

Magical Cruise in Paulo Coelho's *Brida*

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Abstract

The magical cruise or journey has a purpose and it is a process of discovery in which the hero learns essential truths about himself, their society, and human existence. The severity of the journey, the ordeals and even tortures that the hero must undergoes are signs that their truths are tough to face, not simply because they are often painful, but also because accepting them requires that the individuals free themselves of their familiar assumptions, ethics and self-images. In short, they must die or lose their past before accepting a new one. In this sense most of the journey narratives are stories of initiation.

Key words

Self-discovery, soul, magic, ethics and consciousness

Magical Cruise is in search of the personnel legend of the person and it involves their own total consciousness. It is the journey of self-exploration and self-discovery. Through the words in *The Alchomia Coeltha* conveys that, "There is only one way to learn and it's through action. Everything you need to know you have learned through your journey" (Coelho 120). In *Brida* it is the journey that Brida takes to explore her past life and simultaneously discovers herself. As she physically moves away from her home to a distant place, she is being new to her heart and realized the dark corners of her soul.

The person who undertakes a journey within himself does not see life as it is instead focuses on the impressions of life. When one observes nature, he will see a tree or plant. He does not see that tree or plant as it actually exists. Here, the thing to be noted is his impression of it. His identification is not based about the plant. Instead, he creates an interpretation of that plant, which is in his mind. This is very important reality for one who sets out on a journey in order to discover himself. The cruise or voyage that one receives through the five senses is received and transformed. Often it can be difficult and painful, but with an open heart, they can expose him to situation that will serve as building blocks that move towards destiny.

There are lessons to be learned and often the greatest lessons of life end up in hardship or struggles for survival. The beginning of the expedition presents the hero in a fix. It is a situation that requires courage, firm decision and determination. The adversities that heroes face will not begin until they have left their familiar surrounding and crossed into a mysterious and unknown world. In order to reach the aim they seek, they must travel a firm and hazardous path and survive a series of trial of the new world of ambiguity. This part of the journey is called 'the road of trials'. What makes this stage of the journey a plunge into nightmare or a voyage into hell is not only the strange, unknown land but also the kind of experience the protagonist encounters there. In this 'kingdom of the dark', the protagonists undergo an array of ordeals that test their capacity for heroic behavior.

In almost all the stories associated with various forms of journey, this part of the narrative is usually the most entertaining. It portrays the protagonist in a series of exciting situations like, climbing steep mountains, fighting their way through deadly jungles or enchanted forests, fighting with dragons, giants, and other supernatural foes, crossing a bottomless chasm on a bridge as narrow as the edge of a knife, and a limitless variety of similar obstacles and hazards. In realistic works of fiction, the tribulations are usually more mundane though no less demanding, since the protagonist is an ordinary individual rather than hero of mythic stature or superhuman ability.

The magical cruise or journey has a purpose and it is a process of discovery in which the hero learns essential truths about himself, their society, and human existence. The severity of the journey, the ordeals and even tortures that the hero must undergoes are signs that their truths are tough to face, not simply because they are often painful, but also because accepting them requires that the individuals free themselves of their familiar assumptions, ethics and self-images. In short, they must die or lose their past before accepting a new one. In this sense most of the journey narratives are stories of initiation.

The knowledge a hero gains through his experience on the cruise is always important or easy to accept. He may be worried of facing a hard fact about his place in a particular culture or in the world at large. At other times, the protagonists gain insight into vital areas of their own nature. The dragons and demons they must face and conquer are either embodiments of his personal weaknesses, limitations and fears. In the large sense, the road of trials always leads to an enlightenment of the character. Though some protagonists remain blind to the reality of their nature their responses to the danger and drawbacks of the journey tells the reader a great deal about them. For this reason, the journey is the ultimate eye-opener or test of a character's heroic potential.

Transformation in quest stories seems worse, than the one she or he has left. This is particularly true of those initiation stories in which the protagonist makes the transition from youthful innocence to mature experience. It is common for people, to oppose this particular type of transformation in fiction. They hold the past with an intense reminiscence and grab onto it as long as they can. Once the protagonist secures the treasure, he must return with that.

The fictional characters who successfully complete their journey are never the same people who began it. The treasure they have sought and found is precisely the transformation of lives. For this reason, the last stage of the journey is not simply a return but a type of resurgence. Similar is the case with Brida. The changes that take place within her are profound, affecting her values, discernments, the way she can experience life. Because of this change in perception, everything around her seems transfigures and the world itself bears a new face. Not every protagonist is able to make a transition. Terrifying inner and outer forces work throughout the journey to hold the protagonist back.

Some protagonists find it difficult to accept the change they thought they earn out of it. The characters lack the powerful inner desire to attain their treasure and its inherent change. The new life that awaits is not always what is expected. Often the protagonist finds himself in situations so oppressive that they are unable to break away. While some characters bring themselves together the change that occurs during their journey in life, others eagerly quest after transformation of welcome it gratefully if it comes to them by chance.

The inherent change of the protagonist transforms the impressions with consciousness and though design. This journey is an understanding or longing that is present in the life of a person with deep feeling or conscience speaking to him. This is not the reality that is meant for life. It is human nature that helps to move forward in life and he must pay attention to mystery and uncertainty that lies ahead. It is most excellent to enrich and maintain the current life without taking too much risk on uncertainty. And yet, there is a call inside human mind that people may be aware or unaware of it. The call will relentlessly continue until it awakens something inside in the mind and lead them towards the first step in the journey of transformation. As one heeds the call, he can step over the threshold, marking the journey into the unknown. This threshold is both a movement into mystery and the movement of leaving home and the familiar surroundings of the life.

Brida is such an individual who sets out in search of real happiness and true meaning of life. Her decision to flee away from her home reveals journey of self-discovery that eventually culminates

in her return to past life. Along with her physical journey she also embarks on a magical quest. Her journey transforms her and leads to the enlightenment of herself. During her journey, she makes a remarkable shift from the normal world to trance. She, thus, assumes the role of an initiator and in doing so displays her upliftment.

Brida is a twenty one year old young girl who is in search of someone to teach her magic. She believes that, learning about magic will allow her to discover and connect with her true self. Despite conflicting emotions, Magus agrees to teach Brida about the craft, on a condition that she must pass the test. Thus her journey begins with the challenge to learn magic but soon digresses, into love, romance, soulmates and passion. The lines by Coelho explain the feeling of the girl, “I want to learn about magic, said the girl” (9). This makes it look even more mysterious with unadulterated fun and unforeseen phenomena. Coelho carefully brings out the rituals practiced by ancient witches and wizards which leads Brida to the transformation of soul and divulges in the search for physical love.

Throughout history, witches have faced persecution because of misconceptions about them and their practices. However, it needs to be stressed that the practice of witchcraft is not necessarily associated with evil or the infliction of harm and not with the invocation of devils. The vast majority of the participants in contemporary revival of Wicca and Neopaganism will identify themselves as kind witches. In addition, many of the accusation against malicious witchcraft in the past have been demolished and it arises from irrational fears and social anxieties.

From the past there have been reports of magic with power to influence the mind, body or possessions. Malicious magic users are accused of causing disease, sickness in animals, bad luck, sudden death, impotence and other misfortunes. Some modern critics consider the malefic nature of witchcraft to be a Christian projection that is associated with heresy and apostasy. In *Brida*, the writer takes a deep look into witchcraft. It presents four ways in which woman can communicate with the Universe through incarnation like the virgin, saint, martyr and the witch, this work has strange link or bond to Virgin Mary, Jesus and the Catholics.

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