



A Review about The Real Happiness of SANTIAGO

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Abstract

“Institutions of Society” plays the greatest role in showing the way to the individual to follow “his/her dreams”. Society’s every part work for the stability and due to this humans are developing. To unify the aims of individuals, “life of humans and their social interaction” helps a lot. What help in development of personnel is, our society and its culture, it also helps in achieving individual’s goals. “The Alchemist” was published in 1988 by “Paulo Coelho”. This novel tells us about a “young Andalusian shepherd” and his journey to Egypt; he starts his journey because of dream that tells him that he will be able to find treasure there. According to this novel, that journey of our young shepherd was mandatory. “It is about the essential wisdom of listening to a heart and above all, following our dreams. When you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it”. And this becomes the heart of the novel i.e. main theme of the story.



Keywords: Happiness, Dreams, love

Introduction

This novel is mainly about various journeys which our main character “Santiago” do to fulfill his dreams. This book shows about “magic and wisdom”. This novel gives us the story about Santiago who travels in search of treasure which till now no one has found. He started his journey from his home which is in Spain to the market and then reached to Egyptian desert where he will be meeting with the alchemist. *“This story teaches about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, learning to read the omens sprinkled along life’s path and above all following our dreams”*. He in the course of journey had spent 2 years with them without food and water. They all were well-aware of his routine, he also tells them about his loneliness but they only cared about “food and water”. The sheep only wanted food and water for which in return they give their “wool, company and meat”.

The Real Happiness of Santiago :



Santiago who is the protagonist of the novel is a kind of character who is always in search of happiness. In the very start, he is shown as an individual, who is always in search of something, who thinks something is missing in his life. Even though, his father has always fulfilled his every material needs. Being a shepherd boy he never has lack of money as his father had enough sheep but due to his dreams he was always disturbed; *“it’s the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting”*. He dream about the Egyptian treasure to which a child showed him the way but he woke at that moment when that child was about to tell him the exact location.

His dream which he saw last night made him uneasy and he felt nervous because that dream occurred twice to him and therefore he eagerly wanted to know the true meaning of that dream. That made him feels like “he is missing something in life which is his real happiness and spiritual needs”. And to find that this, he is eager to do anything; he can go through all the difficulties of life. Even though his father was not in favor of this but then too he decided to “leave his home and family and roam alone”. He promised “one-tenth of the treasure” to the old Gypsy woman in order to illustrate his dream. And he also promised “one-tenth of his sheep” to Melchizedek if he helps him find the treasure. It can be observed when Melchizedek tells Santiago:

*“Tomorrow, at this same time, bring me a tenth of
your flock. And I will tell you how to find the hidden treasure”
and the next day, the boy met the old man at noon.
He brought six sheep with him”.*

Even though he did not know that whether the treasure or the Egyptian Pyramids were really there or not but the above statement shows that he was really eager to find that. And he also does not know what that treasure really is. “Losing of flock” was just the starting of sacrifice he has to do to find the hidden treasure and lost his health twice:

*“all the money he brought was taken by a Stanger
when he first arrived in Africa, and the gold he got
from the Alchemist was robbed when he arrived at the*



Egyptian Pyramids, the place where he believes his treasure is hidden”.

He gets immensely happy when he gets to know about the exact place of his hidden treasure:

“... his heart bursting with joy. Because now he knew where his treasure was”.

He becomes sure of the fact that his treasure is not in the “Egyptian Pyramids” as *“they seemed to laugh at him, and he laughed back; it is in the place where the leader of the robbers has dreamt and told him”.*

The dream which robber’s leader saw was the hint for Santiago about where the treasure is actually located and which results him to be at his own house. Although he has wandered a lot and has crossed the desert in order to find the treasure which then was there in his own house, he then too does everything patiently which also includes risking his own life.

“In his pursuit of the dream, he was being constantly subjected to tests of his persistence and courage. So he could not be hasty, or impatient. If he pushed forward impulsively, he would fail to see the signs and omens left by God along his path”.

He has all this to find happiness which he was sure that he will actually find then. It is actual true that he was successful in finding the treasure: *“a chest of Spanish gold coins”.* *“There were also precious stones, gold masks adorned with red and white feathers, and stone statues embedded with jewels”.* Idea about the hidden was much above the jewelry or the stones he found; it was much deeper in sense. In following his dream of getting the treasure he met a girl named Fatima who was a desert girl and fell in love with her. This made her as his treasure; part of his dreams as she says:

*“You have told me about your dreams, about the old king
and your treasure. And you’ve told me about omens.
So now, I fear nothing, because it was those omens that
brought you to me. And I am a part of your dream, a part
of your destiny, as you call it the dunes are changed*



*by the wind, but the desert never changes. That's
the way it will be with our love for each other."*

"Maktub, she said, *If I am really a part of your dream, you'll come back one day.*" And this tells us that finding the treasure for not only about material like jewels or stones but was much above that. That is he found his most "invaluable treasure" that is his love as he says:

*"I'm going to wait here for you every day. I have crossed
the desert in search of a treasure that is somewhere
near the Pyramids, and for me, the war seemed a curse.
But now it's a blessing, because it brought me to you."*

He gets obstacles in this journey like once he caught in war between the tribes which could have stopped him finding the treasure but no obstacle was above his dream and his will to happiness. He knew that Fatima's meet has now become his "*destiny and Fatima was more important than his treasure*" like what the alchemist says:

*"If what one finds is made of pure matter, it
will never spoil. And one can always come back.
If what you had found was only a moment of light,
like the explosion of a star, you would find nothing on your return."*

"Though the alchemist is speaking the language of alchemy, Santiago knows that the alchemist is referring to Fatima". And in this course he is able to find both treasure i.e., Fatima and gold. Due to his passion of dreams he is able to find the treasure that is gold and jewelry but he gets to know that the main motive in going to the pyramids was to find Fatima "*it's true; life really is generous to those who pursue their destiny*". "*It also shows that everything is written in the Soul of the World, and there it will stay forever*".

He can now feel that his love is waiting for him to visit her:



“The wind began to blow again. It was the levanter, the wind that came from Africa. It didn’t bring with it the smell of the desert, nor the threat of Moorish invasion. Instead, it brought the scent of a perfume he knew well, and the touch of a kiss – a kiss that came from far away, slowly, slowly, until it rested on his lips.” ... “I’m coming, Fatima, he said”.

It shows that he is successful in finding his true meaning of happiness. Because *“he believes that when someone is in pursuit of his destiny, the entire universe made an effort to help him succeed, his efforts are not in vain”*. There is truth in the fact that the meeting was written in his destiny or it is “Maktub” but the visit to desert gave him *“an understanding of the world; in fact, anything on the face of the earth will do that”*.

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