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*by King King*

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**Symbolism**

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## Symbolism

### **Introduction**

The concept of symbolism involves words, places, people to describe or represent a meaning or phenomenon. For instance, each road sign shows a particular meaning for all road users should obey for an effective transport system. In literature and writing, symbolism carries deep meaning whereby the writer tries to express more using few words. It acts as a secretive language for writers to convey their message to the reader. Symbolism is used to; add imaginations. The symbolic nature of content connects the theme with the visual elements to try and bring clear meaning. It can add emotions and defines characters connecting the reader with the definite situation (Hambrick, 2018). Also, it covers dark meaning in a way the reader can interpret the message without disrupting their consciousness. lastly, it can connect different themes to bring out the flow of the contextual story. In the Alchemist, the author puts out various symbols to connect different parts of the story. The symbols in this story take different forms from objects, characters, and actions to the language used to give symbolism various meanings. The alchemist outlays the Journey of Santiago from his humble background whereby he leaves his home and embarks on a journey through the desert to the pyramids in pursue of treasures. **In Alchemist, the journey to self-discovery is more important than the sense of belonging as portrayed through symbolism.**

### **The universal language**

The universal language is the common language that is understood and experienced by all creation. Creation in this context means living and non-living. The author uses this language to represent the theme of personal legend. The language in the Alchemist includes fear and love from luck and situations that are happening coincidentally. Between Fatima and Santiago, there is some love chemistry from the secret admiration in both characters.

Santiago can feel Fatima's smile and the author narrates this feeling as an omen he has been waiting for a long time. He can genuinely be feeling that for all the women in his life, Fatima is the only woman, "in his life, and that, with no need for words, when recognizes the same thing" (Musanga, 2009). she is the only one who can understand him, and it becomes more interesting when the feeling is mutual. Santiago can connect with his sheep, people surrounding him, and the environment without even altering words. The universal language derives from the theme of oneness felt throughout the story by Santiago.

### **The sheep**

Santiago's sheep in the Alchemist, symbolize people who have divided attention when making decisions and are blind to find their personal legends. It is evident in the beginning of the book when Santiago notices that sheep "never have to make any decision" on food to eat or water to drink but rely on where the shepherd will direct them (Musanga, 2009). Sheep in this story represent people who never do anything to better their lives but sit by waiting on anyone to push, direct, or influence them to do something no matter how dangerous the act is. Santiago feels like the sheep have no interest in the beautiful scenarios of the land and never appreciate the beautiful view in their travels. The story where Santiago imagines how he could kill the sheep one by one creates disturbing imagery of people who fall into traps and difficult situations without noticing as they try to prove their loyalty. The blind imagery in the book represents characters such as Baker's miss life opportunities as he tries to fulfill his material desires forgetting to pursue his personal legend before meeting Santiago changes his undecisive characteristic nature.

### **The Alchemy**

The story itself is symbolic as the author tries to show the transformation of metal into a more valuable good. In the 8<sup>th</sup> century, the Arab practitioners converted metal into gold

through the process known as alchemy. The alchemist focuses on Santiago's journey as he tries to pursue his personal legend that collaborates with obstacles in his way. Metal sheds out its impurities to attain a valuable symbolizes how the alchemist brings out Santiago's feeling towards Fatima through his natural feeling about her smile. His desire to be accepted by his parents, and even his desire to live the rest of his life as a rich shepherd in pursue of his personal legend. The story turns Santiago's path exciting through enlightenment and truth about his journey from when he left his home to pursue his goals. His evolution from his unknowing nature to becoming more aware of himself in his journey and what he can achieve in life is symbolized by how metal substances evolve to the more precious material. In the story, the alchemist narrates "the soul of the world, and discovering the treasures that have been reserved for you" (Musanga, 2009). This narration is related to Santiago's journey through the desert representing the difficult situation people go through in life and later emerge the winner from life experiences in pursuit of their purpose. Santiago's struggle through the barren land with the storms and excessive heat from the scorching relates to the alchemy process. His new form after achieving his purpose is equally precious with the elements of his treasures after alchemy.

### **Conclusion**

From the story, the symbolic nature brings out the effective flow of the journey from Santiago's home to the pyramids. The symbols show how the paralleled sides of Santiago's life come to confide with each other. Part of his life involves his journey toward pursuing a physical treasure, and the other part reviews his spiritual journey of finding oneself by becoming someone better. From the context of love in the story, Santiago returns to Fatima, the love of his life, and remembers what the alchemist said about love concluding his ability to pursue his personal legend by finding love in the process. The transformation of one situation to another in the story reflects the transformation of Santiago's life from when he

was unaware of who he can become to when he achieved life purpose despite the life obstacles such as fear and anger which are represented by the desert situation.

### References

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