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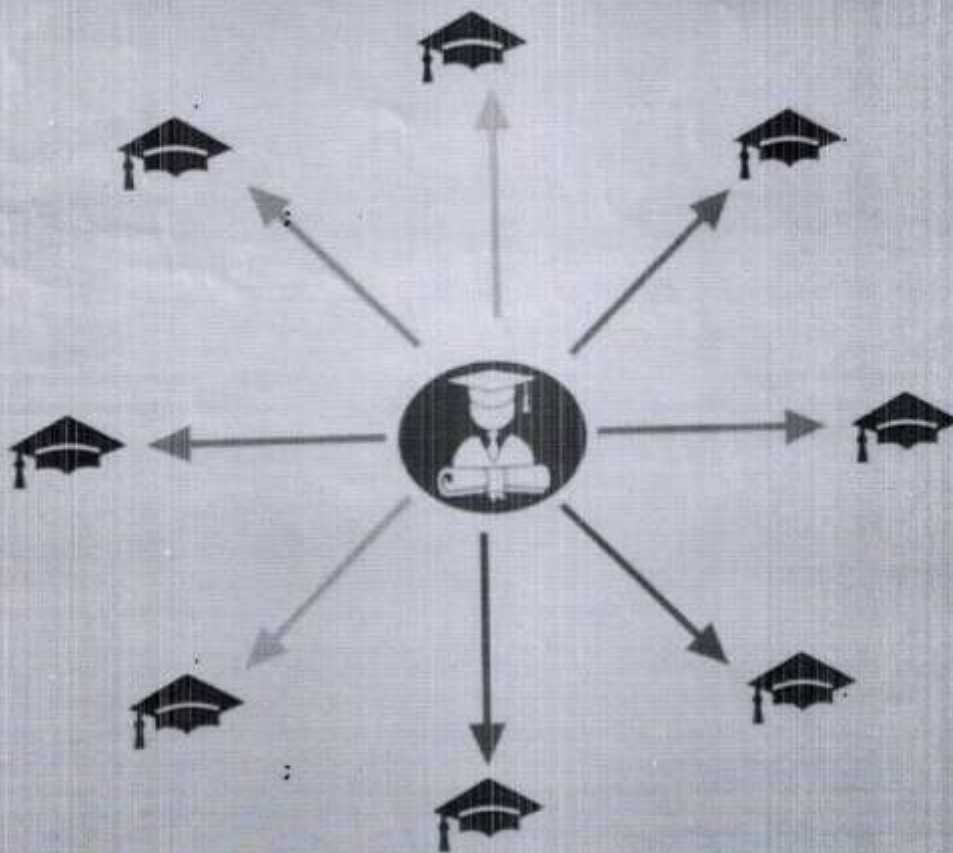
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## SYMBOLISM IN PAULO COELHO'S *THE ALCHEMIST*

Ms. Kundan Makwana<sup>1</sup>  
Research Scholar, HNGU, Patan  
Dr. S. G. Chauhan<sup>2</sup>  
Principal, Palanpur

### Abstract

In this research paper, the research scholar focuses on the depth of symbolism, and on how writers use symbols to give perfect sense to their works. Symbols help the readers to understand the text in a better way. Like Paulo Coelho, world famous writer and bestseller of his book *The Alchemist*, who is popular in using symbols in his works and through symbols he preaches lesson to his readers. In his all works, readers find the different outlook towards life, and through his works, readers inspired to live in a unique way. Here the research scholar highlights some symbols used by Paulo Coelho in his famous work *The Alchemist*. Paulo Coelho is well known for his writing, through various examples, he easily makes his place in reader's heart.

**Keywords:** Symbolism, symbol, philosophy, narcissism, dream, treasure, spiritual quest

### Introduction

What is Symbolism?

Symbolism is using symbols to signify thoughts and characteristics, by means of giving them symbolic meanings that are specific from their literal experience. In general, the writer uses Symbolism to express his or her own views or feelings. Symbolism in its deeper sense expresses the meaning of word or sentence. It signifies the idea hidden in the sentence. Symbols are being used in all spheres like in science, painting, literature etc. In literature, it is used for enlighten the essence of the story or poetry or to spread morality or to teach lessons. Like Robert Frost skillfully used symbolism in his poem "*The Road not taken*"

*Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.*

Here writer used *Roads* as symbols of our choices. In our life we face such situation when we have to choose either of the choices or roads. He has given two types of roads, one is travelled and another is less travelled. Travelled road symbolizes the choice which everybody chooses and less travelled or grassy road symbolizes the choice which has been rarely chosen.

William Shakespeare widely used symbolism in his work *Macbeth*. He frequently used light and darkness which symbolizes good and evil. Even in *Othello* we find symbolism plays major role, like "the handkerchief" because of which the whole tragedy happened. "Handkerchief" symbolizes the love, chastity and faith towards each other. In Act V Scene 2 of *Othello*,

"Put out the light, and then put out the light:  
If I quench thee, thou flaming minister,