

ISSN INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER

ISSN-2321-7065

IJELLH

**International Journal of English Language,
Literature in Humanities**

Peer-Reviewed (Refereed/Scholarly), Indexed and Open Access Journal



Volume 7, Issue 8, August 2019

www.ijellh.com

Ankita A. Desai

Ph.D Research Scholar

Ganpat University, Kherva

Mehsana, Gujarat, India

ankitadesai45@gmail.com

Dr. Usha Kaushik

Assistant Professor

V.M.Patel College of Management Studies,

Ganpat University, Kherva

Mehsana, Gujarat, India

Individuation in Paulo Coelho's *The Pilgrimage*

Abstract

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist. He is best known for his inspirational novels. In his writings, spirituality holds an important place. *The Pilgrimage* (1987) is a personal legend of Paulo Coelho. The protagonist's displacement in search of meaningful life is symbolic. *The Pilgrimage* depicts the journey of Coelho to Road to Santiago. It also depicts the physical as well as mental sufferings of Coelho. The novel shows the readers Coelho's struggle to get the title of the master of the ancient tradition called RAM. The journey transforms the protagonist and makes him realize about his dreams and goals. The journey proved to be a mile stone for the author. After the pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela, Coelho decides to be a writer. The present paper focuses on the journey of Coelho to Santiago de Compostela. It also focuses on the transformation of the author during the

journey. It is an attempt to study Paulo Coelho's transformation in the light of Carl Jung's philosophy of individuation.

Key Words: Personal legend, Displacement, Pilgrimage, Transformation, Individuation.

Paulo Coelho was born in Brazil in 1947. He has received numerous international awards such as "World Economic Forum Crystal Award" in 1999 and "The Honorable Award of the President of the Republic" in May 2006. He has written numerous books like *Hell Archives* (1982), *The Pilgrimage* (1987), *The Alchemist* (1988), *Brida* (1990), *The Valkyries* (1990), *Maktub* (1992), *By the River Piedra I Sat Down & Wept* (1994), *The Fifth Mountain* (1996), *The Manuel of the Warrior of Light* (1997), *Veronica Decides to Die* (1998), *The Devil and Miss Prym* (2000), *Eleven Minutes* (2003), *The Zahir* (2005), *Like the Flowing River* (2006), *The Witch of Portobello* (2006), *The Winner Stands Alone* (2008), *Aleph* (2010), *Manuscript Found in Accra* (2012), *Adultery* (2014) *The Spy* (2016), *Hippy* (2018).

Displacement is as ancient as human history. It refers to both physical as well as mental displacement. Since the evolution of human being, they displace from one place to another for various purposes. It is a much-debated term in the 21st century as day by day people move from their original land to foreign land for various purposes. One of the common features of Coelho's novels is displacement of his protagonists. Coelho himself is fond of traveling and he reveals; "Without a doubt, it was traveling that made me make the leap" (Arias,195). He also shows the importance of journey by saying, "Journey has a very strong symbolic significance in people's lives" (197). He further adds; "Using the metaphor of the journey, I see my life as a caravan: I don't know whence it came or where it's going to end" (210).

One should realize one's destiny. The protagonists of Coelho also believe in realizing their destinies. The journey of the protagonists follows the same pattern. They embark on a

journey either for spiritual or material purposes, go through trials and ordeals, and reach their destinies at the end. They have faith in God and his acts. They get clues from the universe during their journey, follow the omens and achieve their goals. They believe in; When You want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it. (Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 28).

As every journey has a motive, Coelho's protagonists too have motives for their journey. Santiago in *The Alchemist* undertakes a journey in order to find hidden treasure. Paulo Coelho himself embarks on a journey to find a hidden sword in order to get the title of "RAM" in his autobiographical novel *The Pilgrimage*. Pilar in *By the River Piedra I Sat Down & Wept* embarks on the journey in search of true love. In the same way, the narrator of *The Zahir*, has to go in search of his missing wife, Esther. Elijah, the protagonist of *The Fifth Mountain* has to displace to save himself.

Diary of a Magus which is later named as *The Pilgrimage* (1987) is an autobiographical novel of Coelho in which Coelho himself undertakes a journey to find the hidden sword in order to become the Master of RAM. It is a journey of Coelho to Santiago de Compostela. Coelho walks more than 700 kilometers to reach to Santiago de Compostela. It is a route which has been followed by pilgrims since 1123. Santiago de Compostela is a pilgrimage place. *The Pilgrimage* is also a personal legend of Paulo Coelho. *The Pilgrimage* depicts the journey of Paulo Coelho and his search for his own identity. It is during his journey; he decides to leave all the business aside to become a writer. The journey and the efforts of Coelho are the manifestation of his strong desire to find himself. The journey makes him realize his physical, mental and spiritual strength. The novel depicts the entire journey to Road to Santiago which is the ancient route followed by pilgrims. Though it is categorized as fiction, there is a lack of imagination in it. It is the real-life story about Coelho's dream. Through this autobiographical saga, he again wants to spread the same

message which he conveys in *The Alchemist* (1988) that one should pursue his/her dreams. One should not simply cherish those dreams without following.

In *The Pilgrimage*, Coelho talks about his everyday experiences during his journey to Road to Santiago de Compostela. Coelho depicts the whole route to Santiago de Compostela. The novel includes the map of the route. Coelho describes the various sites which he visits. He also describes how he has to adjust in the weather of Spain which is very different from his country.

During his journey, Paulo goes through many ups and downs. His quest to find himself is being fulfilled at the end of the journey. In the end, he finds himself as a transformed person. In his confessional style, Coelho writes: "The Pilgrimage along the Road to Santiago was going to help me find myself" (TP 14).

He decides to undertake a journey in the search of the hidden sword. When the novel opens, Paulo is a thirty-eight-year-old young man. He believes in the mysterious Tradition of RAM (a religious and mysterious tradition). He wants to become a Master of that Tradition. He feels that he has learnt and completed training to get the sword which is awarded to the new Master of RAM. But he is not aware that he still has to learn a final lesson. His Master wants that he should learn a lot about life and people. He should overcome his inner and outer fears. He should learn to endure things. He should learn to bear the physical as well as mental pain. In order to learn all these things, he has to undertake one final journey. If he does not accomplish the journey, the sword will not be awarded to him.

To follow the instruction of his Master, Paulo decides to go Santiago de Compostela. The route is one that has been followed by the pilgrims for centuries. Paulo's destination is the town of Compostela which is also known as Santiago, the tomb of Santiago. Santiago was an evangelist, who spread the word of Christ following the crucifixion.

There is always a guiding force in Coelho's novels who accompany the protagonists in their journey, motivate them and help them to carry out their adventurous journey. During his journey, Paulo is guided by Petrus, a driving force who always motivates him to go beyond his limits to find himself. Petrus is a man of about forty. Petrus has got the title of the Master. Now, he guides to those who want to become Masters too. Petrus and his words always inspire Paulo to continue his journey. Petrus is the greatest source behind Paulo's transformation. He and his teaching techniques push Paulo towards his goal. It is necessary for Paulo to purify himself before getting the hidden sword. Petrus helps him to overcome all his weaknesses and makes him able to purify himself from all worldly things. Petrus teaches him eleven different RAM exercises which are going to help him to search the hidden sword. Petrus' words are simple but profound. Coelho writes:

When you travel, you experience, in a very practical way, the act of rebirth. You confront completely new situations, the day passes more slowly, and on most journeys, you don't even understand the language the people speak. So, you are like a child just out of the womb. You begin to attach much more importance to the things around you because your survival depends upon them. You begin to be more accessible to others because they may be able to help you in difficult situations. And you accept any small favor from the gods with great delight as if it were an episode you would remember for the rest of your life. At the same time, since all things are new, you see only the beauty in them, and you feel happy to be alive. That's why a religious pilgrimage has always been one of the most objective ways of achieving insight (TP 35).

Before embarking upon journey, Paulo is in the state of confusion. Like his protagonists, he too is in a dilemma. Though seven months have been passed to his failure, he can't decide. He thinks that what should he do? Whether he should continue the journey or

not? He is worried about his business in Brazil. He spends seven months to make a decision about the journey. When life puts an individual in a state of confusion, there is always a hidden force who kicks him /her towards their goal. Like his other novel, his wife becomes the hidden source who pushes him forward towards his journey. His wife shows him the right path and helps him to initiate his journey. She hands over him two airline tickets. She is the one who motivates him to follow his dream of becoming a Master of the Tradition RAM. She leaves him at Madrid. The journey of Paulo begins from there.

Though the protagonist decides to go on a journey in the quest of the hidden sword, it also gives him opportunities to find himself. The novels of Paulo Coelho follow the same structure. His each and every protagonist leaves home in quest of material treasure but they become self-actualized individuals at the end. In the same way, Paulo himself goes through the process of learning and at the end achieves his identity. His displacement from Brazil to Santiago de Compostela proves to be a transforming one. A journey is a long learning process in which an individual meets different people, goes through many ups and downs, and perceives knowledge through senses. It is similar to individuation theory of Carl Jung. He is the first psychologist who introduces alchemy in the field of psychology in the 20th century. In psychology, the term alchemy refers to the process of transformation of an individual. Carl Jung in his book *Men and His Symbols* (1964) talks about the process of individuation. He writes that the process of individuation becomes real when a person is aware of it. Jung feels that an individual can become an active participant in it. "He even feels that from time to time, by making decisions, he can co-operate actively with it. This co-operation belongs to the process of individuation in the narrower sense of the world" (Jung, MAHS 162).

In the present novel, the protagonist willingly goes on a journey. It is not a forced displacement. He chooses to displace in search of the hidden sword. Though he takes seven months to take any decision, he without any pressure voluntarily goes on a journey. In order

to get the title of Master of RAM, he learns each and every lesson sincerely. He is very eager to learn the RAM exercises. Though he has to undergo through physical pain and sufferings, he learns all the things very sincerely. He has a passion to learn new lessons and things. He follows Petrus' orders and co-operates him. From the Jungian point of view, it can be said that Paulo actively participates in the process called individuation and achieves his goal.

The journey which he undertakes to get the title of the Master shows the protagonist a completely different world. The physical and mental exercises provide him an opportunity to know himself and the world. His journey teaches him simplicity. As he is on pilgrimage, he has to live with minimal things. There is not a luxury during the pilgrimage. It helps him to become more realistic. Before his journey, he was afraid of death. His journey helps him to overcome his fear of death. His encounter with death in the form of a dog gives him the strength to overcome the fear of death. The unknown power helps him to face the dog and guides him in the right direction. There is always an unknown power guide the protagonists of Coelho in his works. As Jung says in his *Men and His Symbols* (1964):

The individuation process is more than a coming to terms between the inborn germ of wholeness and the outer acts of fate. Its subjective experience conveys the feeling that some supra-personal force is actively interfering in a creative way (162).

Paulo wants to get that sword. He is very much concerned about the sword. During these days, he has to walk through the Pyrenees, to climb the mountains. The journey is full of unexpected things. Petrus is just to help Paulo and to teach him RAM exercises. Petrus says: "I am not guiding you to your sword. It's your job, solely and exclusively, to find it. I am here to lead you along the Road to Santiago and to teach you the RAM practices" (Coelho, TP 35).

The Cruelty Exercise makes him free from the evil thought and hatred. Carl Jung in his book *Men and His Symbols* (1964) writes that one should not be annoyed by the

obstacles. The Speed Exercise teaches him to make himself calm. It also helps him to develop his imagination. In order to become a writer, it is necessary to have a powerful imagination. Paulo is the perfect example of Jungian theory of individuation. The participant must be conscious of the process of individuation. Paulo is very much conscious about every order of Petrus and follows him wholeheartedly. He confesses:

My imagination, which was unavailable when I was tense, began to work to my advantage. I looked at the small village there in front of me and began to create a story about it: how it had been built, the pilgrims that had passed through it, the delight in finding people and loading after the cold winter of Pyrenees (Coelho, TP 43).

The pilgrimage of Paulo conveys an important message about the journey. It shows that when an individual goes on a journey, everything is new to him/her. It provides opportunities to perceive new things. It gives the opportunity to achieve inner and outer peace. Religious pilgrimage gives a new vision to an individual. The journey unfolds many hidden aspects through which an individual can learn important lessons in life.

Works Cited

- Arias, Juan. *Paulo Coelho: Confessions of a Pilgrim*: Trans. Anne McLean. London: HarperCollins Publishers, 2001. Print.
- Coelho, Paulo. *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*. Trans. Alan R. Clarke. Noida: HarperCollins publishers, 2014. Print.
- Eleven Minutes*. Trans. Margret Jull Costa. Noida: HarperCollins Publishers, 2017. Print.
- Manuscript Found in Accra*. Trans. Margret Jull Costa. New York: KNOPF 2013. Print.
- The Alchemist*. Trans. Alan R. Clarke. New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers, 2014. Print.
- The Fifth Mountain*. Trans. Clifford E. Landers. Noida: HarperCollins Publishers, 2013. Print.
- The Pilgrimage*. Trans. Alan R. Clarke. New Delhi: HarperCollins Publishers, 2000. Print.
- Jung, C. G. *Men and His Symbols*. Garden City: N.Y. Doubleday, 1964. Print.