

Philosophical Dimensions In Paulo Coelho's The Zahir

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ABSTRACT

In this paper Research Scholar focuses on Philosophical aspects of Paulo Coelho in his work 'The Zahir'. Paulo Coelho is world famous writer and best seller of his work 'The Alchemist'. He spreads philosophy of life through his works. In his all works, readers find the different outlook towards life, and through his works, readers inspired to live in a unique way and here Research Scholar attempts to highlight those lessons of life in his work 'The Zahir'.

Keywords

Philosophy, love, life, medals, freedom, defeat, hidden power

The Zahir is the full of philosophical work of Paulo Coelho published in 2005. This is the story of an author whose wife is disappeared. In addition, he is in search of her, he started his journey, through this journey, he come across the truth of his own life, and it takes him from South America to Spain, France and many places. This journey leads him to the understanding of the nature of love, the power of destiny and what it really means to follow your heart. Very beautifully the author describe how to live life in a wonderful way, along with he give his own example by saying how he gets enjoyment through pain also. Even he never wants to forget the worst time of his time. For this he says in this novel,

“I always look at my scars as if they were medals and therefore I never feel regret about the painful times, but. I know that freedom includes very high worth and it is as high as that of slavery and here solely difference I found is that you just pay with whole your heart and with smile and pleasure, even when that smile is dimmed through tears.”

In the personal life of an author was so difficult, and still he raise himself from those difficulties and get success through his writing. Here the research scholar finds his reflection of life in this novel. In 'The Zahir' the central character was in a search of his wife, but simultaneously he was in search for himself. He struggled a lot for this searching, and through it, he presents the philosophy of life. As discussed above we means human beings tend to suffer and after the struggle also we feel that pain through remember those incidents as a painful thing. However, we spoil our present. Here the great lesson we find that we should take our sufferings as medals, because medals are given to those who succeed, and we also get success through overcome those difficulties. Therefore, we should remember that painful period as a proud moment for us, and remember them as our medals. Therefore, whenever we look back, we never have the pain, but have that medal which bring smile on our face. Further, he says about the past is that

"It is not my tale anymore: whenever I speak regarding the past now, I feel like I was talking about the thing that has nothing to do with me. All that past things remain in the present are the voice, the presence, and the importance of fulfilling my mission. I don't have regret about the difficulties I have experienced; I believe that they help me in becoming the person who I am today, I feel like a warrior must feel after his training; he does not remember the details of everything he learned, but he understands how to strike when the time is right."

As he above discussed, repeatedly he says that we should consider our past as a voice. It should not be with us anymore. In addition, whenever we have time to remember it, we should take it as a positive way, because those experiences made us strong and capable for any situation to face. Paulo Coelho includes each and every phase of the life. Friend is a person who plays very important role in our life. In addition, the friendship matters a lot in one's life. However, the question is to whom we can consider a good friend, and the answer of this question

We can consider good friends to those who remain with us when the good things happen. They are ready to cheer us on and are become happy by our triumphs. In addition, consider false friends to those who only present at

difficult times, with their sad, supportive faces, when, in actual sense, our sufferings are serving to console them for their miserable lives. (29)

Generally, we consider good friends to those who give support in our miserable phase of life. However, her author says that the true friend is who remain present in our happiness, and this is the fact that there are maximum number of people who cannot bear others happiness, somehow they feel jealous, because they do not have that happiness. That times the true friend who feels equal happiness and can cheer with us without jealousy. Other side a person who come in our difficult time, according to the author maximum number of people come only console them for their miserable lives means they are already in difficult time, and by seeing us in difficult time then they feel some relief to see us. So apparently, they sympathise us, console us, but simultaneously feel good and console.

In very simple and lucid language, Paulo Coelho gives the explanation of good relation. Even he teaches the reader how to maintain the relation and how to recognise the real personality of the person. Along with this, he gives the idea of how to deal with our dream and what are the obstacles come in our journey of dream and how to cope up with it. In this novel, he presents the reason after forgetting our dream. In one place when Ester asked the old man why people are sad;

"That's simple," says the old man. "They are the prisoners of their personal history. Everyone believes that the important aim in our life is to follow an idea. They never notice whether that plan is theirs or any other person created it. They accumulate experiences, memories, things, different people's ideas, and it is quite that they will probably address them. That is why they forget their dreams. (88)

This is truly says this, because we make plan of life according to other person. Therefore, we cannot cope up with the dream and at last, they give up the effort and become sad. In every novel, Paulo Coelho gives such example, as in *The Alchemist*, the central character who frequently attempts to leave his dream, but he had the devotion, which lead him to his destination. Therefore, it is very important for us to make a goal and it must be of our own, then only we can reach and fulfil it. In addition, it is truly

said that we make mistake in making our aim, sometimes we make under the influence of others and sometimes we ignore our capacity and make an aim, which become impossible to complete. Therefore, we must be accurate in making our dream.

“The giving-up pointor accommodator : there is always a phase in everybody’s lives which is responsible for failing to go forward which may be a very bitter defeat, a trauma, a failure in love, even the success that we cannot easily understand, will make cowards of us and become hurdles for us from moving to lead on. Therefore to increase his hidden powers, the person must first of all free himself from that giving-up point and, to do so, he should review his whole life and find out where it arose.”

As above, we discussed, due to some reason, at one point we leave our dream to follow, but we cannot understand that point where we need to understand the situation and choices we have. The situation may be of our failure in love, or any defeat or it can be any happy one when we choose to quite our dream. Therefore, we should recognise that point or that situation when we ready to quite our dream. It may be due to our contentment or our pessimistic point of view towards dream. Therefore, it is very important to understand the things and not to quite dream.

About the happiness and our perception towards happiness, he mentions this in the dialogue of characters.

In addition, why people become unhappy? For this question he replies

It is simple themselves that: why am I unhappy? This question brings among it one type of virus which can destroy everything. If we attempt to raise that question, it means that we want to find out what makes us happy. If we realise that what makes us happy is very dissimilar from what we already have now, then we must whether change once and for all or stay as we are, feeling even unhappy more. (60)

It is very important that how we take things, our perception matters a lot. Here writer emphasises on how we ask question. If we ask that why I am unhappy means you have negative approach towards life and it is not possible that there is no happiness in your life. Therefore, it is better to ask how to increase happiness.

Further, the writer also focuses the readers' attention on how a human being suffers due to expectation;

“People need understanding that on this world, no one is coming to play with marked cards, it is obvious that sometimes we get triumph and sometimes we lose even. Therefore, we should not expect to get anything back, not expect to recognition for your efforts, and not even expect your genius to be discovered by others or your love to be understood”

In very eloquent way, the author gives the lesson of life in this novel, and emphasises on how we do things and expect to take back in reward. It is the truth that we also want someone to love us when we love that person. In addition, if the things go wrong or it is not up to our expectation then we feel hurt. Therefore, it is better for us to do things without expectation, love selflessly and never expect reward or recognition for your effort. It is very hard to do, but not impossible.

In every work of Paulo Coelho, he gives the views of love, in this book, he says that

“Love is one type of disease and no one wants to get rid of it. Those people who try to catch it, they never try to get better, and those people who suffer, they never wish to be cured.” (143)

It is obvious thing that we seek love from the beginning, and when we get that then we never want to let it go. It is good to have love and to be loved, but sometimes it gives sufferings and still we hold it, we do not want to get rid of it. Same way if we already have love, then we never try to see others for love. Therefore, it becomes like disease for us. In addition, we like to be a patient of this disease.

Paulo Coelho also deals with our day-to-day life. He is aware of the current scenario of modern life style and modern thinking; therefore, very practically he can point out some lacking which appears clearly. Now days we get pleasure from many things and that is why we ignore to talk with people, but according to the author, to talk with people, help us to change the world. At one point he says in ‘The Zahir’;

“The most vital issue altogether human relationships is conversation, however, they do not like to talk anymore, they don't spare time to sit down

to talk and listen. They prefer to go to the theater, the cinema, watch television, listen to the radio, read books, but they virtually never talk. If we wish to change the world, then we need to go back to that time when warriors would gather around a fire and tell stories.”

Truly said, generally, people talk for changing the world, but they do not know how to change it. In our free time, we prefer to do things, which we like, and we ignore to talk with people. In the past decades, warriors were used to sit around the fire and they share their experiences and tell stories of bravery, which help them to understand things better and learn different skills through their stories and experiences. That conversation helps them to encourage each other and even they feel inspired. So it is more important to talk with each other, it increases our knowledge and push us up to do things better. In addition, it is the initial step to change the world.

WORK CITATION

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