on her shoulders and accepts this reality.

Biography of the Author

Paulo Coelho was born in 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, the city where he now lives. When Paulo was seventeen, Paulo was involved in a theatre group and began working as a journalist. In the eyes of the comfortably off middle classes of the time, the theatre was a hotbed of immortality. His frightened parents decided to break their promise not to confine him again and had him readmitted to hospital for the third time. When he came out, Paulo was even more enclosed in his own private world. Thirty years after these experiences, Paulo Coelho wrote Veronika Decides to Die.

In 1970, after deciding that law school was not for him, he traveled through much of South America, North Africa, Mexico, and Europe. Returning to Brazil after two years, he began a successful career as a popular songwriter. In 1980, he experienced one of the defining moments of his life: he walked the 500-plus mile Road of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain.

In 1988, he published The Alchemist. In addition to The Pilgrimage and The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho has written luminous novels about the different stream of our lives, including By the River Piedra I Sat Down & Wept, The Valkyries, The Fifth Mountain, and Veronika Decides to Die. A winner of numerous literary prizes,

Paulo Coelho is also a prominent speaker for humanitarian causes. In 1999, He received a Crystal Award for Artistic Achievement at the Davos Economic Forum Conference. And in 2005, he published The Zahir which means “visible”, “present”, “and incapable of going unnoticed”.