

Book review - The Alchemist

By Lesley Chu

The Alchemist is an electrifying story written by a very imaginative author, Paulo Coelho. It was so interesting that I could not take my eyes off the book! I found the ending really amazing. I would like to recommend this book to anyone who has lost their dreams. One of the sentences in the book that appears most frequently is, when you want something, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it? so never give up your dream!

Go and search for your dream now!

There are three main characters in the book. They are: Santiago, the Alchemist and Fatima. The book tells of some good things that they did, and which we should follow and some mistakes we should avoid.

SANTIAGO

Santiago looked for the treasure which appeared in his recurrent dreams
Alchemist was his light in the darkness
Never gave up on his journey to the pyramids
The beautiful Fatima was his unexpected gift from God
In search of the Soul of the World which he did not regret
After all the difficult tests, there was still a major problem waiting for him
God finally helped him because of his strong belief in HIM
Overcame obstacles: Santiago became a real Alchemist? who changed himself from being a boring shepherd into a real adventurer

Santiago was a man of courage and braveness because he left his home country Spain and decided to go to a country that he knew nothing about. Although he was not sure if there really was any treasure, he used all of his money from selling his precious sheep to give himself the opportunity to find the treasure. He was also a man with high EQ. On his way, though someone tricked him and took his money, he did not get angry and upset. We should all learn from him: no one would then quarrel and the world would be in peace: there would be no more wars.

However, one thing that was certainly not good about him was that he trusted people too easily. When the Gypsy told him that he would find some treasure, he just believed it. When the old king told him about the omens, without question, he believed it too. If he was now living in Hong Kong today, he could be cheated easily. We must never believe anything without thinking!

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ALCHEMIST

- A lchemist was a man 200 years old, who carried a falcon
- L iked to help and teach people without them noticing
- C ould turn metal into gold
- H ad a philosopher's stone that no one else had
- E ver lasting body was what he possessed
- M any people were longing to find him so that they could learn alchemy
- I f we drink his Elixir of life, we will never be sick
- S o almighty, was he, that he could turn himself into wind
- T rained a snake with his hand because he was just so powerful

My favourite character in the book is the Alchemist. He could turn any metal into gold and do unbelievable things! Despite the fact that he had this special talent, he did not show it off. He did not boast to the citizens in the oasis, therefore, no one knew he practised alchemy. If I could turn things into gold, I would give some gold to my mother, father, families and friends. I would also like to share the gold with the beggars, orphans and anyone that is in need in order to make their lives better. However, there may be a dilemma! If the Earth is full of gold, gold will not be valuable any more! I also wish I could have the Elixir of life so that I would never be sick, but the negative side is that I can never be absent from school using the excuse of illness!

FATIMA

- F atima was the woman of the desert
- A ll she wanted was to see Santiago come back from his journey
- T oughness was what she needed to survive
- I like her saying that, "we don't need to have what we like" (aktub? (means *t* written down)). That was her belief
- A llah had already planned her life and fate

I think Fatima was a very intelligent, patient and kind lady because she helped people even though she didn't know them, just as the way she helped Santiago. However, there was one thing she did that I do not support. She fell in love with Santiago when she did not even know him. She just met Santiago next to the well in the oasis when she was fetching water. How can we like someone whom we do not know well! Love by first sight? is not reliable: we should know a person well before we trust them.

(799 words)

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