

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF THE ALCHEMIST

The novel tells the tale of Santiago, a boy who has a dream and the courage to follow it. After listening to "the signs" the boy starts his adventures in his personal journey of exploration and self-discovery, symbolically searching for a hidden treasure where its location is far from his origin, which is near the line of great pyramids in the desert of Egypt.

When he decides to go, his father's only advice is "Travel the world until you see that our castle is the greatest and our women the most beautiful". In his journey, Santiago sees the greatness of the world, and meets all kinds of exciting people like Kings and Alchemists. He also experiences the bitterness of life and obstacles, until he believes that his treasure is just a dream that cannot be reached.

It is also symbolic that Santiago finds his soul mate, and the secrets of wisdom in the wilderness of the desert. In the desert, Santiago meets his "twin-soul" and discovers that love is the core of existence and creation. As Paulo Coelho explains, when we love someone, we always try to improve ourselves, and that is when everything is possible. The subject of love inspires a beautiful lyricism that is stated in Paulo Coelho's writing: "I love you because the whole universe conspired for me to come close to you."

However, by the end of the novel, he discovers that "treasure lies where your heart belongs" (Coelho 77), and that the treasure is the journey itself, the discoveries he makes, the wisdom and the lessons he acquires from the whole lot of experience he is enduring . All of that makes him change into a better person.

BIOGRAPHY OF THE AUTHOR

Paulo Coelho was born in 1947 of a middle-class family, the son of Pedro, an engineer, and Lygia, a housewife. At seven, he entered the Jesuit school of San Ignacio in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He won his first literary prize in a school poetry competition.

In 1986 Paulo Coelho walked along the Road to Santiago, a medieval pilgrim's route between France and Spain. He would later describe this experience in [The Pilgrimage](#), published in 1987.

In 1988, his second book [The Alchemist](#) established his worldwide fame. The book has already achieved the status of a universally admired modern classic, a term referring of untimely book that will keep being famous in all time. This story, considered to be timeless by many, is set to enchant and inspire whole generations of future readers meaning that the lessons within this book will inspire all its readers.

Other titles include [Brida](#) (1990), [The Valkyries](#) (1992), [Maktub](#) (1994) - a compilation of his daily columns, [By The River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept](#) (1994), [The Fifth Mountain](#) (1996), [The Manual of the Warrior of Light](#) (1997), [Veronika Decides to Die](#) (1998) and [The Devil and Miss Prym](#) (2000). He is a member of the prestigious Brazilian Academy of Letters (2002).

Paulo Coelho and his wife, [Christina Oiticica](#), are the founders of the [Paulo Coelho Institute](#), which provides support and opportunities for underprivileged members of the Brazilian society, especially children and the elderly.

He was appointed special advisor to the UNESCO program "Spiritual Convergences and Intercultural Dialogues" and he was appointed board member of the Schwab Foundation for social entrepreneurs. He was the first non-Muslim author to be invited to an exchange of ideas in Iran since the Islamic Revolution of 1979.

Paulo Coelho holds the Guinness World Record for the most translations (53) of a single title (The Alchemist) signed in one sitting (45 minutes). The record was achieved as a result of an international book signing held at the Frankfurt Book Fair (2003).

To date, 380 translations in 61 languages have been published with sales totalling 75 million copies in 150 countries. For 15 years Paulo Coelho's novels have made the top place on the bestseller lists around the world.

Paulo Coelho loves reading, travelling, computers, internet, climbing, walking and practicing Kyudo, a kind of meditative archery. Every morning, he wakes up early and after a two-hour walk, he shoots 24 arrows using one of his three bows.

(Official Fanclub Paulo Coelho: [Books](#). Retrieved on October 7, 2006.)