

Love, Nature, Magic Realism and Spirituality in The Select Works of Paulo Coelho

Dr. Divyasree C

PhD in English

Kanchi Mamunivar Government Institute for Postgraduate Studies and Research,
Affiliated to Pondicherry University
Puducherry- 605 008.

Abstract:

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian novelist and lyricist. He was born in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. His works mostly come under the genres of drama and romance. Paulo Coelho also worked as an actor, a journalist, prior to becoming a writer. His first published book was *Hell Archives*. In 1987, he published a novel titled *To The Pilgrimage*. This paper studies his critically acclaimed works.

Key Words: Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, *Eleven Minutes*.

I. Introduction

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian novelist and lyricist. He was born in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. His works mostly come under the genres of drama and romance. Paulo Coelho also worked as an actor, a journalist, prior to becoming a writer. His first published book was *Hell Archives*. In 1987, he published a novel titled *To The Pilgrimage*. The novel describes Paulo Coelho's experiences on a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostella, located in Spain. Self discovery is an important theme in the novel. His most famous novels are *The Alchemist* and *Eleven Minutes*.

II. *The Alchemist*

The Alchemist is an international best seller, and was written by Paulo Coelho. It was published in 1988. The novel was originally written in the Portuguese Language. It has been translated into multiple language across the world. The protagonist of the novel is Santiago, a shepherd boy. He undertakes a journey across North Africa. Santiago goes to the pyramids in Egypt, after he has a dream of finding treasure. *The Alchemist* is an adventure and fantasy novel. Santiago is an Andalusian shepherd. Andalusia is now an autonomous community, located in Spain.

When he initially arrives in Africa, a stranger promises to take him to the pyramids, but instead robs him of his money. Santiago later meets an Englishman who is in search of an alchemist. At an oasis, Santiago falls in love with Fatima, an Arabian girl. Then, he encounters an Alchemist who helps him in realise his true self. When Santiago reaches the pyramids, he starts to dig, however he encounters robbers there and is robbed by them. He tells them that he is looking for treasure. The robbers do not believe him. The main themes of are love, nature and spirituality can be sensed throughout.

III. *Eleven Minutes*

Eleven Minutes is a novel by Paulo Coelho. It was published in 2003 and focuses on the life of a sex worker from Brazil. Maria hails from a remote village in Brazil. She travels to Switzerland and works at a night club to earn money. However, she quits her job after an argument with the manager of the nightclub. She tries to become a model but is unfortunately not successful at it. She is running out of money, and therefore, accept 1000 francs from a man to spend the night with him. After this, she decides to become a sex worker and goes to a brothel.

At the brothel, she becomes friends with Nyah, who gives her advice relating to the job. The owner of the brothel is Milan. Maria soon becomes very successful because she also talks to the clients about their problems. She never allows herself to fall in love though, until she meets Ralf. Ralf is Swiss painter. Maria falls in love with him and experiences true love. She realizes what true love is. The notions of discovery and loneliness permeate the novel. Love, nature, magic realism and spirituality are important themes in the works of Paulo Coelho.

REFERENCES:

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