

# NATURE'S ROLE IN REVEALING HIDDEN ETERNAL BLISS WITH REFERENCE TO PAULO COELHO'S "THE ALCHEMIST" AND HERMANN HESSE'S "SIDDHARTHA".

Ms. Rashmi Singh

Amity School of Liberal Arts,  
Amity University Gurugram.

**Abstract :** In order to achieve a supreme bliss the person has not necessarily have to die or transcend from the reality, he can achieve it even in the moment; when he is living and that makes the life aesthetic like the lives of Santiago and Siddhartha. Siddhartha achieve that bliss during the end days while Santiago achieved in middle years of his life. Santiago makes his connection with nature but does not get completely unified and submerged; he realizes what he is in actually, earlier he recognized what his dreams were and this self-realization helps him to make his connection eventually stronger with nature. Siddhartha has completed his life and lived his entire existence searching for truth and answers to his questions and towards the end of life he did found all his answers to even questions of he was not even looking for and he did became part of nature after self-realization.

**IndexTerms – Personal Legend, Eternal Bliss, Self-realization, Nature, Metamorphosis, Dreams, Existentialism.**

## I. INTRODUCTION

Hermann Hesse belongs to German literature Hesse was, paradoxically, reared in the source austerity of Pietist German Protestantism and yet, at the same time, was sufficed in the languages, lore and mysticism of the Far East. The interaction of these elements influenced Hesse's entire life. Hesse deplored industrialism, right wing nationalism and war, and for these reasons, He left Germany to live in the seclusion of Switzerland from 1912 to his death 1962.

Hesse's works are difficult, different, and unlike most of the works of western writers. Among the significant impressions and experiences of Hesse's early years were these associated with formal education and educational institutions particularly these in 1892 at the Protestant Theological Seminary at Maulbronn. Hesse's life in school was turbulent. He hated school and was truant and delinquent upon more than one occasion. During his school days, he became conscious of two antithetical worlds- one; the other, the world of greatness and genius that this very same establishment supposedly represented.

He began his career in poetry during the four-year period in Tübingen, during which he held a conventional apprenticeship in the Heckenhauer Bookshop romantic song was published in (1899). Hesse's long interest in the east resulted in his travelling to India in search of peace and timelessness beyond the world of western man. Hesse spends a decade preparing the masterpiece which accounted largely for his winning the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1946.

Paulo is born in Rio in August 1947, Paulo dreamed of an artistic career, and discouraged his true vocation: to be a writer. Paulo's parents however had different plans for him. When their attempts to suppress his devotion to literature failed, they took as a sign of mental illness. When Paulo was seventeen, his father had him committed to a mental institution, twice, where he endures session of electroconvulsive therapy. He worked in theatre and dabbled in Journalism launching in alternative magazine called 2001. Paulo and Raul joined the Alternative society, and organisation that defended the individual right to free expression, and began publishing a series of comic Strips, calling for more freedom. Members of the organisation were detained and imprisoned. Two days later, Paulo was kidnapped and tortured by a group of paramilitaries. This experience affected him profoundly.

He tried his hand in writing but did not start seriously until after he had an encounter with a stranger. The man first came to him in a vision, and two months later Paulo met him at cafe in Amsterdam. The stranger suggested that Paulo should return to Catholicism and study the beginning side of magic. He also encouraged Paulo to walk the Road to Santiago, the medieval pilgrim's route.

In their early teenage lives, both Hermann Hesse and Paulo Coelho struggled to cope with their parent's conflicting outlook on their lives and ultimately, their purpose. For separate reasons, Hesse and Paulo spent time in institutions designed to "reinvent" the compulsory prison yet after release, proved their individuality and perseverance was more than a product of teen angst- they pursued their aspirations. Moreover, Hesse and Paulo's persistence through a childhood polluted by parental control yet followed by complete success, demonstrates not only the genuine existence of destiny, but also the continuous opportunity to achieve of their lives, Hesse and Paulo channel this idea in their works *Siddhartha* and *The Alchemist*. Using the wisdom the protagonists obtained from personal journeys, both Hesse and Paulo convey the importance of sacrificing love and common human pleasures to become entirely fulfilled. However, only Paulo advocates an ultimate return to such pleasure suggesting that love and possession are essential in a truly authentic life.

This is the story about man named Siddhartha who once find enlightenment as a monk he leaves his family, and travels with his friend Govinda to learn from Samanas or wise monks living in forest, overtime Siddhartha dislikes the teachings and wants to learn more on his own, he leaves behind Govinda who stays back to learn from Gautama The Buddha. Siddhartha finds his way to town and meets Kamala, a beautiful woman he is attracted to her but she wants a man who is wealthy because she knows nothing of business Siddhartha reaches to help of a local merchant who trained him soon. Siddhartha gained wealth and wins over Kamala however Siddhartha loses his passion to find his enlightenment and indulges himself in gambling, possessions and women. He realized that he has distracted from his original path towards enlightenment and leaving all his possessions, and reaches to a ferryman named Vasudeva; who seems to have found peace and enlightenment on the river. Siddhartha stays with him and he learns to find inner peace; one day Siddhartha encounters Kamala and her son young Siddhartha near the river. Kamala gets bitten

by the snake die leaving the boy with Siddhartha to raise, however the boy runs away and Siddhartha doesn't know what to do. After Vasudeva leaves, Siddhartha stays as a ferryman and visited by Govinda.

In the end Siddhartha finds enlightenment and shares the glimpse with Govinda. As always luckily said about the story my attention was on the self needing to die to progress growth and this is nothing to do with suicide but rather a dying of a character within ourselves which then pushes us to change or to become a person we are trying to become. Siddhartha realizes that in order to him fully achieve enlightenment he would need to forget the many lessons which he starts as a samana and as a way of unlearning those ways he has to kill his former self and all the ways of thinking that went well with that self this was accomplished when he become a merchant and discovered a greed and in a same way for all of us we need our former self to die in order to become something greater. For Siddhartha it took him his entire life to realize this that what he was chasing which was enlightenment could never be attained in a state he was in. He could only attain it after his experience in life and ultimately become the person.

**NATURE-** In *Siddhartha* nature plays an important role in bringing about self-realization; which in turn helped him to get enlightenment, as Siddhartha wanted to have his own questions he doesn't wanted the answers of others' questions that's why he rejected teachings and was indulged in finding the answers to his curiosities related to universe.

In this journey he meets the ferryman, Vasudeva, on his face he has seen the same light and peace which he has seen on the face of Buddha. So after many years when he came back to that place he asked him, from where he has kept his real self and how he has discovered and reached that milestone, which he in the years didn't able to touch, the ferryman said my teacher was always a nature and I have always listened to the river to what it has say to me and it answered all my questions and made me who I am, so he also decides to stay with Vasudeva and starts listening to river with him and that's where his learning starts from the nature in the novel.

Over the time when Siddhartha was in forest trying to quench his thirst of finding the inner peace, there he learned many exercises from the Samanas which focused; in imagining our spirit in someone else; living the life of bird, living the life of animal whosoever he wanted he lived their life instead of living his own and in the process he realized that he was only fleeing away from his real self and if he wanted the self-enlightenment, first he has to stop fleeing and running away from himself and has to start experiencing his own existence, his own self that who is he in the reality.

In Sansara, he comes face to face with his real self and started recognizing that who is he in the reality instead of fleeing and then he started hating himself after once he recognized and wanted to kill himself, but then when he came in realms of nature he forgot his self and all his questions and surrenders and just listens to what river has to say to him.

At last, in his journey when there no one could differentiate that whether river is listening to him or whether he was listening to river, there comes the hour of enlightenment for which Siddhartha was waiting throughout his entire life; it comes when Siddhartha becomes completely lost in nature.

Nature also helped Santiago throughout his journey from beginning till the end, he has dreams, and he listens to omens from nature and looks for what it has to say, even as a shepherd he learns from his surrounding, environment, from wind, from sun, from moon, even from the surroundings when he was travelling to oasis, throughout the journey he was looking around him that what is happening and he was learning through it; be it he was anywhere he is always listening to the omens be it he was with Fatima, with merchant, with alchemist, or with English man, even in the end Santiago successfully turns himself into wind by taking the help of the nature around him, even though for a moment there was no difference between him and nature around him and it seemed like he is not controlling the wind; he himself is a wind.

In the novel Santiago came to know about his real self only in the end, in the beginning there was the probability of him being the priest, the shepherd, even he can be merchant, even he can be the husband of Fatima but in the end he realized that he is nothing of these; he is the wind who likes to travel and is not made to stay at one place and henceforth he was capable of discovering his destiny.

The enlightenment part comes in the novel when he was in a doubt that whether he should continue his journey or live with Fatima and then *The Alchemist* tells him and shows him that who is he in the real that's where he gets enlightened and the second part comes when he was capable of turning himself into a wind then had fully realized and recognized that who he is in the reality, he was enlightened with his inner self.

Both the characters in the novel gains enlightenment and self realization with the help of nature though Siddhartha achieves in the end and Santiago in the middle of his life both were successful to achieve their goal were able to satisfy their Personal Legends and henceforth lived the content and happy life. In both novels they both become the part of nature and hence they are able to understand that what are their real-selves and henceforth achieves spiritual enlightenment attaining spiritual enlightenment doesn't mean that the person has to die in order to achieve it. It is the state of mind which helps to truly understand the world around us and helps us to be happy and satisfied through it.

The only difference lies here is while Siddhartha was looking for that spiritual enlightenment as his goal and Santiago was just looking for his treasure in the pyramids of Egypt and during the journey finds the real treasure. He found something more valuable than his goal, the treasure itself.

## PROBLEM STATEMENT

1. How does nature play a significant role in bringing about self-realization?
2. How does nature helped Siddhartha and Santiago in achieving spiritual enlightenment?
3. How the journey of self-realization was different for Santiago and Siddhartha?

## METHODOLOGY

This research based on *Siddhartha* and *The Alchemist* is a qualitative research. It is qualitative in nature because I have focused on micro-issues. In contrast to the projection of numerical values, I will be concerned with quality, essence or core of the issue. The issue that I have selected pertains to the connectivity between nature and self-realization. Interpretations are possible with the help of soft data and are useful for better understanding of a particular issue.

My research will proceed through the psychoanalytic and moral-philosophical theoretical perspective. Through psychoanalytic perspective, I will focus on the psyche of Siddhartha and Santiago and the process of their self discovery that enlightens them.

But, moral-philosophical approach emphasizes on the moral values and lessons and their philosophical impact on the life of an individual. Siddhartha and Santiago discovers themselves and their discovery is different from other individuals as nature teaches them a moral lesson. So, both perspectives will play an important role in conducting this research.

I will apply Discourse Analysis in this research. This will help in interpreting the texts. Discourse Analysis will enable me in the construction of different realities that emerge. It is a way of understanding interactions. In this research, I will work on the connectivity between nature and self-realization. Meaningful themes will get obvious through this analysis.

## Tentative

**Chapter-1** The role of sheep, dreams, nature around him as a traveller (language of God), universe in *The Alchemist* and the role of Om, stars, meditation (self-denial) in *Siddhartha* in self-realization.

**Chapter-2** Impact of winds of the Levanter, principle of favourability, omens in *The Alchemist* and the role of forest of Jetavana, appreciation of nature around him in *Siddhartha* in self-realization.

**Chapter-3** Positive influence of desert, animals, caravan in *The Alchemist* and the role of Sansara, dream of a cage bird in *Siddhartha* in self-realization.

**Chapter-4** Impact of true love, dream of the hawk, mountains, pyramids of Egypt in *The Alchemist* and the role of river, coconut tree in *Siddhartha* in self-realization.

## Significance of the Topic

Research reveals that environments can increase or reduce our stress, which in turn impacts our bodies. What you are seeing, hearing, experiencing at any moment is changing not only your mood, and immune systems are working.

The stress of an unpleasant environment can cause you to feel anxious, or sad, or helpless. This in turn elevates your blood pressure, heart rate, and muscle tension and suppresses your immune system. A pleasing environment reverses that.

And regardless of age or culture, humans find nature pleasing. In one study cited in the book *Healing Gardens*, researchers found that more than two-thirds of people choose a natural setting to retreat to when stressed.

- NATURE HEALS

Being in nature, or even viewing scenes of nature, reduces anger, fear, and stress and increases pleasant feelings. Exposure to nature not only makes you feel better emotionally, it contributes to your physical wellbeing, reducing blood pressure, heart rate, muscle tension, and the production of stress hormones. It may even reduce mortality, according to scientists such as public health researchers Stamatakis and Mitchell.

Research done in hospitals, offices, and schools has found that even a simple plant in a room can have a significant impact on stress and anxiety.

- NATURE SOOTHES

In addition, nature helps us cope with pain. Because we are genetically programmed to find trees, plants, water, and other natural elements engrossing, we are absorbed by nature scenes and distracted from our pain and discomfort. This is nicely demonstrated in a now classic study of patients who underwent gallbladder surgery; half had a view of trees and half had a view of a wall. According to the physician who conducted the study, Robert Ulrich, the patients with the view of trees tolerated pain better, appeared to nurses to have fewer negative effects, and spent less time in the hospital. More recent studies have shown similar with scenes from nature and plants in hospital rooms.

- NATURE RESTORES

One of the most intriguing areas of current research is the impact of nature on general well being. In one study in *mind*, 95% of those interviewed said their mood improved after spending time outside, changing from depressed, stressed, and anxious to more calm and balanced. Other studies by Ulrich, Kim, and Cervinka show that time in nature or scenes of nature are associated with a positive mood, and psychological wellbeing, meaningfulness, and vitality.

Furthermore, time in nature or viewing nature scenes increases our ability to pay attention. Because humans find nature inherently interesting, we can naturally focus on what we are experiencing out in nature. This also provides a respite for our overacting minds, refreshing for our new tasks.

In another interesting area, Andrea Taylor 's research on children with ADHD shows that time in nature increases their attention span later.

- NATURE CONNECTS

According to a series of field studies conducted by Kuo and Coley at the Human-Environment Research Lab, time spent in nature connects us to each other and the larger world. Another study at the University of Illinois suggests that residents in Chicago public housing who had trees and green space around their building reported knowing more people, having stronger feelings of unity with neighbours, being more concerned with helping and supporting each other, and having stronger feelings of belonging than tenants in buildings without trees. In addition to this greater sense of community, they had a reduced risk of street crime, lower levels of violence and aggression between domestic partners, and a better capacity to cope with life's demands, especially the stresses of living in poverty.

This experience of connection may be explained by studies that used fMRI to measure brain activity. When participants viewed nature scenes, the parts of the brain associated with the empathy and love lit up, but when they viewed urban scenes, the parts of the brain associated with fear and anxiety were activated. It appears as though nature inspires feelings that connect us to each other and our environment.

Self-realization is important for soul's eternal happiness and in the path which creates hindrance in the world obligations and mental obligations and the above all Atman's dharma, how can we maintain a balance between these.



It is important that we concentrate to evolve our minds to withdraw from its scattered thought processes so that our mind is attuned to internal self. For this to happen, we have to give less credence to thoughts or actions which has got transient value. All thinking which greases are ego is a barrier in the attainment of our goal.

In our lives we face many difficulties there is death, disease, greed, envy, deceit. We also have some desires in our lives which we want them to be fulfilled, if it gets fulfilled then we get satisfied and if that does not gets fulfilled then it leads to pain. In this way we are trapped in the vicious circle of pleasure and pain.

Our desires give birth to another desire and a flood starts thereafter we hanker after a mirage of a bit more and it goes on and on. It should never be forgotten that identity is not static, it is ever changing, and we should try to focus on inner satisfaction rather than outer satisfaction.

Self-realisation is concerning with our body, mind, and senses, soul provides us opportunity to be blissful even after living the life of sorrow and pain.

Soul in its original state is free from any negativity. The negativity which is rampant in us is the cause of misfortunes in our lives. That's why self-realization is required so that a person can live a life in the way it is needed to live so that a person can live blissful life. If someone wants to be happy eternally then one has to leave living at the level of senses and has to wake up to realize that our soul has the potential to keep us eternally happy.

It is like the arms of a mother supporting her infant while her child receives injection from the doctor. The love of a mother enables the child to withstand the pinprick. You feel the pain, but your mind is not bothered by it. The pain is experienced in the body; but the message to the brain is blocked in such a way that you can bear it and be oblivious or unmindful of it.

According to Christian mythology, if the eternal torment is possible then eternal bliss will also be there. If one wants to end this vicious cycle of being happy at one moment and sad at the other moment then he has to attain the eternal bliss which sometimes cannot come after self-realization but only can come after the unification with nature. It is like becoming the part of light after leaving the world of darkness means you will know how it feels to be the part of darkness and after becoming the part of light you will feel that eternal bliss because that light will be beyond this world and beyond the concept of time, hence the joy will be eternal.

If one will be free from this vicious circle of pain and joy then only he will able to feel eternal bliss in his life and vice-versa.

Experiencing eternal bliss may not necessarily means that the person must be the part of light of that eternal world but he can also be the part of this world and can feel the same. In this case the person will be unified and his connection will be strong with the nature but he will still be the part of the world because he has some purpose in this world which is the desire of the Soul of the Universe which it wants to be accomplished through that person, in this world.

We can apply nature to attain self-realization and by attaining self-realization we can attain eternal bliss. In order to live a balanced and harmonious life with the help of nature we will be able to listen to what it has to say and will be able to apply that to our life that will bring self-realization and help us to explore our real selves and will help us to achieve that eternal bliss.

*"In his heart he heard the voice talking, which was newly awaking, and it told him: Love this water! Stay near it! Learn from it! Oh yes, he wanted to learn from it, he wanted to listen to it. He who would understand this water and its secrets, so it seemed to him, would also understand many other things, many secrets, all secret, but out of all secrets of the river, he today only saw one touched his soul. He saw: this water ran and ran, incessantly it ran, and was nevertheless always there, was always at all times the same and yet new in every moment!"* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 110.)

*"And when I learned it, I looked at my life, and it was also a river, and the boy Siddhartha was only separated from the man Siddhartha and from the old man Siddhartha by a shadow, not by something real. Also, Siddhartha's previous births were no past, and his death and his return to Brahma was no future. Nothing was, nothing will be; everything is, everything has existence and is present."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 117.)

Self-realization is very applicable to real life. Modern life is becoming very unsatisfactory; it doesn't give you happiness, there are too many things, too many desires. More nice cars and dresses and entrainment and more worries! Free yourself from these so called "necessities" and spend more time with God. Be happy in and by yourself. Why do we permit ourselves to remain entrapped in the cycles of births and deaths and their untold miseries, when we have way to our eternal happiness.

Self-realization is very applicable to a real life; it's like how a person feels when he truly knows what does he wants from his life and do what his heart says that thing brings satisfaction in his life. Knowing yourself can do wonders in your life.

*"The boy could see in his father's gaze a desire to be able, himself, to travel the world- a desire that was still alive, despite his father's having had to bury it, over dozens of years, under the burden of struggling for water to drink, food to eat, and the same place to sleep every night of his life."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 9.)

Eternal bliss is very applicable to any person's life. It's like living peacefully without feeling any state of joy or pain, it can also happen if you follow your personal legend; the dream which you want to achieve then it can give you the supreme bliss because you will be fulfilling the desire which is obtained in the Soul of the Universe and if you will achieve it then it will give you eternal bliss in return and hence the connection will be strong.

*"It's a force that appears to be negative, but actually shows you how to realize your destiny. It prepares your spirit and your will, because there is one great truth on this planet: whoever you are, or whatever it is that you do, when you really want something, it's because that desire originated in the soul of the universe. It's your mission on earth."*

(Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 20-21.)

*"The soul of the world is nourished by people's happiness. And also by unhappiness, envy, and jealousy."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 21.)

Your self-realization will help you to explore about life and you. It will not only make you oblivious of the pain which you are going through but will also help you to drop your worries, and you will not try to please or impress anyone but yourself, you will be able to embrace your unique quality and talents, believe in your path, will be able to surround yourself with positivity. You will feel much happier and better about yourself by these explorations, and this exploration is only possible when you will connect and come in touch with nature. Then you will be able to explore the most precious experience above all i.e. eternal bliss and that bliss will enable your soul to experience that there is something

beyond pain and happiness.

## Literature Review

After reading S.B Bhamar Research Paper on *Siddhartha, A Dualist Spiritual Journey*. I have found that he has pointed Hermann Hesse is searching some purpose in connection of Flesh and Spirit and all the knowledge about self is already present inside the soul of man. He has used symbolic images in the dreams that his characters when they go to sleep in the novel, to convey his vision of spirituality.

There, he goes deep to explain that how Hesse has used Siddhartha as a symbol who will transcend from the human vision into the nature, spiritual fulfilment is quite difficult to convey in ordinary words that Hesse has turned to nature's symbolism to communicate the same. The major symbols used by Hesse were namely water, river, and the symbolic names of the characters as well as other similar devices.

He has also pointed out that how Siddhartha gains self-realization he gains only after knowing that who really he was as a person; greedy, insensitive, and much like other human beings and that self-exploration leads to the awakening of his soul.

He also tells about how after entering from brahmacharya, grahamastha, vanprastha, and sanyasa and as he moves from one stage to other his identity changes as he was on the quest of the real self-identity after meeting Gautama Buddha.

He also points about how Siddhartha do his Karma just for the sake of Dharma without any desire for the fruits that transforms the person into Yogi.

He talks about the unity of all things; the body, Siddhartha has to kill his personal ego and has to imagine his spirit in everyone so in that way he could love all the creatures made by God but in the process he realizes that he is just fleeing from his real self by imaging his self into others. He has mostly emphasised on the symbols that the Hesse has used, here when Siddhartha crosses the river then it symbolises the ocean of Sansara in Hindu mythology.

As he is symbolising and deriving meaning throughout he has also symbolised Siddhartha as Gautama Buddha, so he is always relating and comparing the actions of Gautama Buddha and Siddhartha and by doing this Hesse is trying to make his protagonist appear stronger in the novel.

He also said that evil is necessary stage in the progress towards the total realization of good. He also points out symbolically that in order to awake the soul from the deep sleep some positive emery i.e. faith in God is needed, may be the Govinda must have brought the blessings of Buddha when he tried to awake Siddhartha.

He gives us the glimpse how the River tried to help Siddhartha towards self-realization. He says communication with river is intimations of immortality.

He says instead of Siddhartha seeing his identity in someone else he started seeing his identity in nature and in order to do that one must have to prove himself worthy of it by going through trials and tribulations of life.

But discussion about the close link between nature and self-realization is missing. The way nature affects the life of Siddhartha makes him achieve eternal bliss is not the focal point in Bhambar's Research Paper.

(S.B Bhambar, *A Dualist Spiritual Journey*, 2010.)

Colin Butler in his critical objections says that Siddhartha was a successful man in the novel still he was not content with his life, still he did not had personal satisfaction from his life because there is something inside him questing and wanting the answers of more questions, and not having answers to those questions instead having read all scriptures and being taught by all the great teachers aroused the restlessness of his heart.

Siddhartha by looking and solving his own problem also solving the "Problem" of individual's existence at the same time. He says Siddhartha living with samanas could not be other than unsuccessful, as he was fleeing from his real self. He also meets Buddha but only sees him as ideal example of perfection who has attained that stage, he does not wants to know how to live the blissed life; he wanted to know what is the life in the first place.

So after that he decided to focus on his self but even when he enters in the Sansara he has one thing/sense missing in him i.e. feelings whether it towards Kamala, or towards his work with merchant, he did not completely fell in love with Kamala nor he developed love for his work, he just performed the actions for the sake of living in Sansara

Towards the end of the novel he becomes older which makes the discovery of a "ziel" that much more desirable. From the other point of view his position is in not that condemned stage, he has now filled himself with all experiences and has seen the reality of his self. When he was in Sansara he has started to appreciate beauty and started to feel but when he comes to the river and contemplates suicide then there the voice of "Om" comes from his mind, showing the solution will remain the product of mentality in terms of purposes and absolutes.

He says that the Siddhartha's interpretation of reality obscures rather than answers the philosophical issues.

He also points on the example which the Siddhartha has given while talking to his friend Vasudeva that a drop of water does not die, nor can it ponder its end in advance, for it has no conscious existence; it evaporates and merges with its environment by an entirely mechanical procedure. The individual however do die, and this is not a relative and insignificant change of his immediate physical condition but an event which challenges everything, he feels about and understands himself to be. And that same change of state is seen in Vasudeva who has managed to reduce his conditions of existence by the intrusion of disruptive emotions. The book is the subtle analysis of the human soul which is eventually "justified" that all of life can reduce to a single point of view. Instead of "L'amor che move il sole e l'altre stelle" we are presented with the substitute rearrangement of heaven and earth that is Siddhartha's barren vision.

But Colins does not talk about the changes that nature brings in the character of Siddhartha to get self-realization. Nature is effective in bringing about a change in Siddhartha, but this aspect is left unexplained by Colin Butler.

In the Research Paper of: *Decision Making in Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist"* by Lily Hasanah. It focuses on the dilemmas faced by the Santiago during his journey; the way he faces and makes choices between his dilemmas is by following his freedom and by not following crowd. He knows he will be responsible for what he will choose. Santiago's freedom leads him to experience dread before and after he makes decision.

Santiago's subjectivity becomes the basic reason for the freedom he feels while making decisions. Even the feeling of being accompanied and supported by a community completely strengthens the process of decision making.

But again the discussion about the close link between nature and self-realization is totally missing. The way nature affects the life of Santiago and makes him achieve the "oneness with nature" and satisfaction is not the focal point in her Research Paper: *Decision Making in Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist"* by Lily Hasanah.

In a Research Paper, *Journey Towards Destiny in Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist"* by S.Parvathi Devi. It says that life is a blissful journey to those who believes on their destiny. In this the Paulo Coelho tried to teach the concept of destiny in one's life and how to understand and follow it, and how to make life fruitful. If one is persistent in achieving his dreams, one can be triumphant by bearing all the brunt of life. Basically she has focused on having courage in order to follow the path which is made for you, and to achieve your dreams. But again the Research Paper does not focus on the part that how nature plays a significant role in self-realization.

### Major Contributions

- S.B Bhambar, *A Dualist Spiritual Journey*, (2010).
- Colin Butler (1971).
- Lilly Hasanah, *Decision Making in Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist"*, (2008).
- S.Parvathi Devi, *Journey Towards Destiny In Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist"*, (2012).

### Subject Matter

#### CHAPTER-1

*"It was still dark when he awoke, and, looking up, he could see the stars through the half-destroyed roof."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 3.)

Santiago as compared to Siddhartha more attained from nature since beginning of his journey, he always looks at the stars tries to communicate with them, tries to listen to the message it has for him; which he also receives in the form of dreams sometimes. According to the 2010 research of Nature Resources Research Institute it is said that nature actively communicates with us via the sub-conscious through the symbols present in the dreams and visions.

*"He had had the same dream that night as a week ago, and once again he had awakened before it ended."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 3.)

On the other hand what Siddhartha tries from the beginning of his journey was not related to nature but he tries to search answers for his questions within himself, inside his Atman.

*"He already knew how to speak the Om silently, the word of word, to speak it silently into himself while inhaling, to speak it silently out of himself while exhaling, with all the concentration of his soul, the forehead surrounded by the glow of the clear-thinking spirit. He already knew to feel Atman in the depths of his being, indestructible, one with the universe."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 3.) As Santiago also felt some connection to the sheep as they were also the part of nature and were helping him in getting close with nature.

In a research conducted by Natural Resources Institute in 2011 it is said that *"Animals helps maintain the earth's natural environments by predated upon plants and animals, pollinating various plants and exhaling carbon dioxide, which green plants required to live"*. *"Animals not only help in sustaining the nature but also help men to connect to nature because animals are more close to nature than men."*

*"He had always believed that the sheep were able to understand what he said. So there were times when he read them parts of his books that had made an impression on him, or when he would tell them of the loneliness or the happiness of a shepherd in the fields."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 4.)

In Siddhartha the realization to pursue his dream also came in the form of dream through nature that resulted in the rest lessons of his souls instigating him to go on, on his journey of self-realization.

This is similarly shown in the scenes of both the novels.

*"Dreams and restless thoughts came into his mind, flowing from the water of the river, sparkling from the stars of the night, melting from the beams of the sun, dreams came to him and a restlessness of the soul, fuming from the sacrifices, breathing from the verses of the Rig-Veda, being infused into him, drop by drop, from the teachings of the old Brahmins."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 5.)

In the life of Santiago everything was going well and good; he was able to communicate with nature, he was able to make decisions but still there was nothing new in his life.

*"The only things that concerned the sheep were food and water."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 6.)

*"They were content with just food and water, and, in exchange, they generously gave of their wool, their company, and- once in a while- their meat."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 7.)

His sheep and he was content in getting whatever they got. The boy was just becoming like his sheep living the life with no meaning and purpose, as if there is no difference in the life of sheep and his own life. The boy was growing similar and much alike to his sheep.

*"They never have to make any decisions, he thought. Maybe that's why they always stay close to me."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 6.) On the other hand Siddhartha's soul has started emerging with its purpose of life and questions related to it.

*"Where was Atman to be found, where did he reside, where did his eternal heart beat, where else but in one's own self, in its innermost part, in its indestructible part, which everyone had in himself? But where, where was this self, this innermost part, this ultimate part?"* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 6.)

He has somehow realized that person's inner world is not the whole world but his soul is just a drop or part of this whole universe. The Upanishads of Samveda has taught him wonderful verses; *"Your soul is the whole world"*.

*"Where was the knowledgeable one who wove his spell to bring his familiarity with the Atman out of the sleep into the state of being awake, into the life, into every step of the way, into word and deed?"* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 7.)

But in *The Alchemist*, we see that Santiago has much before realized his destiny when he was a child and was already pursuing what he wanted in his life. He didn't have much bigger and wiser questions like Siddhartha but still he has a dream. The courage of walking on the path of his dream will give answers to his questions he didn't even ask for.

-APA [realizing your dreams].



In the novel the word Om has played a significant role, as the role which sheep has played in the life of Santiago; it has filled the gap between human beings and nature and had helped him to achieve oneness, though for a short period of time.

*“The sound of Om encompasses all words, all sounds in human language.*

*A- Is the waking state*

*U- Is the dream state*

*M- Is the state of deep sleep.”*

(Mind-body and soul, Article)

*“Thus sat he, wrapped up in contemplation, thinking Om, his soul sent after the Brahman as an arrow.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 9.)

Though Santiago was really happy by his journey, he was pursuing his dream but still he was not happy while walking on this path; he felt something missing, something incomplete, something unaccomplished within him.

*“The problem is that they don't even realize that they're walking a new road every day. They don't see that the fields are new and the seasons change. All they think about is food and water.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 10.)

Siddhartha's decision is compared to the risen moon in the sky; there stood Siddhartha not moving from his spot, his arms folded, moonlight reflecting from his bare skins showing as if there is some link between men and nature, providing that if you truly desire something then the whole universe conspires for you to achieve it. The nature, the universe is always with you on your side, happy in your joys, worried in your worries. This same interesting resemblance of words is also seen in *The Alchemist*.

*“It's the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting, he thought, as he looked again at the position of the sun, and hurried his pace.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 10-11.)

The gypsy tells Santiago that: *“Dreams are the language of God. When he speaks in our language, I can interpret what he has said. But if he speaks in the language of the soul, it is only you who can understand. But, whichever it is, I'm going to charge you for the consultation.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 12.) It shows that the nature always communicates with your soul, which only you can hear and interpret and nobody else can do that for you.

As in the novel *Siddhartha* it is also shown that when you are on the right path the nature always remains with you and works with you, as if it is the part of you and even drops signals that you are on the right path. *“As he slowly left on stiff legs in the first light of day the still quite town, a shadow rose near the last hut, who had crouched there, and joined the pilgrim-Govinda.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 14.)

In the novel, *The Alchemist* the dream of Santiago plays an important role in it as it helps him to set his goal and realize his destiny, as it is also mentioned in the book *The Interpretation of Dreams* by Sigmund Freud that the objects and the background we see in the dreams is symbolic of something to our waking life, we see these symbols because we are trying to suppress our emotions and those emotions appears to us in the form of dreams.

As it is also interpreted by a gypsy in the novel, she also took the child which the Santiago has seen in the dream, symbolic of something innocent and uncorrupted.

*“I have never heard of them, but, if it was a child who showed them to you, they exist. There you will find a treasure that will make you a rich man.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 14.)

As the Santiago rejects to pursue his personal legend the nature and his surroundings starts showing his downfall very similar. Where in the novel *Siddhartha* the first light of day was shown as Siddhartha slowly follows the path which will lead to his personal legend. In the novel *The Alchemist*, it is shown in the novel read by Santiago: *“On the very first page it described a burial ceremony. And the names of the people involved were very difficult to pronounce.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 15.)

When Siddhartha decides to be samana he encounters the surrounding around. He was able to see what is happening around him but then also he closed his eyes from that nature which is only going to give answers to his questions thinking that he will find those answers within himself.

*“His glance turned to icy when he encountered women; his mouth twitched with contempt, when he walked through a city of nicely dressed people. He saw merchants trading, princes hunting, mourners wailing for their dead, whores offering themselves, physicians trying to help the sick, priests determining the most suitable day for seeding, lovers loving, mothers nursing their children-and all of this was not worthy of one look from his eye, it all lied, it all stank, it all stank of lies, it all pretended to be meaningful and joyful and beautiful, and it all was just concealed putrefaction.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 15-16.)

Though he was looking the answers within himself but in that too he failed because these were the senses given to us in order to feel the presence of nature, he also started fleeing from his senses (real-self) too so that he don't have to go through any pains and any joys of life without experiencing anything, without proving himself to be worthy of all the answers he wants in his life to live peacefully, without understanding why the life is in chaos.

As it is given in the “Structuralism theory” developed by Ferdinand de Saussure, which can be understood by taking ‘binary opposites’ concept over here.

*“Silently, Siddhartha exposed himself to burning rays of the sun directly above, glowing with pain, glowing with thirst, and stood there, until he neither felt any pain nor thirst any more. Silently, he stood there in the rainy season, from his hair the water was dripping over freezing shoulders, or freezing hips and legs, and the penitent stood there, until he could not feel the cold in his shoulders and legs any more, until they were silent, until they were quite.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 16.)

As he was denying his self-existence because of this he *“learned to breathe sparingly, learned to get along with only few breathes, learned to stop breathing. He learned, beginning with the breath, to calm the beat of his heart, leaned to reduce the beats of his heart, until they were only a few and almost none.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 16-17.)

And because of this he could easily be considered as a magician as he could do that, most of the human beings could not be able to do, but his goal was not becoming a magician but to achieve something else.

As in *The Alchemist*, the Santiago was unable to decide and could not sum up the courage to follow the path of his dream then in this also nature helps him in summing up the courage; like when in the novel, the mysterious old man appears who knew everything about Santiago's life, And it also indicates the old man was the part of nature, himself.

The boy asked: *“Where are you from?”*

*“From many places”*

“No one can be from many places,” the boy said.

“I’m a shepherd, and I have been to many places, but I come from only one place—from a city near an ancient castle. That’s where I was born.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 18.)

As the Siddhartha was able to experience and see the world from other’s perspective, from the other person’s eye in order to understand their life and about the life, and here also nature is playing a significant role.

“A heron flew over the bamboo forest- and Siddhartha accepted the heron, ate fish, felt the pangs of a heron’s hunger, spoke the heron’s croak, and died a heron’s death. A dead jackal was lying on the sandy bank, and Siddhartha’s soul slipped inside the body, was the dead jackal, lay on the banks, got bloated, stank, decayed, was dismembered by hyenas, was skinned by vultures, turned into a skeleton, turned to dust, was blown across the fields. And Siddhartha’s soul returned, has died, had decayed, was scattered as dust, had tasted the gloomy intoxication of the cycle, awaited in new thirst like a hunter in the gap, where he could escape from the cycle, where the end of the causes, where an eternity without suffering began.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 17.)

But the person who didn’t even felt his own heart beat and not seen the world from his own eyes how would he be able to visualize it from the other’s eyes. It is like you can develop the feeling of empathy only when you himself can feel the pain of others and then only you will be able to get some answers to your questions.

“A person suffering from lack of empathy would be lacking self-worth, self-love and self-awareness, in other words he is unable to relate to the others emotions or accept their needs and choices.” (Information resources for Empathy, Article.)

And because he was not having self-realization thus he was not satisfied with his life, unlike Santiago who doesn’t even have such big and philosophical questions in his life.

“He killed his senses, he killed his memory, he slipped out of his self into thousands of other forms, was an animal, was carrion, was stone, was wood, was water, and awoke every time to find his old self again, sun shone or moon, was his self again, turned round in the cycle, felt thirst, overcame the thirst, felt new thirst.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 17.)

Though Siddhartha was a good mediator and he had thousand times stayed in nothingness, stayed in the animal, in the stone but when he return to his real self he again felt the agony of the cycle, which had been forced upon him.

Mediation takes him back to the step; from where he had started, and he was not able to make difference that if this world is illusion or whether his mediatory world is illusion; which merely only appears to take him away from his problems but in reality, it does not.

The old man in *The Alchemist* began to explain Santiago about the nature, about the universe that how does it works. He tells him that nature finds easy to communicate with children as they are more open-minded.

“It’s what you have always wanted to accomplish. Everyone, when they are young, knows what their destiny is.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 20.)

“It seems that the children have active listening skills as compared to the adults.” (Fostering and Adoption, Article.) And in that age they have a lot of time and energy to achieve their dream but as the time passes and as they grow old they stops listening to their heart as their active listening skills starts becoming weak.

But even though your voice or skills becomes weak due to which you stops listening, it doesn’t matter because: “When you really want something, it’s because the desire originated in the soul of the universe. It’s your mission on earth.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 21.)

And the reason why you are not able to hear that voice because you stop believing in that voice, it happens because: “The soul of the world is nourished by people’s happiness. And also by unhappiness, envy, and jealousy.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 21.)

And being the part of that universe we began to listen the voice of envy, jealousy, and fear, it comes natural being a human being, but the universe doesn’t stops here, it not only calls you but the universe also conspires in helping you to achieve it, because the nature is more powerful than the entity, which is a part of that nature.

But the universe only conspires for those; who once have heard its calling in their lives.

“I always appear in one form or another. Sometimes I appear in the form of a solution, or a good idea. At other times, at a crucial moment, I make it easier for things to happen. There are other things I do, too, but most of the time people don’t realize I’ve done them.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 22.)

“The old man related that, the week before, he had been forced to appear before a miner, and had taken the form of a stone. The miner had abandoned everything to go mining for emeralds. For five years he had been working a certain river, and had examined hundreds of thousands of stones looking for an emerald. The miner was about to give it all up, right at the point when, if he were to examine just one more stone- just one more- he would find his emerald. Since the miner had sacrificed everything to his destiny, the old man decided to become involved. He transformed himself into a stone that rolled up to the miner’s foot. (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 22-23.)

As Siddhartha was aware of the fact that all the knowledge lies within him, in Atman but still he was contradicting his own belief; by fleeing away from his self, his Atman.

In the, *The Alchemist* the old man asks for one-tenth of flock which also signifies the give and take relationship with nature. “It’s good that you’ve learned that everything in life has its price.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 23-24.)

The Santiago was facing the dilemma, though he was guided by the old man, he was not able to decide what to do. He was not ready for something new because he was so used of walking and travelling on same path that he doesn’t wants to come out of his comfort zone, he was not yet ready to embrace the change of his life.

Santiago was fleeing from the change and Siddhartha was fleeing from his self. Santiago was one step ahead of Siddhartha because he has already realized his destiny.

Santiago started feeling that he will have to choose between something; he had been accustomed to or something he wanted to have, He even realized something about the flocks that each day is the same as the next for them because people fail to recognize the good things happen in their lives, every day that the sun rises. He started realizing that he is more or less started becoming just like his sheep, dependent.

Siddhartha on the other hand was not afraid of change; he doesn’t care if he has to leave samanas in order to live with Buddha. But out of all this he was doing one thing wrong i.e. he was fleeing away from his self. The purpose of having change in life is



that we can see the good things but he was unable to see anything because he has closed off his inner eyes and his senses and because of this he was not able to experience and see any good thing in his life, he was unable to learn anything though he already knew that he could not learn from the teachings but from the experiences of his life.

## CHAPTER-2

As Santiago was unable to decide what to do though he knew that embracing any change will bring new experiences to him in those moments of decision making “*The levanter was still getting stronger and he felt its force on his face.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 26.)

As if the wind was trying to help him in making the right decision, as the wind was blowing “*The boy felt jealous of the freedom of the wind, and saw that he could have the same freedom.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 27.)

He learnt from the wind that it is more free and lively, it blows from one corner of the world to other, the wind also embraces the change at every moment hence it has the power to blow strongly and hence it's the part of nature.

Old man suggested Santiago “*In order to find the treasure, you will have to follow the omens. God has prepared a path for everyone to follow. You just have to read the omens that he left for you.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 28.)

As these omens is nothing but the signs from the nature itself.

“*Before the boy could reply, a butterfly appeared and fluttered between him and the old man. He remembered something his grandfather had once told him that butterflies were a good omen. Like crickets, and like expectations; like lizards and four-leaf clovers.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 28.)

It is same, when you are on the right path nature shows its approval through showing certain signs called omens and when we are on the wrong path it does the same, the person just have to look for those omens so that he could achieve his destiny.

“*An omen is a phenomenon that is believed to foretell the future, often signifying the advent of change. People in the ancient times believed that omens lie with a divine message from their gods.*”(Wikipedia.)

The old man gives Urim and Thummim to Santiago in a form of omens that will forecast the future and help him to decide when he will not be able to understand the omens from his surroundings.

Siddhartha decides to go in the forest of Jetavana, in the garden Anathpindika is where the exalted one dwells. Buddha residing in the forest of Jetavana shows some kind of connection between nature and Buddha and also indicates some connection between nature and the people of Jetavana.

“*The shady gardens looked like a city, full of people, bustling like bees. The majority of the monks went out with their alms-dish, to collect food in town for their lunch, the only meal of the day. The Buddha himself, the enlightened one, was also in the habit of taking this walk to beg in the morning.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 31.)

As it is also been indicated in *The Alchemist* that the old man was a God and not just a normal man, he was the part of nature.

“*The gods should not have desires, because they don't have destinies. But the king of Salem hoped desperately that the boy would be successful.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 31.)

He finally decides to pursue his destiny and follow the path made for him but he didn't knew the Arabic language which was spoken in that country; which made him realize that the communication between men can also take place in the universal language also. It is necessary to communicate and understand the language of nature if he wants to master the art of speaking and listening in the universal language, as it was important for him to learn this language for his survival.

“*He had become used to learning which path he should take by observing the ground and the sky. He had discovered that the presence of a certain bird meant that a snake was nearby, and that a certain shrub was a sign that there was water in the area. The sheep had taught him that.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 33.)

He not only hears the language of universe but he was also having faith on the universal language; which is spoken by God.

“*If God leads the sheep so well, he will also lead a man, he thought, and that made him feel better. The tea seemed less bitter.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 33.)

As he was having the trust on the omens so because of that trust he already had and also because of the old man who had once told him that when you really want something, the universe always conspires in your favour that he starts becoming passive in thinking about what is right and what is wrong, he not only placed his trust on nature but also let nature took the decision which is supposed to be taken by him; by letting do people what they wanted to do, thinking that it is the way universe wants things to happen by doing this he again started depending from his sheep to nature.

In the novel *Siddhartha*, when Govinda takes the decision for himself, Siddhartha finds it interesting and says “*Often I have thought: won't Govinda for once also take a step by himself, without me, out of his own soul. Behold, now you've turned into a man and are choosing your path for yourself. I wish that you would go it up to its end, oh my friend, that you shall find salvation.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 34.)

It shows that life's path are meant to be travelled by one person at a time, each and everyone has their own destiny, own path, his own understanding, own questions and hence different answers.

“*Every man has his own destiny: the only imperative is to follow it, to accept it, no matter where it leads him.*” (Quote, Henry Miller.)

Santiago was robbed by the stranger to whom he has given all his money and because of this he started to lose his courage; he didn't had the same courage which he had in the beginning of this journey. The sun's departure in the novel showed his trajectory of mental state for some time.

He started doubting because he has lost his trust “*He wept because God was unfair, and because this was the way God repaid those who believed in their dreams.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 37.)

In that very moment of sadness; he thought that he will never be able to achieve his destiny as he has lost his faith for forever and he became sad. When Siddhartha meets Buddha he perceives that nothing depends on chance, not depending on gods- but the uniformity of the world, that everything which happens is connected. Hence giving answers to the Santiago's question.

And Santiago becomes successful in realizing that “*I'm like everyone else- I see the world in terms of what I would like to see happen, not what actually does.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 38.)

Siddhartha contradicts the teachings of Gautama Buddha by saying that small gap in this entire eternal and uniform law of the world is breaking apart again and becomes a void, this small breach can only be felt by the exalted one himself but not by the people who are his students.

*"They do not contain the mystery of what the exalted one has experienced for himself."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 39.)

It's like listening the review of a novel from any teacher or scholar; by this you'll only be able to understand their point of view about the novel and not be able to develop your own accurate understanding about the novel that can only come by reading the novel itself.

As Santiago's confidence in himself was lost that's why his inner self became weak and was unable to listen the omens directly from the nature itself; so the boy took out those two stones given by old man to know that whether he should continue to follow this path or not : and the stone said 'yes', and after this he again asked one more question but by the time his confidence was rebuilt and back and now he was capable of listening to the omens directly then he learned that there were certain things one shouldn't ask about, so as that to flee from one's own destiny.

*"An omen. The boy smiled to himself. He picked up the two stones and put them back in his pouch. He didn't consider mending the hole- the stones could fall through any time they wanted. He had learned that there were certain things one shouldn't ask about, so as not to flee from one's own destiny. "I promised that I would make my own decisions," he said to himself."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 39.)

And now that when his confidence was back he decided to put his trust again on himself and nature, he realized that he had to choose between thinking of himself as poor victim or as adventurer on quest of his treasure.

When Santiago further decides to move on in his path he encounters the candy merchant *"The candy merchant isn't making candy so that later he can travel or marry a shopkeeper's daughter. He's doing it because it's what he wants to do," thought the boy.*" (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 41.)

These all were the omens which were symbolizing that he is on the right path. Meeting the Gautama Buddha, Siddhartha realized something; it was the major turning point in his life.

*"I have never before seen a person glance and smile, sit and walk this way, he thought; truly, I wish to be able to glance and smile, sit and walk this way, too, thus free, thus venerable, thus concealed, thus open, thus child-like and mysterious. Truly, only a person who has succeeded in reaching the innermost part of his self would glance and walk this way. Well so, I also will seek to reach the innermost part of my self."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 41.)

*"When Rabindranath Tagore met Sri. Aurobindo Gosh, he can see the enlightenment on his face which proves that he has experienced and been in touch with that eternal bliss."*(About Rabindranath Tagore, Article.)

Santiago decides to stay in the crystal shop and the crystal merchant asked the boy to stay because two customers come in today while he was working and that's a good omen. He told the boy, Santiago thinks that not only me but everyone knows about the omens but nobody has realized that they are capable and aware of such thing because they are incapable of experiencing and realizing any good thing happening to them because they never see any change in their life, just as he has not realized because he was so accustomed in living with his sheep and to that life that he even didn't realize that he has been speaking a language without words.

When the crystal merchant tells him that *"Even if you cleaned my crystal for an entire year... even if you earned a good commission selling every piece, you would still have to borrow money to get to Egypt. There are thousands of kilometres of desert between here and there."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 44.)

His dreams become shattered and along with the nature around him also goes numb and lifeless participating in his silence mourning upon the silent death of his dreams.

*"No sound from the bazaars, no arguments among the merchants, no men climbing to the towers to chant. No hope, no adventure, no old kings or destinies, no treasure, and no Pyramids. It was as if the world had fallen silent because the boy's soul had."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 45.)

Siddhartha realizes that *"I was afraid of myself, I was fleeing from myself! I searched Atman, I searched Brahman, I was willing to dissect my self and peel off all of its layers, to find the core of all peels in its unknown interior, the Atman, life, the divine part, the ultimate part. But I have lost myself in the process."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 43.)

And from that very moment of self-realization he started to experience, feel, see, appreciate through his senses as they have also awakened with him, and now it was the moment that his eyes were opened and through it he can see the world, the nature around him for the first time. *"All his yellow and blue, river and forest, entered Siddhartha for the first time through his eyes, was no longer a spell of Mara, Blue was Blue, river was river."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 44.)

Santiago in the crystal shop starts from bringing the change, the crystal merchant was not so used of change and also didn't liked it, but this only change changed the financial condition of crystal merchant and his shop; it started running as before, Santiago explains that why people doesn't want change in their lives, it's because of only one reason that is fear.

*"Well, when I took my sheep through the fields some of them might have died if we had come upon a snake. But that's the way life is with sheep and with shepherds."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 49.)

It was the same fear which the Siddhartha has once experienced in his life. *"I, who wanted to read the book of the world and the book of my own being, I have for the sake of meaning I had anticipated before I read, scorned the symbols and letters, I called the visible world a deception, called my eyes and my tongue coincidental and worthless forms without substance."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 45.)

It was that fear which was holding him to attain the self-realization because of which he was not able to find any answers to his questions.

Govinda, the friend of Siddhartha left him, as the life's path are different for each and every person and is meant to be travelled alone. *"Siddhartha remains standing there, and for the time of one moment and breath, his heart felt cold, he felt a cold in his chest, as a small animal, a bird or a rabbit, would when seeing how alone he was."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 46.)

And in that lonely path only you became capable of finding who are you as a person, your self, you spend more and more time alone and when you realize that there is no one on whom you can depend except you then in that hour you become independent and bloom each day. *"Out of this moment, when the world melted away all around him, when he stood alone like a star in the*

sky, out of this moment of a cold and despair. Siddhartha emerged, more a self than before, more firmly concentrated.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 47.)

Being alone isn't necessarily a bad thing, as there are a handful of benefits that emerge once you learn to embrace solitude.

“You will get in touch with your emotions, you will become more productive, you'll feel more independent.” (Article by Tony Robinson.)

When the Santiago was in that crystal shop, he with the time began to develop self-confidence in himself, he started feeling that the universe and nature is in his favour. “*Maybe it was his treasure to have wound up in that strange land, met up with a thief, and doubled the size of his flock without spending a cent.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 54.)

As Siddhartha was successful in awakening his consciousness and he starts experiencing his existence because of which he has also awakened his senses and through his eyes he is seeing the world as if he was noticing the beauty of nature for the first time. “*He saw trees, stars, animals, clouds, rainbows, rocks, herbs, flowers, stream and river, the glistening dew in the bushes in the morning, distant high mountains which were blue and pale, birds sang and bees, wind silverishly blew through the rice-field.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 51.)

“*All of this had always existed, and he had not seen it; he had not been with it. Now he was with it, he was part of it. Light and shadow ran through his eyes, stars and moon ran through his heart.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 52.)

Now he is experiencing the same thing which the Buddha had experienced in the hour of enlightenment, he started realizing that there is not only purpose of the Atman, which lies within us but also of the senses, the ultimate meaning hidden behind both of them.

Now he wants to listen to the voice; which comes from within him, now he wanted to follow the path which his voice tells him to follow. When he decided to do so he had dream of “*Govinda was standing in front of him, dressed in the yellow robe of an ascetic. Sad was how Govinda looked like, sadly he asked: why have you forsaken me? At this, he embraced Govinda, wrapped his arms around him, and as he was pulling him close to his chest and kissed him, it was not Govinda anymore, but a woman, and a full breast popped out of the woman's dress, at which Siddhartha lay and drank, sweetly and strongly tasted the milk from this breast.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 54.)

His dream was symbolic of the path, he was going to follow because it is going to take him to the sun and forest, animal and flower every fruit and every joyful desire, it's symbolic that now he is going to enter the Sansara.

Santiago realized the change is important to prove ourselves worthy of achieving our dreams as it makes us more experience and stronger than before, and if a person accepts change then only he feels the presence and connection with nature; like it is said in these lines: “*There had been a time when he thought that his sheep could teach him everything he needed to know about the world. But they could never have taught him Arabic.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 55-56.)

And also that universal language which helps him to communicate with nature. Siddhartha decides to follow his inner voice, which tells him to go to Sansara, so in order to reach that city he has to cross the river. Siddhartha says that this is a beautiful river, to which the ferryman replies “*A very beautiful river, I love it more than anything. Often I have listened to it, often I have looked into its eyes, and always I have learned from it. Much can be learned from a river.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 55.)

As the days pass and the day of living the crystal shop came nearer and nearer, the desert started calling him and signalled to peruse his destiny. “*He smoked in silence, thinking of nothing, and listening to the sound of the wind that brought the scent of the desert.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 57-58.)

As the days passed by he also gained confidence which he had lost in the beginning of his journey. “*He was more confident in himself, though, and felt as though he could conquer the world.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 60.)

Santiago after spending several months in the crystal shop decides that; “*I can always go back to being a Shepherd, the boy thought. I learned how to care for sheep, and I haven't forgotten how that's done. But maybe I'll never have another chance to get to the Pyramids in Egypt.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 61.)

The hills of Andalusia were only two hours away, but there was an entire desert between him and the pyramids, just like the river was in between which the Siddhartha has to cross it, in order to follow his voice. And if Santiago wants to achieve his treasure, he will have to be good friends with the desert.

### CHAPTER-3

When the Siddhartha reached the city, Sansara, he found kamala and got attracted to him, she taught him the art of making love, but not what is love. Love can be obtained by begging, buying, receiving it as a gift, finding it in the street, but it cannot be stolen. As Santiago took his decision keeping his fear aside, he also accepts that taking decision was only the beginning of things. Santiago during his journey meets the English man, who tells him that he is in search of the universal language, understood by everyone. I have to find a man who knows that universal language, an alchemist.

As this English man was always in a pursuit of finding he forgot what he always has, and as also said by Siddhartha the wisdom can't be taught by the teachers, so he has to learn that universal language by his own. There is no accurate formula for life that anyone would give you, everyone has their own problem, own questions, and hence their own formula; for it which he has to discover in the world, it can't be learned, it is meant to be discovered.

As Santiago moves forward in his journey, he sees that the desert is vast, that they make a person feel small, as if he should remain silent. One can learn anything new if he has a skill of listening. As a person can learn from anyone, be it crystal shop, sheep or desert eventually they are all part of nature.

Siddhartha even after being present in the Sansara, he was not affected by it because for a long time he has practiced to be Samana, due to which he was not able to feel anything, he has practiced to suppress his senses for such a long time that now he has to practice of using it.

The merchant noticed about Siddhartha that he has no passion for his work, he was living with us but still he is not with us. He was present in the Sansara but still there was one separating factor that makes him separate from the world and that factor was being a Samana because being a Samana he has learned to suppress his senses so that he would not



feel any pain or joy. But still he wanted to live the life of people in order to understand them because this game occupied his thoughts just as much as the gods and Brahmins used to occupy them. *“And at several times he suddenly became scared on account of such thoughts and wished that he would also be gifted with the ability to participate in all of this childlike-naive occupations of the day time with passion and with his heart, really to live, really to act, really to enjoy and to live instead of just standing by as a spectator.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 79.)

Those people are like *“Most people, Kamala, are like a falling leaf, which is blown and is turning around though the air, and wavers, and tumbles to the ground. But others, a few, are like stars, they go on a fixed course, no wind reaches them, in themselves they have their law and their course.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 80.)

Those falling leaf takes rebirth and do their journey and achieve what they want, but the people who are like stars; to whom no wind reaches are more like people who don't know what life is actually because they are not only out of touch with the people of the world but also with the nature, if they don't know what is pain then how will they know what is joy, what is eternal bliss; which is the mixture of these complicated emotions, how will they have emotions if they won't feel anything.

The Santiago began to understand how nature and person's destiny is connected and why we should listen to nature if we want to achieve our goal. *“The boy was beginning to understand that intuition is really a sudden immersion of the soul into the universal current of life, where the histories of all people are connected, and we are able to know everything, because it's all written there.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 71.)

Santiago started listening to the winds bellowing in the desert and also started listening to the caravan, the camel driver told him about his life that he also initially didn't wanted the change in his life but now due to that change only he is going to die happily.

He also told that whatever is happening in anyone's life is not just a matter of coincidence but this is indeed written by one hand, there is one thing that provides unification and answers all and that is nature.

The English man tells him that everything in the universe has a soul and life within it, and they all are going under transformation when one thing gets transformed it is because it has achieved its personal legend and if you are also somewhere connected or related to this object then you will also transform just as that object got transformed, and since because each and every thing has a soul they not only interact with people, they also interact with each other because they also have personal legend and they are also in the process of transformation. *“That's the magic of omens,” said the boy. “I've seen how the guides read the signs of the desert, and how the soul of the caravan speaks to the soul of the desert.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.76.)

The process of alchemy also shows that all the disciplines are interconnected to each other because they all tell the secrets of the universe. *“The boy was becoming more and more convinced that alchemy could be learned in one's daily life.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No. 77.)

The philosopher's stone can transform large quantities of metal into gold. One can understand if they will try to understand in figurative terms that small silver of the stone has already achieved its personal legend and has become the part of nature, hence being a nature itself, it has the power to guide any person on earth to achieve his personal legend. *“Slowly, like humidity entering the dying stem of a tree, filling it slowly and making it rot, the world and sloth had entered the Siddhartha's soul, slowly it filled his soul, made it heavy, made it tired, put it to sleep. On the other hand, his senses had become alive, there was much they had learned, much they had experienced.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No.83.)

So after staying for a long time in Sansara, Siddhartha's senses had become alive and he is now no more a mere spectator, but still Siddhartha: *“He envied them, envied them just the more, the more similar he became to them. He envied them for the one thing that was missing from him and that they had, the importance they were able to attach to their lives, the amount of passion in their joys and fears, the fearful but sweet happiness of being constantly in love.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 84-85.)

The camel driver also tells Santiago about what is life and it's in the moment we are living right now, only the fear of tomorrow takes us away from the present and takes the life from us. He tells about what harm fear can do to our lives, it can take our life.

Siddhartha and Santiago both believed that no one can teach you about the secrets of life. *“Things have to be transmitted this way because they were made up from the pure life, and this kind of life cannot be captured in pictures or words.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.83.)

Though Siddhartha didn't able to learn anything about love and passion from the Sansara as these are pure emotions which can only be experienced around nature but *“His face was still smarter and more spiritual than others, but it rarely laughed, and assumed, one after another, those features which are so often found in the faces of rich people, those features of discontent, of sickliness, of ill-humour, of sloth, of a lack of love. Slowly the disease of the soul, which rich people have, grabbed hold of him.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 85.)

And now that his senses have started working, he could only hear and sense the sound and voices coming from Sansara which could only give him fleeting pleasures, and his inner reliable voice, which guided him in his best times, had become silent. *“It was since that time, when he had stopped being a Samana in his heart.”* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 86.)

On the other hand, unlike Siddhartha, Santiago becomes successful in finding and understanding love *“He learned the most important part of the language that all the world spoke- the language that everyone on earth was capable of understanding in their heart. It was love. Something older than humanity, more ancient than the desert.”* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.88.)

Siddhartha ran into the pointless cycle growing tired, growing old, growing ill then the time came when dream warned him; as dreams are the part of nature which the nature sends as a message to the person when it tries time to time communicates with men. He dreamed of small bird being dead and lay stiff on the ground and then he threw it away, out in the street, and the same moment felt death in his heart and horror in his chest, sat and sensed how everything died in him, withered in him, came to an end in him.

It was the soul awakening dream, it was the call from nature; though his inner voice has become silent but the nature helped him by interacting with him in a form of dream, which proves that the voice of nature is more positive and powerful than the voice of our heart.

Listing to the inner voice can be difficult and it's more like a skill which needs a practice and if a person has confidence in himself then only he will able to hear it and that confidence is developed in us with the help of nature; which helps us in realizing our potentials by communicating with us through dreams.

Siddhartha also realizes that for the very long time he had not listened his inner voice, he had really tried hard and longed to become a man like those many, like those children, but these entire people had only been a game to him, a dance he would watch, a comedy; he has still not experienced love for anyone, unlike Santiago.

Santiago believed that everything which is happening in his life is a part of his dream, a part of his destiny unlike Siddhartha who only thought this world and its people to be a foolish game.

#### CHAPTER-4

In order to be the part of nature and to achieve that eternal bliss the person has to understand about love, in order to prove him worthy of becoming the part of nature because it's only the external force that makes everything on earth work, the nature has the traces of love in it, and it is the part of it.

Fatima believed that if anyone believes in his dreams and even if that person unable to achieve that dream then they become the soul of the world. It's only the fear of failure which stops the person from achieving what they want, when in reality there exists no failure.

Siddhartha reached the large river in the forest, the same river over which a long time ago, when he had still been young man and came from the town of Gautama, when he looked into water he was able to see his reflection; now when he has already achieved that self-realization and after truly knowing himself as a person he now even can't bear looking his reflection in water. *"With a distorted face, he stared into the water, saw the reflection of his face and spit at it."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 96.)

In order to finally drown, with his eyes closed, he slipped towards death.

*"And in the moment when the sound of "Om" touched Siddhartha's ear his dormant spirit suddenly woke up and realized the foolishness of his actions."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 96.)

This word "Om" didn't come from the Siddhartha's heart; resulting from the years of practice, but as his inner voice has left him long before, but the voice of nature can still be heard by all and that voice only saved the life of Siddhartha.

Santiago has a vision of one of the hawks made a flashing dive through the sky, attacking each other, as it did so, a sudden, fleeting image came to the boy: any army, with its sword ready, riding into the oasis. Seeing this vision is normal but understanding it proved that now he is also capable of understanding the language of desert. And that is how people find answers to their questions, it was not that those things in themselves, revealed anything at all; it was just that people, looking at what was occurring around them, could find a means of penetration to the soul of the world. These omens don't reveal future to anyone: it's a future that was written so as to be altered.

As Siddhartha now has heard that word "Om" now his old self conscious, self has died and now the more aware and the pure self has been awakened from the long sleep, but it was not the soul of Samana now that soul is much more experienced. *"This Siddhartha was nevertheless transformed, was renewed, was strangely well rested, strangely awake, joyful and curious."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 98.)

Santiago has completely lost all his fears because he has the faith in the universe *"In his heart, he felt a strange sense of joy: he was about to die in pursuit of his destiny. And for Fatima. The omens had been true, after all. Here he was, face-to-face with his enemy, but there was no need to be concerned about dying-the soul of the world awaited him, and he would soon be a part of it."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.105.)

And that's why only he was able to understand the language of the universe. *"The stranger said. "Courage is the quality most essential to understanding the Language of the World."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.106.)

Siddhartha after reaching the river has suddenly realized that he is now standing here a little, with no abilities, learned nothing as if going to Sansara was the process of making him forget all he has learnt; in order to understand and learn new things, Santiago never knew too much like Siddhartha.

Things are going downhill with the Siddhartha still he laughed about it and in the process *"He also saw the river going downhill, always moving on downhill, and singing and being happy though it all."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 104.)

It's not that the river has taught him anything *"Whatever the thing observed, one could find a connection with his experience of the moment. Actually, it wasn't that those things, in themselves, revealed anything at all; it was just that people, looking at what was occurring around them, could find a means of penetration to the Soul of the World."* (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.97.)

Siddhartha realizes that the bird; which he saw dead in the dream was his older self, full of pride, which has now died, and now he is finally free standing like a child under the sky.

Santiago then meets the alchemist, who also understands the language of universe and also knows and understands about the omens. Though Siddhartha was not able to understand about love but he was capable of experiencing the other emotions, he had felt this despair, this deep disgust, in order to know his self completely.

As the Siddhartha has felt that his small, frightened and proud self had died, because of which he was feeling the eternal joy in his life, it seemed to him as if the river had something special to tell him, something, he did not yet, and decided for himself, not to leave it very soon as he has developed the faith in the river, and that river has successfully invoked the inner voice within him which became silent long before, and now his inner voice started talking to him again and told him: Love this water! Stay near it! Learn from it!

The alchemist tells Santiago that finding treasure is not important but the journey holds all the importance but you have got to find the treasure, so that everything you have learned along the way can make sense.

Siddhartha now spends all his time in listening to the river and he discovered that there is no concept of time. *"This water ran and ran, incessantly it ran, and was nevertheless always there, was always at all times the same and yet new in every moment!"* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 111.)

The alchemist tells Santiago to not to leave his journey, and not to stop learning from the desert because if he will not listen to the voice of nature then he will also not be able to listen the voice within him because the inner soul gets nourished by the outer soul i.e. universe. *"Most of all, he learned from it to listen, to pay close attention with a quiet heart, with a waiting, opened soul, without passion, without a wish, without judgement, without an opinion."* (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 116.)

In *The Alchemist*, the desert symbolizes and communicates differently to all the characters in the novel, for Fatima that desert would represent only one thing to her: the hope for his return. “*She would look to it every day, and would try to guess which star the boy was following in search of his treasure. She would have to send her kisses on the wind, hoping that the wind would touch the boy’s face, and would tell him that she was alive. That she was waiting for him, a woman waiting a courageous man in search of his treasure.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.118.)

From the river the Siddhartha has learned that there is no concept of time it means: “*Nothing was, nothing will be; everything is, everything has existence and is present.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 117.)

And also the river has many voices, the voice of asking and of a woman giving birth, and of sighing man, and a thousand other voices more! They all constituted of one word i.e. “Om” which the Siddhartha has heard at the very first time when he reached the river and tried to drown himself in water.

The alchemist tells Santiago that he needs to practice listening to his heart because that heart will only help him to reach his goal that inner voice will get strength from the nature. “*You don’t even have to understand the desert: all you have to do is contemplate a simple grain of sand, and you will see in it all the marvels of creation.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.122.)

Siddhartha now understood and developed his connection with nature and he was somewhere near to that eternal bliss for which he was searching for, but one thing was still left to be learned and that was the power of love which was oldest, mysterious force than nature. “*She thought about her pilgrimage to Gautama, which wanted to take, in order to see the face of the perfected one, to breathe his peace, and she thought that she had now found him in his place, and that it was good, just as good, as if she had seen the other one.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 125.)

Santiago now comes in contact with his inner self and starts communicating with his heart but his heart began to speak of fear but he has to remove that fear from his heart and has to make it strong and it can only happen if he becomes successful in making the heart his friend, he has to make his heart trust on him and this can only happen when he will follow his personal legend by listening to the omens from the nature, you have to make your soul worthy and equal to the soul of universe, if you want your soul to return back to the soul of universe.

And one day his heart revealed that why it speaks the language of fear because they feel that they don’t deserve their dream, we their hearts become fearful just thinking of loved once who go away forever, because when these things happen, we suffer terribly, to which the alchemist replies tell your heart that in actually there exist no failure, only fear of failure.

And now the son of Siddhartha has played an important role in Siddhartha’s life in teaching him about what is love and without experiencing and understanding about love, his journey would be incomplete. “*Siddhartha began to understand that his son had not brought him happiness and peace, but suffering and worry. But he loved him, and he preferred the suffering and worries of love over happiness and joy without the boy.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 128.)

Now the Santiago’s heart has began talking to him and told him about the positive things because it gained the confidence from Santiago’s actions.

“*The alchemist understood that the boy’s heart had returned to the Soul of the World.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.126.)

And now it is the turn of Siddhartha to realize that what true love is by understanding his son.

The alchemist explains Siddhartha that for any wise man, metal will act as gold, it is the same concept which Siddhartha has learned from the river that there is no concept of time, so nothing really needs to be transformed, the gold is metal and the metal is gold at the same time.

The Vasudeva tried reminding Siddhartha that his answers to the questions can’t do any good to the people of this earth because each person has their own question and hence different answers, but nothing worked for him. “*Had he ever lost his heart so much to something, had he ever loved any person thus, thus blindly, thus sufferingly, thus unsuccessfully, and yet thus happily?*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 132.)

The time has come to test the Santiago’s courage and now he has to finally prove to his heart that he is his loyal friend by not giving into fear and to make it stronger so that then it will be able to reach to the soul of the universe. “*Siddhartha, had also become completely a childlike person, suffering for the sake of another person, loving another person, lost to a love, is having become a fool on account of love.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 133.)

And now Santiago decides to turn himself into the wind in order to save his life, he asks the desert to turn him in the wind. And he also asserts the power of love to question the wind, “*Somewhere in your sands there is a woman waiting for me. And that’s why I have to turn myself into then wind.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.138.)

Siddhartha eventually realized when he hears the river laugh he realized: “*That his desire was foolish, which had made him go up to this place, that he could not help his son, that he was not allowed to cling him.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 137.)

But yet wound was still there in his heart and since all the things happen for a reason, how Siddhartha wanted to know the reason and lesson behind this experience. “*That this wound did not blossom yet, did not shine yet, at this hour, made him sad.*” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 138.)

“*But, actually, the wind came from no place at all, nor did it go to any place; that’s why it was stronger than the desert.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.139.)

And the boy urged, “*I have inside me the winds, the deserts, the oceans, the stars, and everything created in the universe. We were all made by the same hand, and we have the same soul. I want to be like you, able to reach every corner of the world, cross the seas, blow away the sands that cover my treasure, and carry the voice of the woman I love.*” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.140.)

The wind now came to know that boy knew the language of universe as each and everything on earth has a soul in itself, as the wind also wants to achieve it personal legend, just like Santiago because the wind still doesn’t know how to turn Santiago into a wind despite being so powerful. Now the Siddhartha learned the most important lesson of his life, that childlike people, in all other respects, were of equal rank to the wise man, were often far superior to them, just as it is mentioned in Bhagavad-Gita’s, Bhramar Geet.



In *The Alchemist* the wind said the boy to ask from the heaven, because “I’ve often seen people speaking of love and looking toward the heavens,” the wind said, furious at having to acknowledge its own limitations, “Maybe it’s better to ask heaven.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.141.)

And in the process he said to the sun: “If you know about love, you must also know about the Soul of the World, because it’s made of love.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.142.)

The sun said “I can see the soul of the World. It communicates with my soul, and together we cause the plants to grow and the sheep to seek out shade. From where I am-and I’m a long way from the earth-I learned how to love. I know that if I came even a little bit closer to the earth, everything there would die, and the Soul of the World would no longer exist. So we contemplate each other, and we want each other, and I give it life and warmth, and it gives me my reason for living.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.142.)

After sitting long hours and contemplating near the river the Siddhartha’s wound started to blossom up, “Siddhartha saw his reflected face there was something, which reminded him something about he had forgotten, and as he thought about it, he found it: this face resembled another face, it resembled his father’s face, the Brahman and he remembered how he, a long time ago, as a young man had forced his father to let him go to the penitents, how he had gone and had never come back, had his father not also suffered the same pain for him, which he now suffered for his son? Did he not to have to expect the same fate for himself?” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 143.)

“The river laughed. Yes, so it was, everything came back, which had been suffered and solved up to its end, the same pain was suffered over and over again.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 143.)

But still his wound is not shining from his suffering, he started sharing his thoughts to Vasudeva “To show his wound to the listener was the same as bathing in it the river, until it had cooled and become one with the river.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 144.)

It appeared to him that if Vasudeva was not a man now, as he was the God himself that was the eternal itself. In his heart, he started bidding his farewell to Vasudeva. Siddhartha now hurriedly look into the river, which consisted of him and he saw and heard the voices full of suffering, searching but other voices joined him, voices of joy and of suffering, good and bad voices, laughing and sad voices, a hundred voices, a thousand voices.

In *The Alchemist*, sun tells him: “Love is the force that transforms and improves the Soul of the World. When I first reached through to it, I thought the Soul of the World was perfect. But later, I could see that it was like other aspects of creation, and had its own passions and wars. It is we who nourish the Soul of the World, and the world we live in will be either better or worse, depending on whether we become better or worse. And that’s where the power of love comes in. Because when we love, we always strive to become better than we are.” (Paulo Coelho, *The Alchemist*, 1988, Page No.143-144.)

As this secret of love was revealed to the wind, as the wind now was successful in achieving its personal legend and in the delight it blew harder than ever, as it wanted to tell every corner of the world.

The boy now realized that it was the hand through which the universe has been created, and he should ask from it to turn him into wind, the boy reached through, to the soul of the world and saw that it was a part of the soul of God, and he saw that one soul of God was his own soul, and that he, a boy, could perform miracles.

Siddhartha as he heard the voices from the river and he realized that the thousand voices consisted of a single world which was Om: the perfection. Siddhartha wound blossomed, his suffering was shining, and his self had flown into the oneness.

Santiago finally reaches to the Pyramids of Egypt and he realized that he had learned all he needed to know, and had experienced everything he might have dreamed of, though he didn’t found his treasure in the pyramids of Egypt but what he found was extra special and more valuable than the treasure itself.

At last Govinda reaches Siddhartha, asking for the guidance to which Siddhartha replies and says: “I have learned here from this river, I have felt knowledge in me, as one would feel life in one’s heart, there have been many thoughts, but it would be hard for me to convey them to you.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 153.)

Because “Everything is one-sided which can be thought with thoughts and said with words, it’s all one-sided, all just one half, all lacks completeness, roundness, oneness.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 154.)

The world itself, what exists around us and inside of us, is never one-sided, he has experienced and learned from the river that time is not real then the gap which seems to be in between the world and the eternity, between good and evil, is also a deception. Therefore I can also see good in evil, wisdom like foolishness, sin like holiness.

Siddhartha at last revealed about the power of love and it is important things of all. “Govinda saw it like this, this smile of the mask, this smile of oneness above the flowing forms, this smile of simultaneousness above the thousand births and deaths, this smile of Siddhartha was precisely the same, was precisely of the same kind as the quiet, delicate, impenetrable, perhaps benevolent, perhaps mocking, wise thousand-fold smiled of Gautama, the Buddha, as he had seen himself with great respect a hundred times.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 163.)

“Deeply, he bowed, touching the ground, before him who was sitting motionlessly, whose smile reminded him of everything he had ever loved in his life, what he had ever been valuable and holy to him in his life.” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 164.)

## Conclusion

The novels *The Alchemist* and *Siddhartha* have similar themes i.e. to achieve their goal (personal legend) in life and their ways of achieving that dream is also same they achieved and realized with the help of nature, Siddhartha was in a pursuit of certain answers to his questions that “And where was Atman to be found, where did He reside, where did his eternal heart beat, where else but in one’s own self, in its innermost part, in its indestructible part, which everyone had in himself? But where, where was this self, this innermost part, this ultimate part?” (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 6.)

But when his journey began the answers he obtained were totally different from his questions and same happened with Santiago, the reason why he started his journey was just because of the dream because of the treasure but during the end of the journey that treasure doesn’t mattered as completing the journey and walking on that path of his journey was more important than the treasure itself and why that journey is important and more blissful than the goal itself is because of the nature which was the guiding force in both the novels.

It is also taught in both the novels *The Alchemist* and *Siddhartha* that it is important to realize your goals and questions in life and then to start walking on the path or start working in order to achieve it, as the importance of doing the journey is mostly highlighted in the novel.

It is not important that whether you achieve your goal but walking on that path holds more importance. Each and everyone has a different goals and questions hence different path to follow, no two individuals can walk on the same path as the life's path are meant to be travelled alone, it's shown in the novel *Siddhartha* through the character of Govinda as he observes and admires Siddhartha and wanted to be like him and he tries to follow the same path also; forgetting his own personality as he didn't believed in himself so he also in the first place failed to realize his dreams and his questions.

"It's true, I'm old," spoke Govinda, "but I haven't stopped searching. Never I'll stop searching, this seems to be my destiny." (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 151.)

Maybe that's why in the last he wasn't able to find anything how would he find anything when he even doesn't know what he is in the first place searching for.

Some critics have said; there exists no enlightenment as there exist no reality, as Derrida has said that reality is constructed /textual and as the meaning of the words changes as it leads to the postponement of meanings so does our perception and understanding about the reality also changes.

These novels have been written by keeping this stream of thought in mind, "I do not care very much about. Let the things be illusions or not, after all I would then also be an illusion, and thus they are always like me." (Hermann Hesse, *Siddhartha*, 1922, Page No. 158-159.)

The only difference between these two novels lies that Siddhartha doesn't know about love while Santiago does. Love easily helps us to connect with nature so that there lies no difference between heart and nature and a person can become free-spirited. In the end both Santiago and Siddhartha achieved their goals of life; which ultimately leads them to eternal bliss, the ultimate goal of life.

When I began writing this research paper, I know that nature has helped Santiago and Siddhartha in achieving that eternal bliss though I don't know what eternal bliss is in actually, as I have not yet felt and experienced it, but when the characters of these novels were communicating with nature I myself along with them was communicating and learning. If the nature present and mentioned in the book can teach me and would lead to such experience then I want to know that what would that person will really feel when he will be able to communicate and listen to the nature around him? That communication will lead to answers of his questions and ultimately to that eternal bliss.

## References

- Auden W.H. 1950. *The Enchanted Flood: The Romantic Iconography of the Sea* New York: Radom.
- Desai, Anita 1995. *Journey to Ithaca*. London: Vintage.
- Hesse, Hermann. 1992. *Siddhartha* tran.Hidla Rosener. New Delhi: Rupa and co.
- Henry and Garland Mary 1976 *The Oxford Companion to German Literature* Oxford: Lalr endon Press.
- Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*. Harper Collins Publishers limited. 2004.
- *The Alchemist*, Harper Collins Paper back. 1998, P.21.
- ^Paulo Coelho Bibliography on Paulocoelho.com.
- ^A Brief History of the Book Saint Jordi Asociados.
- ^"Best Sellers". *The New York Times*. Retrieved 2017.1.10.
- ^*The Alchemist* Book Preview Google Books.
- ^*The Life of Siddhartha Gautama*". Web space. Ship. edu. Reprieved 2017.1.10.
- ^Om (2017.1.10).
- ^Paul, Edwards. 1967. *The Encyclopaedia of Philosophy*. Vol-4. New York: Macmillan.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Hesse, Hermann. *Siddhartha* Published 1992.
- Paulo Coelho. *The Alchemist*. New York: Harper Collins, 1998.

## APPENDICES

### APPENDIX-A

I have designed the Appendix-A to give more clarity about the topic. It's a supplementary material which will enhance and provide more understanding and depth about the topic.

### APPENDIX-B

I have designed the Appendix-B to put those material which I could not directly use in my research paper as it will create digression from the topic.

### APPENDIX-C

I have designed Appendix-C in order to give extra details and information about the topic, as it is not directly related to the topic but still it will prove interesting and worthy to read.

## APPENDIX-A

- <https://www.enotes.com/homework-help/paulo-coelhos-alchemist-what-personal-legend-92797> <7.1.17>
- <http://www.speakingtree.in/blog/nature-the-worlds-best-teacher> <8.1.17>
- <http://www.spaceandmotion.com/Philosophy-Truth-Reality.htm> <8.1.17>

- <https://emulateme.wordpress.com/essentials-of-self-realization/> <9.1.17>
- [http://www.yogananda.com.au/sepy\\_talks/realization2\\_infinite\\_nature.html](http://www.yogananda.com.au/sepy_talks/realization2_infinite_nature.html) <10.1.17>

#### APPENDIX-B

- <http://hindupad.com/what-is-maharasa-does-lord-krishna-perform-maharasa-even-today/> <5.1.17>
- <http://ijellh.com/exploration-aurobindos-mystic-consciousness-rose-god/> <5.1.17>
- [http://www.sol.com.au/kor/20\\_03.htm](http://www.sol.com.au/kor/20_03.htm) <5.1.17>
- <http://www.collective-evolution.com/2015/03/22/5-stages-of-the-path-from-awakening-to-enlightenment/> <7.1.17>
- <http://www.speakingtree.in/blog/eternal-bliss-is-it-a-myth-or-a-reality> <6.1.17>
- <https://www.takingcharge.csh.umn.edu/enhance-your-wellbeing/environment/nature-and-us/how-does-nature-impact-our-wellbeing> <8.1.17>
- <http://connection.ebscohost.com/c/articles/86683456/journey-towards-destiny-paulo-coelhos-chemist> <9.1.17>
- <http://hindinest.com/bhaktikal/02452.htm> <4.1.17>

#### APPENDIX-C

- <http://www.blackboarddreams.com/comparative-essay-siddhartha-and-the-chemist/> <6.1.17>
- <https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/s/siddhartha/hermann-hesse-biography> <8.1.17>
- <http://msia.org.au/spiritual-awakening/> <9.1.17>
- <https://prernamurti.wordpress.com/tag/eternal-bliss-meaning-in-hindi/> <4.1.17>
- [https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/64845.William\\_Wordsworth](https://www.goodreads.com/author/quotes/64845.William_Wordsworth) <6.1.17>
- <http://tinybuddha.com/blog/realizing-your-self-worth-and-believing-in-your-path/> <8.1.17>
- <http://www.wikihow.com/Embrace-and-Follow-Your-Personal-Legend> <10.1.17>
- [Gopi's Explain Uddhav What is Love - YouTube](#) <5.1.17>
- [Maha Raas Leela - YouTube](#) <4.1.17>

