

# Study of Hopes, Positivity and Preaching in the Selected Works of Paulo Coelho

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## ABSTRACT

The basic motive of this research paper is to investigate Paulo Coelho as an optimistic writer through his writings. In this regard, researcher use subjective study in which they put their opinions about Coelho's optimistic ideas with the reference of his writings. The researcher select three novels in this way such as, *The Alchemist*, *The Fifth Mountain* and *Brida*. The researcher used all these novels as primary sources in this research paper. The researcher depicts Coelho's attitude, views, opinions and vision about his characters through his writing style. The researcher interprets Coelho's optimism on the basis of existentialism philosophy.

"What hurts us is what heals us"

-Paulo Coelho

## 1. Introduction

Theory of existentialism is a vital tool for the analysis of Coelho's vision in this article. Theory of existentialism has been interpreted differently by different writers. Its concept varies from writer to writer. But there some writers who did their best in this field such as Soren Kierkegaard, Martin Heidegger, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus. These existentialists are known as basic pillars of this philosophy because they made the idea of this philosophy easier for their readers. But apart from all of these Jean Paul Sartre is most prominent philosopher among them about this philosophy. Whenever we talk about existentialism we talk about Jean Paul Sartre too. Sartre says that according to existentialism philosophy man is nothing, first of all he exists then he sort out the true meaning of his life and after that he becomes able to get whatever he wants. All the existentialists' thinkers strongly agreed on this matter that existentialism philosophy is all about freedom and choices. Man goes through various trials in order to know the true meaning of his life. (pp. 2-4)

Paulo Coelho (1947) is a Brazilian writer who laid a great focus on Brazilian literature. He is a person who has written various books and all of his writing is full of optimistic views. His characters face various problems in their lives but they never give up and never lose hope. At the end of their journey they succeeded in their aims. In this way Paulo Coelho gives a message of hope and optimism to his readers.

In his novel in the, *The Alchemist* he delivered a very impressive message of optimism and hope through the character of Santiago. Santiago is a young boy who is shepherd who wants to explore the world in order to fulfill his destiny and goal. On his way he faces various tribulations and challenges but he doesn't lose hope and gets whatever he desires.

In *The Fifth Mountain* there is a young man Elijah who left his homeland and his relatives in order to achieve his aim. On his way he faces various trials he lose he near and dear one's people turned against him but he never lose hope and at the end he succeeded in his goal.

*Brida* is a story of a young charming girl who set out his journey in order to learn magical powers. She wants to learn magic for the sake of true meaning of her life. In this way she faces various problems but she doesn't lose hope and at the end she gets her aim. (p. 4)

## 2. Methodology

Theory of existentialism is used as framework in this study. Paulo Coelho's novels, *The Alchemist*, *Brida* and *The Fifth Mountain* are used a primary sources. The researcher interpret Coelho's optimistic vision through his writings with the help of existentialism philosophy.

## 3. Objectives

Following are the major objectives of this research work:

1. To investigate Paulo Coelho's optimistic views about human beings.
2. To understand the views of different existentialists regarding existentialism approach.
3. To observe how Paulo Coelho's characters face challenges and achieve their aims.

## 4. Analysis of Paulo Coelho's Views through his Writings

In this section, the researcher has interpreted Paulo Coelho's optimistic views about human existence with the help of his different characters through his writings. In his novel in *The Alchemist* we can see Coelho's optimism through the character of Santiago. He has portrayed his great vision about human beings and he also presented a strong theme of hope to his readers.

The old man stated to the boy, "And, when you want something, the entire universe conspires in helping you to achieve it" (1988, p. 42). This line has been taken from the novel *Alchemist* in which Paulo Coelho through the character

of an old man it conveys that nothing is impossible for you. If you want to achieve something on your life you can get it easily because nature will help you out and support you.

We can also see a touch of optimism through this line from the text. The old man said to the boy, "People are capable, at any time in their lives, of doing what they dream of" (1988, p. 12).

This line also from the text of *The Alchemist* showed Coelho's optimism through the character of an old man and Santiago in which an old man said to the boy we are capable of getting anything in our life the only thing that we have to do is determination.

If we talk about Coelho's other novel, *Brida*. It is also an inspirational and optimistic novel in which Coelho depicts his vision which makes him an optimistic writer. So, here we go in order to analyse through the text of the novel. He would say, "The night is just a part of the day" (1990, p. 16).

This line has been taken from the novel *Brida* in which Paulo Coelho says that do not be worried about your tribulations and problems which come in your life because these tribulations are not last forever. These problems are just like night as night is a part of the day similarly tribulations are just part of our life rather than whole. Again there is an optimistic vision of Coelho in this line. *Brida's* father said to her, "Nothing in the world is ever completely wrong. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day" (1990, p. 77).

These lines from the text of *Brida* showed Coelho's vast concept about positivism. Through these lines Coelho wants to tell his readers do not try to find out negativity in everything. Everything in this universe has a great purpose nothing is useless or meaningless. So, it's up to us that how we observe or interpret the things in our lives. This is the matter of our thinking and our thinking can transfer good into bad and vice versa.

If we take Paulo Coelho's novel, *The Fifth Mountain* there are also so many points which give a sense of optimism. In this novel, Paulo Coelho reveals the great secrets of one's life and he also provides his meaningful views about human beings.

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Elijah is a protagonist of this novel, who has been ejected from his native land who goes to a stranger land where he faces the most difficult time of his life but he never loses hope. In this way, Coelho gives an optimistic message through the character of Elijah. He declared that "Because my soul told me that a man must go through various stages before he can fulfill his destiny" (1996, p. 22).

Through this line from the text, Coelho wants to show his readers do not bother about tribulations these are just temporary part of our lives. We must face them courageously in order to achieve our aim. He stated to the widow's boy, "Sadness does not last forever when we walk in the direction of that which we always desired" (1996, p. 14).

In this line from the text, Elijah the Protagonist of the novel depicted Coelho's views. He said to the boy sadness is nothing when you have a motive. Sadness just comes in our lives in order to make us realize our identity. This does not last forever so whenever it comes to you then you shouldn't be afraid. He said to the boy, "All life's battles teach us something, even those we lose" (1996, p.78).

In this line from the text Elijah declared to the boy everything in our lives give us something new for learning. We must learn something new at everyday in our lives. If we do not get or learn new at every morning it simply means we are wasting our life.

## 5. Conclusion

In this section, it can be concluded that above all of the discussion and analysis from the selected novels of Paulo Coelho, it is proved that Paulo Coelho's views about human beings in this world are optimistic. In all of his writings from the very first line to till end he delivers an optimistic message to his readers. Every character of his different novels gives a touch of positivism. They go through various trials and tribulations but they never give up at any cost. This is exactly what Paulo Coelho wants to show his readers that always try to find out good into bad.

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