

APPENDICES

SYNOPSIS OF BY THE RIVER PIEDRA I SAT DOWN AND WEPT

Pilar is a young girl who lives in Soria. Pilar cannot forget her childhood friend though it is some years since he has gone to another city. Still, they keep in touch with each other through letters and postcards. Pilar moves to Zaragoza to have a better life, so she thinks, while her friend travels around to give lectures.

After some time, her childhood friend writes a letter to Pilar to come to his seminar in Madrid, and Pilar decides to come. He is the speaker in the seminar. After the seminar, he asks Pilar to spend time with him on a seven-day trip. At first, Pilar resists him, but in the end, she decides to forget her life in Zaragoza and follow him. They travel to many places together.

Pilar's childhood friend teaches her about religious matters, and she undergoes a spiritual experience. Through him, Pilar's faith returns. He also talks about the feminine side of God, that is, love. Pilar thinks that love can never be a barrier to follow one's heart and destiny. She has always dreamed of living together with him, performing miracles, curing the sick, and doing other wonderful things whenever they go to lecture about the feminine side of God. Therefore, Pilar is disappointed when he tells her that he has given up his gift and plans that they spend their lives in Zaragoza.

An old woman tells Pilar that there is a legend that in the River Piedra, anything that falls into the water of this river is transformed into the rocks that make the riverbed. Here, Pilar starts to write her story, so that she can turn all her suffering into stone. In the end, her childhood friend finds Pilar by the River Piedra after looking for her everywhere and after reading what Pilar has written, they decide to begin their new life together.

BIOGRAPHY OF PAULO COELHO

Paulo Coelho was born in 1947, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, where he was also raised. As a teenager, Paulo was an introvert and his parents had him committed to a mental institution when he was seventeen until he was twenty years old.

Paulo found work as a songwriter. In 1974, at age 27, he was arrested by the government for subversive activity – the people in power found his song lyrics dangerous. He continued his career in the entertainment field, working as an actor, a journalist, and even directing some theatre. He started to write as well, and his first book, *Hell Archives*, was published in 1982, when he was 35.

In 1986, at age 40, Paulo walked along the Road of Santiago de Compostela in northwestern Spain, a 500-mile distance. He experienced a spiritual awakening on this journey, which he described in his book *The Pilgrimage*, published in 1986. In 1987, his book *The Alchemist* was published. In the next year, *Brida* was published. *The Alchemist* became so popular that it influenced *Brida* to become a best seller. Indeed, it has sold more than 30 million copies, and has been translated into more than 67 languages. Paulo has published

26 books to date. Other of his titles includes *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*, *Veronika Decides to Die*.

In 1996, Paulo, the best-selling author in the Portuguese language, founded the Paulo Coelho Institute in order to provide aid to children and the elderly. In September 2007, Paulo was named a Messenger of Peace to the United Nations.

Source: "Paulo Coelho Biography"