

The Alchemist, by Paulo Coelho, is a fable of a Sheppard who follows his dream, or personal legend, and listens to his heart and the soul of the world. The Sheppard has a dream of a treasure buried within the pyramids of Egypt, and decides to go there and find it. Along the way the Sheppard meets a king, gets robbed of all his money, has to work at a crystal shop for two years, and almost gives up on his dream. The Sheppard however remembers the words of the king who told him “every blessing ignored becomes a curse” (58) and decides to continue on his way. The boy has to live in an oasis while the war is going on, and meets two people that change his life forever. Fatima, the girl whom he loves, and The Alchemist, one of the wisest men.

The Alchemist has contributed most to the story of my current life. This book has given me insights on many different subjects such as, love, God, dreams, and life in general. I first read this book about two years ago, and since then I have read it multiple times, each time grasping the concepts in a new light. Paulo Coelho’s words on these beliefs are timeless, meaningful, and extremely impacting.

Everyone in this world falls in love at least once, changing their worlds forever and changing them forever. Coelho states that “the world we live in will be either better or worse, depending on whether we become better or worse, and that’s when the power of love comes in. Because when we love, we always strive to become better than we are” (151). Whenever I am in love, I always strive to become a better version of who I am, for myself, and the one that I love. That small change in my attitude effects everybody around me, whether I take notice to it or not. Trying to become a better version of myself effects my grades in school, my effort at work, my family life, and all of my relationships. “When we strive to become better than we are, everything around us becomes better, too” (151).

The biggest question in the world is “does God exist?”, and everyone can answer that question differently- just look how many religions inhabit this world. My personal faith has changed immensely throughout the years. At one point I was ignorant, not even pondering the existence of a higher power, then I followed Christianity blindly, and more recently lost almost everything good in my life, and decided there could be no “all-knowing God”. Reading this book this past time has really opened my eyes open to God again. Many misfortunate events happen to the boy throughout the course of the story, but he never loses his faith in God, because “everything under the sun has been written by one hand only” (93). This makes me believe in fate, and that each unpleasant event happened only to lead the enjoyable events that are going to take place.

Every person in this world has had a dream, not the kind of dream that you have during the night, but an achievable dream. My dream is to make a difference in this world- my soul purpose in this lifetime is to change at least one person for the better, if not more and “it’s the possibility of having a dream come true that makes life interesting” (11). I am however, somewhat afraid of attempting to achieve this goal, but “there is only one thing that makes a dream impossible to achieve; the fear of failure” (141). Putting my fear aside will not only help me to grow as a person, but will also help me to change the world, one person at a time.

All of these recurring themes in The Alchemist are involved in every day life. This book helped me to understand and grasp the concepts in a new light, and helped to mold me into the person I am today. This book taught me how to love, gave me faith in God , and helped me to realize my dream. I’ve always been afraid to live my dream, but it is worth taking a risk, because similar to the boy, I do not know if my visions will come true, you just have to have faith in love, faith in God, and faith in the power of your dreams.