

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel, I am of the opinion that the novel is very exciting to read and to analyze since it is written by Paulo Coelho, who is not only one of the most widely-read authors but also one of the most influential authors today. In The Devil and Miss Prym, he tries to give a real description about the obstacle which is faced by human beings in deciding their paths.

The novel reveals the inner conflicts that are faced by the characters in the story. They struggle to choose between the bad and good sides inside them. To solve their inner conflicts, I can see clearly that they choose to decide what is best for them at that time and based on their free will.

Coelho gives us an example of an individual's choice in the case of Chantal, the stranger, the priest and the villagers. Chantal is described as a young beautiful girl who will do almost anything to get out from the village. Chantal, who is described as a bad character in the story, can take a good action. She can make a good decision and follow the good side inside her.

The stranger is described as a successful businessman and a religious man but he decides to take revenge because of his dead family. He gives the villagers of Viscos a terrible offer. He knows that his offer for the villagers is a bad thing because the villagers must kill an innocent person to fulfil his desire but he chooses to continue his action instead of stopping it.

The priest, who is described to be a very religious man in the village, turns out to take a shocking decision. He has to decide whether to accept the stranger's offer or not. As a religious man, he knows that the stranger's offer is a terrible offer because he must kill an innocent person in the village and that action is forbidden by his religion. But instead of following his religious side, he chooses to accept the stranger's offer and agree to kill an innocent person.

The villagers, who are described as good and trusting people, turn out to take an awful decision. They decide to kill Bertha just to fulfil their dreams although in the end, they choose not to carry on with their decision.

From those explanations, I can understand the message that the author tries to give to us as readers. No matter what we are, either a bad person or a good person, we can make a decision based on our free will. The characters in the novel could represent anyone who faces the same obstacle when he has to make a decision. Each person has his own demons to battle with. There is a time in one's life when the evil side rules his life and the good side seems so far away. When one is in that position, there are only two options: follow his evil side or choose the better side. Everyone has that choice and it is up to him to take his stand and decide what he will do. It also has a correlation with the theme of the story "every

human being has freedom to choose but he must accept the consequences of his choice”.

The author in this novel is not trying to decide whether humans are bad or good, but he tries to give us a real example about human being's position between good and evil. Human beings are standing in the middle of the two opposite sides and they can choose either. Human beings always suffer from inner conflicts, always live between two options whether to follow their evil or good side. Whatever the answer, it is clear that from the very beginning, the human race has been destined to exist within the eternal division. Humans are always moving between those two opposing poles. Everyone is challenged to prove their courage and willingness to change. When one chooses his attitude towards life, he can affect his surroundings. One can choose to live a guilt-ridden life and always complain about everything or one can live a free-from-guilt life and create his own paradise. It is just a matter of choice.

In this story, Coelho also wants to tell the readers that one must be responsible for one's decision because there is always a consequence for every decision that one makes in life. One must be brave to accept whatever the consequence is from our decision.