

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the portrayal of the protagonist in *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*, in this chapter I would like to draw some conclusions. The novel is a story of a woman around twenty years of age, named Pilar, who is accustomed to think of everything in a good order. As a premeditated woman, Pilar never does anything based on an impulse or based on her feelings. As a result, Pilar does not allow herself to fall in love with her childhood friend because Pilar thinks to fall in love means to lose control, and she does not want that to happen. This habit also makes Pilar become a conventional woman. She feels awkward if she is around people whom she does not know. Moreover, Pilar prefers to choose a settled marriage life with a husband who is easy to find and who has a secure job. She will not decide anything that is too risky. She is willing to let her love lead her to something secure.

As the protagonist, Pilar is a round and dynamic character. In the beginning, she is portrayed as a planner and as a conventional woman who always does everything based on careful thought-out plans. Nevertheless, there is a point in Pilar's life that makes her characteristics change. This happens when Pilar's childhood friend explains to her about the Other, Pilar then decides to put the

Other away from her life, and this soon changes her view about life. The Other is a term used in this novel to describe an inner voice within every human being that warns us that life is too risky.

Thus, Pilar becomes a spontaneous woman. Now she enjoys her new self and is glad that she does not have to be in control anymore. She begins to use her feelings. She no longer feels awkward but can now enjoy having new people around her. She allows herself to fall in love with her childhood friend and she decides to find out more about his life. She feels free now and she has wonderful experiences that she will not forget to tell others about. Her spontaneous acts makes Pilar become an unconventional woman. She decides to accept the reality that her childhood friend does not have a secure job. She is willing to take a risk with that. She does not want a flat life. She breaks open the wall of fear. Pilar decides to be who she really is. She is willing to fight for her love.

Based on the analysis above, there are some things that I would like to conclude. Firstly, one needs to be released from the Other to find one's true love. This affects one's behavior, response and also one's personality in finding love. Previously, the desires of a person's heart can be suppressed. As for Pilar, she had suppressed her heart's desires and it would have become worse if she had not met her childhood friend and acquire knowledge about The Other from him. Secondly, one will have to take risks in one's life to find happiness. By surrendering to one's own fear, by trusting and by not questioning what will happen next, one will discover one's true self. One will find happiness if one follows one's heart. Pilar is successful in putting aside the Other, and she finally lives in happiness with her childhood friend.

For me, the story Coelho writes is alive and real especially his idea about 'the Other'. I believe that everyone has 'the Other' in their life, whether they realize it or not. Many are comfortable living with 'the Other'. They want to become just like 'the Other' tells them. In my opinion, 'the Other' comes from a person's mind. People often base their decision on logical thinking instead of on their heart, for example, when they make a decision about their spouse. Deciding to live with someone else is a hard thing to do. If the relationship they build fails in the end, they usually hurt each other, and this is what people are afraid of. They are afraid of taking risks in life. The bigger the consequences, the more they depend on 'the Other'. This does not mean that living according to 'the Other' is not good. It is good to hear 'the Other' because it is a secure life, but more than that, it is better for people to listen to what their own heart says. Consequently, people have two choices in their life: to choose 'the Other' or to live according to their own heart or will. 'The other' does not only talk about relationships, but about other things in life as well. That is why the story is so real, because it also happens in real life.

Personally, I like the character of Pilar and her life since her childhood until she finally discovers who she really is. The characteristics she has had for years change in the short space of only one week. It proves that when someone really wants to change, they do not have to go through a long process. People change when they really want to change and do not just say that they want to change. In addition, the idea of 'the Other' impresses me. It has never come to my mind before until I read this book. I think it is not wrong to follow 'the Other', but it is better to follow your heart. however, the best way for me is to follow God's will instead of 'the Other' or my own desires. God has His own plan for me, and

He knows much more than anyone does. 'The Other' and our own wants may be wrong, but not His.