

## “To realize one’s destiny is a person’s only obligation”

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I have heard of this book, ‘The Alchemist’ from people everywhere; peers, teachers, friends, and even family members. The reputation of this book has spread throughout the world. It has gained immense popularity and fame. I have decided to open the very first page of ‘The Alchemist’ and discover for myself the realms of this enchanting novel. Why is this book so popular and recommended by everyone? Maybe ‘The Alchemist’ is a complete disaster and people simply read it so they will be considered ‘cool’ and ‘trendy.’ Personally, I do not even have the simplest concept of alchemy, and neither am I interested in the art of alchemy nor fancy the idea of transforming metals into gold. However, within minutes of first reading the book, my earlier suspicions are immediately contradicted. This is a magnificent story that reaches far beyond the subject of alchemy and into the souls of everyone of us readers. ‘The Alchemist’ is a unique book; a book with such deep meaning that surpasses all other novels. I sing praise to Paul Coelho for producing such a masterpiece that has become the gem of envy and admiration in literature. This is my journey in encountering ‘The Alchemist,’ ...

I have always wondered and gone through much debate,  
What is this book that has acquired a stunning reputation of one so great?  
Like a highly contagious disease that spreads from one to another in this hook,  
Alas, I succumb to the irresistible temptation of opening the book.

My eyes are glued immobile onto the page,  
My soul entirely immersed into a new world as I meet this sage.  
A boy named Santiago who is a shepherd,  
Born to pursue his dreams of destiny of which he has heard.

He starts off as a shrewd and unique boy,  
Who has already realized his Personal Legend and is perplexed in the midst of uncertainty and joy.  
The honourable King of Salem has deliberately visited him,  
To guide him as he begins his journey and protect him with the stones Urim and Thummim.

He, who pursues his dreams in finding his treasure in the Pyramids across the enormous foreboding desert,

Sets off on a test from the Andalusian plains that he has roamed countless times to an unknown territory without putting on full alert.  
His innocence and inexperience fools him into readily believing anyone,  
Hence he learns a valuable lesson through another test when all his possessions are stolen by his most trusted one.  
I feel his distress as he plunges into such unfortunate abyss at the loss of all his years of hard earning,  
All gone at a split second without the slightest warning.  
I praise him for he has not given up hope in discovering his Personal Legend even he is impeded by such an unfortunate plight,  
As he continues to strive tenaciously with all his might.

His divine perseverance is far beyond my measures,  
He ventures into the merciless, eternal waste of the Sahara to find his treasures.  
The boy is successful for he has found his most precious prize; his true love,  
Along with a teacher who helps him fulfill his destiny by teaching him superb powers so he can turn himself into anything; even into a dove.

This book is a thrilling adventure,  
I feel myself traveling within it experiencing seismic surprises with my spirit high in temperature.  
Will the boy survive in the war torn desert and achieve his Personal Legend or will he succumb to the challenges of the desert's lethal wail?  
I will not tell you; this is for you to discover when you read this epic tale.

This book depicts a philosophy of deep understanding of our universe,  
Teaching us to embrace our dreams however great and diverse.  
Featuring a tortuous plot gradually unearthing its secrets,  
With a theme as bold as the strongest spirits.

The author's concise words of power,  
Penetrate into my mind repeating over and again even when I am in the shower.  
An artist using words to paint vivid images of sensation,  
As I plunge into his fantastic imagination.

He leads me to respect the desert from a totally different point of view,  
Not a dead, desolate wasteland with nothing there to pursue.  
But a cache of treasures, rivalry, and even a foundation of bliss,

For “the desert is the best teacher there is.”

How I wish to become Santiago who surpasses impossibility,  
Performing miracles as the author fills him with capability.  
We share inherent characteristics of high calibre,  
For we are always brimming with determination and valor.

The tension of this book soars up and down all the way,  
Never ceasing to fascinate the reader by creating major suspense with everything the author has to convey.  
It hangs the readers with suspicion submerged in this grasping concoction,  
As we await the ultimate event in the book that makes us scream with tension.

This author, Paul Coelho is a sagacious man,  
For he has portrayed the understanding of seeing the world as one united clan.  
His keen words have inspired many people throughout the world in any nation,  
“To realize one’s destiny is a person’s only obligation.”

I strongly recommend this breathtaking story to every one of you readers,  
Whether you are old or young, adult or child, it does not matter so long as you are an adventure seeker.  
A simple theme yet deep with complicity, ‘Maktub,’  
An educational experience for me to have such a fortunate opportunity to enjoy the masterpiece of the international bestseller and join with him once again to bless you, ‘Maktub.’