

Sample Book Report on The Alchemist

The Alchemist is a novel written by Paulo Coelho in 1988, translated from Portuguese into English in 1993, and published in 1990. The book was later adapted for cinema. It has been widely read throughout the world and transposed into various formats such as song lyrics, stage plays, poems etc. In the United States alone it sold 14 million copies. Its success was widely acclaimed and it was awarded the Guinness World Record for most translated book by a living author. The book also has an online version, which is read through the website Paulo Coelho's official site .

The story begins with a young shepherd named Santiago who lives in Andalusia. One day, as he watches his flock of sheep graze at the spot where a hidden treasure was supposed to be found, he receives a visit from an old king whom he had seen previously in his dreams. This same character follows him throughout his life to give him advice on how to achieve his personal legend ("la quête du héros") as well as advice regarding women. In this case, the old king recommends that Santiago seek out a mysterious alchemist who goes by the name of Melchizedek.

Santiago follows the advice and embarks on a journey to Egypt where he meets an Englishman, named Lord Melchizedek. This character is in fact the same old king from his dreams who Santiago has been following throughout his life. Once again, the old king gives him advice about achieving his personal legend before disappearing from existence. With this new knowledge, Santiago seeks out Fatima whom he had met previously in the desert at nightfall. The two will go

on to continue their lives together as they explore Europe's biggest markets for treasure while gaining priceless experiences along the way.

The Alchemist tells us that each person has his or her own path to follow in life. It is a story about the importance of achieving your personal legend and following your destiny, no matter what it takes to get there. After Santiago's discovery that " I was born to treasure this journey ", he goes on to tell us that if we go against our destiny or allow any obstacles to prevent us from reaching our true goal, then we may end up losing everything.

The book is divided into three parts entitled "the desert," "the oasis," and "the inner light." In each part, Coelho tells us something different about his views of life. The first part deals with the theme of faith and how one must never lose his faith even in times of great distress. He states: All things are one. The person who tries to separate a thing from the whole always loses everything.

Coelho also gives us advice, such as " If you want to receive , you must first learn how to give ," and tells us that we cannot get anything unless we are willing to lose it. In other words, only through sacrifice can we achieve our destiny or personal legend. In this part of the book Coelho tells us that when in doubt, seek out someone in whom you have faith because in times of need they will help you in whatever way they can. This is demonstrated when Santiago travels into the Egyptian desert where everyone he comes across helps him before continuing on his journey toward his true destination ("the oasis").

The second part deals with the theme of love and how one must hold on to love even if it is not reciprocated. Coelho tells us that there are three types of love: conditional, unconditional, and total. He also states that it is important to know the difference between these different types because they will each help you achieve your destiny in their own special way.

The third part deals with faith once again, but this time through the character Melchizedek. Here we learn about our inner light which has infinite strength, energy, consciousness, enthusiasm, creativity, knowledge, and power. The message here is that each person's inner light will guide him or her toward his or her true destination if he or she obeys its signals fully.

The Alchemist is a spiritual book that makes us think about our lives and how we should live them. It encourages each of us to seek out our destiny and follow it no matter what the consequences may be, as long as it brings us happiness.