APPENDICES

BIOGRAPHY OF PAULO COELHO

Paulo Coelho was born in Rio de Janeiro in 1947, the son of an engineer and a housewife. He attended a Jesuit school, and from a young age Coelho dreamed of becoming a writer. According to Coelho, his parents responded to his artistic aspirations and to his introverted personality by committing him to a mental institution and approving electroconvulsive ("shock") therapy for their son.

Coelho enrolled in law school as a young man but dropped out to travel, through Latin America, North Africa, and Europe. He became involved with a theater group as an actor and director and worked as a journalist, founding a magazine called 2001. He also wrote lyrics for rock songs and collaborated on a political comic strip.

Because of his progressive activities, Coelho was kidnapped and tortured by a Brazilian paramilitary group in 1974. Afterwards, retreating into conventionality, he worked as a music-industry executive.
His life's major turning point occurred when Coelho met a stranger in an Amsterdam café who told him to make the traditional Roman Catholic pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Northern Spain. Coelho did so in 1986. As a result, he experienced an epiphany that readers of *The Alchemist* will recognize: He decided to follow his dream. Coelho set out to become a writer.

**Paulo Coelho’s Career**

Inspired by his journey to Santiago de Compostela, Coelho wrote *The Pilgrimage: Diary of Magus*, about extraordinary events that happen to ordinary people. Published in 1987, the book's commercial and cultural impact was at first negligible.

The following year *The Alchemist* was published. The novel sold only nine hundred copies initially and was not reprinted. Coelho's next book, *Brida*, was well-received, however, and as a result, both *The Pilgrimage* and *The Alchemist* became best-sellers.

Indeed, *The Alchemist* became the best-selling Brazilian book ever and then an international best-seller — one of the best-selling books in history, ultimately.

Coelho has written and published more than twenty-five books in all, including collections of essays and newspaper columns, though most are novels. Some of his best-known books are *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*, *The Fifth Mountain*, *Veronika Decides to Die*, *The Devil and Miss Prym*, *Warrior of the Light: A Manual*, *The Zahir*, and *Eleven Minutes*. The author, now internationally recognized, lives with his wife in Europe and in Rio de Janeiro.

Paulo Coelho is unquestionably one of the most successful authors of recent times, selling more than 100 million books in at least 150 countries internationally. Paulo Coelho has met with a lot of success; his books have been widely translated in a number of languages, earning him the prestigious Guinness
World Record for most translated book by a living author and has received much honor. However, it should be noted that Coelho was not always necessarily celebrated for being the writer that he is today.
SUMMARY OF THE NOVEL

While sleeping near a sycamore tree in the sacristy of an abandoned church, Santiago, a shepherd boy, had a recurring dream about a child who told him that he would find a hidden treasure if he traveled to the Egyptian pyramids.

He traveled to Tarifa and met an old woman who could interpret dream. An old woman told Santiago that this dream was prophetic and that he must followed its instructions. Santiago felt disappointed because the woman could not tell the exact location of his treasure. Next Santiago met a mysterious old man who seemed able to read his mind. This man introduced himself as Melchizedek, or the King of Salem. He told Santiago about good and bad omens and said that it was the shepherd boy's duty to pursue his Destiny after he exchanged his one-tenth sheep to the King. Melchizedek then gave Santiago two stones, Urim and Thummim, with which to interpret omens.

Santiago purchased a ticket to Tangier, in northern Africa, to which he traveled by boat. Shortly after he arrived there, a thief stole all of Santiago's money, so the shepherd boy decided to look for a way to make enough money to return home. He found work in the shop of a crystal merchant, where Santiago made improvements that reap considerable financial rewards.

After eleven months of working in the shop, Santiago was unsure of how to proceed. Should he return to Andalusia a rich man and buy more sheep? Or
should he cross the vast Sahara in pursuit of the hidden treasure of his dreams? He joined a caravan to travel to Egypt.

Santiago met an Englishman who wanted to learn the secret of alchemy, or turning any metal into gold, from a famous alchemist who lived at an oasis on the way to the pyramids. While traveling, Santiago began listening to the desert and discovering the Soul of the World. The caravan eventually reached the oasis, and there Santiago met an Arab girl named Fatima and felt in love with her instantly. The caravan leader gathered the travelers together and told them that tribal warfare prevented them from continuing their journey.

Santiago wandered from the oasis into the desert and, seeing two hawks fighting in the sky, had a vision of an army entering the oasis. Because attacking an oasis is a violation of the rules of the desert, Santiago shared his vision with the oasis's tribal chieftain. Soon afterward, Santiago was confronted by a black-garbed, veiled stranger with a sword, who sit atop a white horse. It was the alchemist. The tribal chieftain armed his men, and they were well-prepared when the oasis was indeed invaded. The alchemist offered to cross the desert with Santiago.

Soon the two men entered into an area of intense tribal warfare. Warriors held the two men captive, but eventually allowed them to continue their journey after Santiago transformed himself as wind that made all the tribesman afraid. The alchemist told Santiago that he need to return to the oasis, and that the rest of the trip was Santiago's plan to make alone so that he could claim his treasure.
Santiago arrived at the Egyptian pyramids and began to dig. He found nothing buried in the ground. Suddenly there were two strangers came to him and they beat Santiago and robed him of his money. After he told them of his dream, though, one of the thieves recounts his own dream about a buried treasure in the sacristy of an abandoned church.

Finally, Santiago could find his hidden treasure when he saw the Pyramids smiled at him. He found a chest of spanish gold coins. There were also precious stones, gold masked adorned with red and white feathers, and stone statues embedded with jewels. He would give a tenth of his treasure to Gypsy woman. And one of the most important thing was that he would back to the Oases and married Fatima, his girl.