

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

Having analysed the social conflicts in Paulo Coelho's *The Witch of Portobello* I would like to draw some conclusions.

In the first conflict that Athena experiences, she wants to get married and have a baby at a young age. Her parents, her husband's parents, and her priest are against her decision because in their opinion, she is still young and has a long journey. Athena finally manages to solve the conflict. She persistently makes a decision to finish her mission in her life, namely to get married and become a mother and she manages to do that.

In the second conflict, Athena also has a different opinion about getting a sacrament for a divorcee. While the church keeps the rules not to give divorced people the sacrament, Athena thinks that she has the right to get the sacrament. The church is against her, so that she decides to leave the church and find another god in her own way. At the end of the conflict, Athena manages to find her new spiritual quest.

In the third social conflict, Athena's mother has difficulty to accept Athena's behaviour to continue her mission. When her mother asks her to live a normal life, she persistently prefers to lead her own life. In the end, however, Athena gets what she wants, namely to fulfil her mission to open the way for The Mother.

The last social conflict in the story is when Athena has a conflict with the society in Portobello Road, which is partly used as the title of this novel. The society is against her; everybody tries to stop her in doing her activity. Even though Athena is not against the law when she praises the Great Mother, she is against the tradition in the society. Most of the people living in Portobello road are Christian and they believe that Athena raises what they call satanic cult. They feel very much disturbed not only by the noise but also by the ceremony and belief which are against Christianity. Although the conflict remains unsolved because both she and the society she lives in are determined to keep their own beliefs, once again by being persistent, Athena manages to get what she wants. Athena hides herself and fakes her death to save her mission.

After analysing all the social conflicts experienced by Athena, I come to the conclusion that Athena, who has social conflicts with her family, people around her, and the society in Portobello Road, is persistent and has the courage to remain true to herself in reaching her mission in life, and in the end she manages to get what she wants even though it is hard at the beginning because other people are against her.

Coelho makes the readers see the conflicts closely through several

different points of view. By creating the social conflicts between Athena and society, Coelho wants to depict the problems that really exist in modern society, and I think he succeeds in making a question in the readers' minds, namely "how do we find the courage to always be true to ourselves – even if we are unsure of whom we are?" ("The Witch of Portobello"). Athena, who has to face a lot of conflicts, bravely sticks to what she believes in and to what she wants until the very end.

After reading the novel, I learn about a person who faces obstacles in reaching her mission but always has the courage to finish her mission no matter what people say and do to her. I believe that she can solve her conflicts and get what she wants because she is persistent. From Athena's life, I learn that I have to fight for the things I believe. I learn that there is nothing impossible for me to achieve as long as I keep being persistent. I also learn that I have to remain true to myself in order to get what I want.