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The Theme of Spiritual Quest in Paulo Coelho's Select Novels.**Abstract:**

Paulo Coelho novels are like mystical pearls trying to point out a way to the reader in his real life. But there is a strong thread of Spirituality connecting all most all his works. This is an attempt to find that inner thread that is not so obvious but still everything behind the novels and his great success.

All these quest behind these novels seem to be based on the listening to one's self often the author's as most of them are semi-autobiographical except the Alchemist where the protagonist does it. Moreover it stresses the readers to listen to the signs around them.

This is a formula of a man who had used his inner voice or intuition to become a successful man in life. He expounds and also lights the way for the reader to obtain it, just like him.

"The Pilgrimage" "The Alchemist" "The Aleph" "The Valkyries" and "The Witch of Portobello" are the few novels taken for this brief consideration.

Key words: Spiritual Quest, true voice, inner voice, intuition, ritual, blissful

Introduction

This article expounds as briefly as possible and also dogmatically “the Theme of Spiritual Quest in Paulo Coelho’ novels.

Everybody talks and debates within themselves. “Listen to yourself” may be simple to say or preach. But difficult to practice. This is because the true voice is not the only voice seeking our attention. We have inside us a false voice, an echo known as the voice of the ego. The true inner voice gives expression to who we really are while the false voice focuses on our imaginations. The problem is the subtle and clear true voice is often subdued by the false voice, Hence we go astray in our pursuits.

When we cannot listen to our inner voice, it makes life sullen. Relationships become complex as well. This happens because false voice leads us and misguides. The inner true voice also known as intuition, involves an understanding beyond words, experiences or what we perceive through our senses.

In his book, “Listening to Your Inner Voice”, Douglas Bloch gives the best distinction between the inner voice and the false voice. He supplements this distinction by emphasizing the importance of recognizing the inner voice. Paulo Coelho has used these voices of nature elaborately in his novels to show to the readers its nature and benefits when one follows the true voice.

There are a few characters of the two of the voices in human psyche to know about, the true inner voice and the false. The Inner Voice is Very quiet—and calm while the other is Loud and consistent. The true one comes from the heart and the false one comes from the mind that creates fear.

“Don't give in to your fears. If you do, you won't be able to talk to your heart.”

Paulo Coelho, “The Alchemist.”

It feels peaceful cheering and consoling with the true one. The false one promotes anxiety, tension and doubt.

“When in doubt, just take the next small step” -Paulo Coelho, -“The Pilgrimage”

True voice is on trust and the other is on mistrust and betrayal. True voice is light and blissful while the false voice feels heavy and sensual.

“Don't fear the light within. May it ignite the Sacred Flame in your soul”.

-Paulo Coelho, “The Valkyries”

The real voice speaks the truth while the other engages you in logical debate.

However, most people don't recognize it or simply do not hear it. It is muted by the sounds of the outer life based on the senses. This false voice, which dwells upon our false beliefs, perceptions and negative thoughts may lead us astray, tell us we are not good enough or it can't be done as well as a host of other untruths.

Therefore, how do we distinguish these voices? It is on these marks of identifications that Paulo Coelho seem to spread out his novels to make it to the reader light and easy. He has become more creative in this technique of writing. He has handled this with full awareness in the Alchemist when he says, “Respond, do not react” to the true voice is emphasized by the ritual trainings. Paulo appreciates rituals follows. “If theater is ritual, then dance is too... It's as if the threads connecting us to the rest of the world were washed clean of preconceptions and fears. When you dance, you can enjoy the luxury of being you.” - Paulo Coelho, “The Witch of Portobello”

"Everything in life is a ritual," Paulo said. "For witches as much as for those who have never heard of witchcraft. Both are always trying to perform their rituals to perfection."

-Paulo Coelho, “The Valkyries”

"When we are young, we don't take anything too seriously. But slowly, this set of daily rituals becomes solidified, and takes us over. Once things have begun to go along pretty much as we imagined they would, we don't dare risk altering the ritual. We like to complain, but we are reassured by the fact that each day is more or less like every other. At last there is no unexpected danger."

"... When the ritual becomes consolidated, the person becomes a slave."

-Paulo Coelho, “The Valkyries”

But the real need and meaning of rituals are elaborately discussed in RAM Practices of “The Pilgrimage.”

He names the inner voice listening as “The Arousal of intuition” (The water exercise) and also describes it clearly.

“Make a puddle of water on a smooth, non- absorbent surface. Look into the puddle for a while. Then, begin to play with it, without any particular commitment or objective. Make designs that mean absolutely nothing. Do this exercise for a week, allowing at least ten minutes each time. Don’t look for practical results from this exercise; it is simply calling up your intuition, little by little. When this intuition begins to manifest itself at other times of the day, always trust in it”.

- Paulo Coelho, “The Pilgrimage”

Intuition is nothing but the clean tone of our inner voice.

Paying attention to signs that appears around you or to you can herald the true voice. "Everything in life is a ritual," Paulo said. "For witches as much as for those who have never heard of witchcraft. Both are always trying to perform their rituals to perfection." Chris, his wife knew that those on the magical path had their rituals. And she understood, as well, that there were rituals in everyday life - marriage, baptisms, and graduations.

"No, no. I'm not talking about those obvious rituals," he went on impatiently. He wanted to sleep, but she pretended not to have sensed his irritation. "I'm saying that everything is a ritual. Just as a mass is a great ritual, composed of various parts, the everyday experience of any person is, also."

"A carefully elaborate ritual that the person tries to perform precisely, because he or she is afraid that - if any part is left out - everything will go wrong. The name of that ritual is Routine."

-Paulo Coelho, “The Valkyries”

“The simple things are also the most extraordinary things, and only the wise can see them.”

-Paulo Coelho, “The Alchemist”.

"We simply have to trust and follow the signs and live our Personal Legend; sooner or later, we will realize that we are all part of something, even if we can’t understand rationally what that something is."

-Paulo Coelho, “The Alchemist”.

Once we begin to listen to our inner voice, what we have lost or forgotten about ourselves automatically revisits us. This is our original or natural self and this is called self-

discovery. This is what happens in Aleph. The protagonist, Hillal and Paulo Coelho get a vision of their previous birth acquaintance, when they enter the Aleph during the journey in Russia.

Conclusion

When it is difficult to listen to our inner self and find what we really need he suggest through his novels “the Pilgrimage” the Alchemist” “the Aleph and “the Valkyries” to take a walk out the routine life, to seek out strange places, strange people and engulf oneself in loneliness through a physical journey, or may be a pilgrimage. That is when and where one will be able to listen to their own inner true voice and obtain tits true radiance. Most of his stress appears to be this in his words. He rather attempts to share all these as his life experiences that mend him to what he is now. Learn to listen to your “True Inner Voice”

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