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#### "Alchemist" Paolo Coelho

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One of my favorite writer proposed eccentric, deep insightful novel to his fans. Main character Santiago- a shepherd, feeding his sheep travels around the world. One of the sunny beautiful days, he meets charming girl of shop owner and his outlook about human being, existence. Also he sets up a goal to earn money, see around the world, to enrich his cosmopolitan outlook. To achieve his target, Santiago takes 3 wallets of ancient golden coins, buys flock of sheep and goes to shepherd them.

In my view, Santiago differs from other shepherds. He is ambitious, sets goals. He reads books-Santiago can be considered not just blue-collar worker. He tries to change his life. He is eager and the reader can consider him as an intelligent person who tries to enlighten himself. He cares about earning but he is not totally materialistic person. The author tells all his religious-psychological insights from the tongue of Santiago. Paulo Coelho starts his novel by retelling a story from Oscar Wild's book about beauty of Nargis' death. There was a girl named Nargis who drawn into the river cries, mourns. Dryads say are you crying because Nargis was beautiful? The river replies: I never noticed she was beautiful. Whenever she came, I always saw my own beauty in her eyes. As it, Santiago searches love, believe in God, beauty of soul, tranquility but the end of the novel when she comes back of his ruined church remains and finds treasure he faces a lot of adventures, at the end of the novel it turns out that the treasure was in the church near his home.

The guy seeks the truth from his dream, goes to extrasensory old woman to interpret it. The woman says: "The dream is the language that God speaks with us. If The God addresses to your heart so only you will understand it." Santiago is a thoughtful man. He always thinks about his life and existing world events. He is not apathetic to social and humanitarian issues. He compares his and characters' lives from the books. Speaks with himself. Even if he is lonely, he is interesting interlocutor to himself. His inner world is very appealing. He is optimist person. He knows he is very poor to travel around, but he approaches creatively to the problem and chooses to be a shepherd to travel purposefully. The author urges as Santiago: "All books tell about that the human being cannot choose his/her destiny himself/herself." However, it is the largest lie" – so the author furnishes his books on the concept of being optimist and believe that each person builds his destiny with his hands." He encounters plenty of mysterious stories on the way to Egypt pyramids. Because forecasting with told his dream interpretation and encouraged him to seek the wealth. The novel is written in idealistic spirit. It does not support of chasing money, being just materialistic humans.

The story in the beginning of the novel also refers that author would like to say everyone who falls in love with someone else first of all loves himself/herself that is reflected on that person. In other words, all people love someone who is close to themselves, who is spiritually interconnected to them. People not only adore another person but also they love themselves when they are in love-they love a process of being beloved and being adored by other people. The term of love is displayed as something very highly rated value of humanity. Story of Nargis reminds that author would like to imply to concept that- by loving people we love God in their forms, love is deeper than we think. Love towards to person is the start of love towards the God. Symbolism plays key role in the book to reveal the base foundational laws of the life. The guy, Santiago travels all

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around the world, but he founds wealth and happiness in his own small town in Spain. The God appears to Santiago in desert in the form of ordinary person Maliksiddiq- he introduces himself like that. By conversations of boy author answered elaborately to all questions of frequently asked by human race in terms of love, eternity and God. The God in form of Maliksiddiq does not introduce himself as God but from words you can easily figure out that it was him. "I accompany everybody who follows his/her destiny" says he. Alternatively, it can be the Destiny of a person. Author strongly beliefs that humans has their pre-written fate. Everything that happens is fatal. That's why predicting woman could guess out that Santiago will reach his perfectness in personality and wealth somewhere and ever. But why she was wrong about destination – because nobody knows future in details. All predictors are psychologists – they predict according to clues what are you giving but none of them are the writers of destiny that's why they do rude mistakes. Predicting woman guesses that Santiago is smart, initiative, outrageous, capable and multifaceted young guy who always strives to reach his goals. Also, she tries to define his dream. Dreams are like voices from the God and future. Information was encoded there. Some readers understand Santiago's travel to search his destiny and fortune as what author would like other people should do- tips to live correctly. Adventure seekers like to interpret it like this. While other audience prefer to understand this novel's moral as "even if a person walks along whole world, it is useless, his or her destiny will reach them at last. Nothing can be changed even if humanity tries a lot". However, the latest option of interpretation of the novel is rather pessimistic and I would not recommend to hold that position. While he searches another part of the world, he clarifies that his treasure is in his motherland. It is not actual gold treasure I assume. It is cultural and traditional, family values. It is mentality, someone's true own national ancient roots that contain and cultivate in human's life. The treasure was symbolic in the book. The last page paragraphs answer to the main question: "Indeed, the life awards people who goes from their destiny path". It means who follows the call of the God by being patient to difficulties, who fights for his/her rights, who do not stop hoping, who does not give up, who catches the signs of destiny – they would be really happy. The God wants us to be happy, he even gives signs to catch up our unique chances. It is in people's hands to hold it or not.

Santiago encounters the Alchemist. This hero is not a person not an angel- it is not revealed in the novel. So, he should be some fantastic character who represents either God or wise people. The Alchemist means someone who deal with chemistry. Why chemistry? As it is known from the history, some people believed strongly that if enough attempts will be done, some substances in chemistry would change their core. Especially, metal would turn to gold. An Alchemists were respected and treated as God. So, in this novel, there is analogy with that belief. The author would like to tell that if everyone works on his/her personality, even common people could turn to very sophisticated, developed, spiritually ideal people. The Alchemist is the wise person here. That's why novels title is Alchemist.

"Every person on the world, whatever he or she does, functions as the main significant key person in this world. Usually people even do not know about it" says the Alchemist. So- this is the main thesis of the novel. This is what author would like to emphasize us. He would like to state that – please people do your job from heart and live peaceful and tranquil life. Do not compare yourself with others. Do not try what others doing. If your love your life and job – that's the main thing. That's your treasure- satisfaction, love. You don't need piles of money to make yourself happy. All precocious items had been gifted for free. Even if you are doing a simple job- it is needed, people need you and your function in this world. There are no small or big shares by people. Everyone does his/her best. And whatever your share is – this is your part that is worth to value first of all by you. Nowadays, many psychological best sellers say this tips to their audiences. The achievement

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of the author is – he doesn't say anything directly. He describes by stories and words. This is a real art of being novelist. Not every writer can encode his core insights into dialogues and prose.

The Alchemist retells a story about one father and his sons. According to it, one father who has two sons, encounters angel. The angel tells him that his one son who is poet, poems will live and will be passed from centuries to centuries. The father was very happy. When he died, angel takes him to the future to next centuries. But he sees that not his poet sons' poems but another – warrior son's saying lived among people so many ages. Surprised, he asks the angel –why? It was because this son looks for doctor and faced in prophet, realizes that it is not just a doctor but prophet and says his famous phrase: "Please tell your words and my servant will get recovered". He realizes prophet's words' power and healing feature, because these words were taken from the God. The author beliefs that religion and word of the God heals. Not the creature of the people but the creature of the God- words of holy books were passed through centuries. It's the religion that shapes person's identity and people should try to polish and reform themselves by religious insights, wants to say the author. Religious faith of author directly visible in this part of the novel. Even if I believe in other religion, it was great pleasure to invent deep meanings and purposes of sayings. The values of book never become out of dated and it never will know boundaries.

So Santiago passes a long trip from his desert to his town church until finding his treasure. This trip was metaphoric. He searches the meaning of the life. Why do people live and die? What's the purpose of living, mission of life and why God wants us to live? He finds the truth at the end. It was his religion, motherland, family, the God, the faith, cultural roots- everything that his personality is shaped from and everything that makes his perfect human. Spiritual values were the treasure he found. After long travel, he starts to value all his relationships, faith and knowledge as treasure. Love to Fatima was the wealth. Living in his family and enjoying his deserts was his treasure. Enjoying doing his lovely job, being free person was the true value. Striving to gain knowledge, enlighten himself was priceless enjoyment. Believing to his God and enjoying praying, praying his faith was worthto worlds. All expensive treasures were hidden in the common values that are usually free. The smile on his face, the kiss of his girlfriend, the wind of the motherland. In some point, author would like to say all religions are the same, they urge to be perfect and faithful. The Alchemist says "Your love is the thing that changes in world everything- steel to gold, hides gold into sand. Love turns prayer to falcon, falcon to person, person to desert." So, author claims that love is the main meaning of the world. Love to the God. So, the Alchemist is can be understood as prophet here. Because, he comments to secret bases of life: how love changes your being. It is someone who helps you to understand your being. The Alchemist is someone who is aware of creatures of the God, someone who is as person but is showing right way to live. Muslims has one saying: "Until not being an immigrant to other countries, you cannot be a true believer". While travelling, Santiago encounters many passengers who enriches his outlook and he turns wiser. The plot and moral of the novel resembles to the saying. Santiago does not just enjoy travelling; he takes a risk. He endangers his life, spends precocious time, learns other cultures, finds resources and acts too much to make his dream come true. At the end, he just finds out that all goods were given to all humans equally and for free from the God. Its people who do not appreciate and value the Gods blessings. He learnt to appreciate all the blessings, understand them, welcome them, and evaluate them properly and adequately. He developed the sense of satisfaction or content. The sense of happiness and content was true treasure he finds. The treasure was metaphoric item. Otherwise, author would describe what was the treasure and its price. He would even be written further stories about how he spent it and some appealing continuation of them. But the central aim of the writing the novel would be lost. The author didn't say it explicitly because he wanted that everybody should discover it himself herself, it was great food for thought.

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