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Understanding the soul of the world is the Key of Self-Realization and Enlightenment Journey: The Hermeneutic Study of the Quest *Hippiie*

Abstract:

This is a hermeneutic study of the spiritual Odyssey, Hippiie, a bildungsroman novel that focuses on quest and mysteries to analyze the Truth or Reality, which leads to enlightenment. The concept of Bildungsroman is studied in the context of the Theory of Hermeneutics enunciated by Hans-Georg Gadamer and Anthony Giddens (Double Hermeneutics). This study shows how Paulo uses the essentials of romances, the Grail as a common object, Buddha's journey, long-cherished dreams, examples of epics, listening to one's heart, the signs, ventures, exploration, self-discovery to search a Hidden Treasure, and wisdom on legendary roads and places. For Gadamer, everyone has its particular viewpoint or perspective known as its horizon that helps to understand the world and the literary work. This study shows, along with the other elements, how one's journey for self-identification always initiates with a successful new understanding of unity that everything in this world is interlinked and connected like a chain. This new realization of the unity which connects ones with The One is known as the soul of the world.

Key Words:

Spiritual Odyssey, Bildungsroman Quest, Soul of the World, Pantheism, Hippiie, Heteroglossia, Self-Realization, Enlightenment

Introduction

The Specific Pattern of the Journey-Based Novels in Bildungsroman Genre

From the creation of human history, life, a continuous journey of struggle, is considered as a quest struggling for one thing or the other. There are different purposes of pursuit; it might be a treasure or wealth, knowledge or truth, peace or a promised land, a person or an object like Grail and wisdom, etc. Though the modern man enjoys a luxurious life, even then, his search for life never ends. Everyone has many expectations from life, but some highly awakened man raises many questions about life and setting a journey to find the answer to these mysteries.

The roots started from *Odyssey to the legends of King Arthur* to modern-day fantasies, and quests like J. R. R. Tolkien's "Lord of the Ring" and J. K. Rowling's "Harry Potter", the fundamental stroke of all quest stories is the journey the heroes started to get their goals. Heroes have to face many hardships and obstacle, but most of all is to leave their familiar surroundings, friends, families, loved ones and went into an unknown and mysterious world (Howard, 2010).

Journey in bildungsroman novels is not an ordinary journey but is a journey of exploration and self-realization. The journey has a purpose of discovery in which the heroes learn essential truths about themselves, their society, and the nature of human existence. The difficulties, tortures, and trials of the journey heroes must undergo a sign that these truths are very difficult to face, not simply because they are often painful in themselves. Accepting them requires that the individuals rid themselves of their familiar. In short, they must "die" to their former way of life and "born" into a new one. Tennyson's *Ulysses* is the old adventurer, representative of "Do not give up", unwilling to accept the settling of old age, longing for one

more Quest, a search for adventure, experience, and meaning which makes life worth living (Nancy, 2010).

How much this path of enlightenment is difficult that *Somerset Maugham* called it *The Razor's Edge* by using *Katha Upanishad's* epigraph as: "The sharp edge of a razor is difficult to pass over; thus the wise say the path

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to 'enlightenment' is hard". As Larry Darrell, the hero of the novel, is wounded and traumatized by the war, he leaves his friend and fiancé and started his journey towards Paris, then Germany, and then India. He does not know where he is going exactly, but he knows that he must avoid the worldly amusements to find his way forward and should start a journey that will surely open some awakening doors for him. Maugham believes that the journey takes you far from what is familiar; you have to sacrifice your dear things, then you will be able to get the greater.

Maggie Doyme, 23 years young American girl, told her story on *The Daily Goal Cast* that:

"When I woke up one morning at 18 years old and had a scary realization, I knew very little about myself, and what I wanted in my life, so I packed up a backpack with very few belongings, and I decided to take a trip around the world. I had never really travelled, never left my country. All of a sudden, my whole world opened up. There was so much to learn and so much to discover outside of the walls of a four-walled classroom".

After this discussion, we came to know that journey provides a source and chance to fulfil your dream and discover what is still undiscovered for *you*. For this purpose, bookish knowledge and verbal instructions are not able to give you that insight but your own experience (Siddhartha); for this purpose, to discover or to learn something, strugglers come out from the walls of self-created limitations.

What the Protagonists Attain during the Journey

The journey is the exploration of the parameters for the construction of one's identity on many grounds. In this *physical journey*, the wisdom that strugglers gain through their experiences is not always pleasant or easy, but it must be very important. They face a fact, social restrictions, grudges, and many other obstacles in a particular scenario of this world as a whole. In his *psychological journey*, which is also known as the inner journey or 'the spiritual journey', Protagonists gain insight into his natures, known as self-realization, where he explored the dark areas of his heart and soul in the shape of his subjective weaknesses, margins, guilt, and fears. Sometimes, he is unaware of the reality; thus, the journey becomes the ultimate revelation or test of his potential, and his "road of trials" brings him into the valley called enlightenment.

Coelho's journey in *Hippie* follows the specific pattern of quests to find out the meaning of life and the meanings of things around him. He is a hero who must have to control various obstacles to achieve his dreams. In *Hippie*, Coelho said to his father, "I know you want me to earn a diploma, but I can do that at any point in my life; what I need now is experiencing" (Coelho, *Hippie*, 2018).

Siddhartha explores nature, green lands through his thirst and hunger, while in *Alchemist*, Santiago explores the desert, following his dreams to find enlightenment. Siddhartha got this concept realized and able to hear that forests, mountains, rivers even everything have unity. *Moses Cordovero* compares it to water flowing through vessels of different colors. Passing through different color vessels, the water looks different in every vessel because of its vessel's color and shape, but in reality, it is the water of one color. Therefore, everything is one but its physical and visible shape is different as if this everything is God and is in GOD (Daniel, 1997).

With the Samanas, Siddhartha learned how to stop breathing and reduce his heartbeats to practised meditation and self-denial. He killed his memory and senses to adopt other forms, i.e. non-self and come back to himself again. With Gotama, Siddhartha learned how to overcome beat the miseries of life with the art of overcome these miseries. However, he was not satisfied because he did not get enlightenment as he knows that "nobody will obtain enlightenment through teachings" we can convey the knowledge but not the wisdom.

To restore faith in humanity and to get enlightenment, this desire is also reflected from the statement of Hesse before his voyage to India "to see the sacred tree and snake and to go back to that source of life where everything had begun and which signified the oneness (*Einheit*) of all phenomena", which is the 'timeless reality' (Shaw, 1952).

We all are the travellers in our life, having the same question in our mind but got different answers according to our abilities. Coelho is in view that the more courageous we are, the more meaningful our life will be (Coelho, 2011, p. 247).

Like many others, In Aleph, Paulo starts searching for the meaning of his spirituality through identification, exploration, and experiments. For this purpose, he started his journey and taken the road of the pilgrim. Hero undertakes a journey on all levels: physical, spiritual, and temporal. This journey leads Paulo towards his spirituality, the realization of the world and where his spirituality belongs. In his development task, Paulo moves forward, but it does not meet his needs and needs more experience.

Many people were traveling, for example, a Russian Publisher, another publisher, and his wife, Hilal, translator Yao, a French Couple, etc. All have a new story with their history, vision, religion, and their cultural myths, which they shared during the journey and completed the one story of Coelho like Polyphony, which shows many voices and stories within a single voice of the novel. After all efforts like in other stories, the protagonist learns many lessons for redemption first step is the recognition of error; then, we must search out those people whom we harmed and request forgiveness, which initiates him to start his journey, and they experience Aleph, a moment of recognition, a moment of awareness. At the end of their bildungsroman journey requests, protagonists learn many lessons and became the master of their once-lost kingdoms. What the protagonist achieved is in the words of Hilal is to learn compassion, forgiveness to the world with all its evils:

“I will be capable of loving, regardless of whether I am loved in return,
Of giving, even when I have nothing,
Of holding out my hand, even when utterly alone and abandoned,
Of drying my tears, even while I weep,
Of believing, even no one believes in me.”

Nevertheless, this is not the real enlightenment, although a pearl of wisdom, and they still feel some thirst to quench.

The Final Level of their Bildungsroman Journey

After the whole process of their soul's Alchemy, the struggles did not get enlightenment until and unless they started to understand the hidden meanings, learn the single language of all things, and realize the unity of one thread that ties us all and is the base of all things, humans and even the foundation of all religions. This interconnectedness is known as the soul of the world, a universal concept of universal language. This is not a new terminology or new philosophical concept but has its roots from the advent of literary history until now.

Huxley suggests that ‘this reality is not apprehended but after fulfilling some conditions. In a Restaurant, when Paulo and Karla filled their plates, they saw people dressed in orange. They introduced themselves that the original name of our religion is difficult, but you can just call us Hare Krishna, as they believe that the repetition of that name “empties our mind and leaving room for energy to enter”. They stated the essence of their religion: *“We believe that everything is one, we share a single soul, and each drop of light in this soul spread to the dark spots that surround it. That’s it” (Coelho, 2018).*

They told Paulo that it is not the fight that is right and what is wrong, as if you died on the battlefield, you will get heavenly planets, and if you conquer, you will get the earthly kingdom. So do not waste your time and fulfil your destiny as it is the destiny that brought Karla and Paulo here. Destiny brings Paulo to this journey, and he realizes the truth that everything is sharing the same soul. The single language of sun, desert, the wind is the acknowledgement that his heart and the soul of the world are the same things. This divine essence, known as the soul of the world, not only connects all things but also rules all things. There is a language with which all things communicate, and to discover and understand this language is known as the Master Work. Paulo mentioned:

*There is no difference between the sea and the waves
 When a wave swells, it is made of water
 When it breaks against the sand, it is also made of the same water.
 Tell me, Lord: Why are the two things the same? Where do the mystery and the end lie?
 The Lord responds: Everything and everybody is the same;
 This is the mystery and the end (Coelho, 2018, p.108).*

In every step of his journey, nature provides Siddhartha physical and spiritual guidance. His relationship with the river and forest communicates to him that all things are one, and the natural world connects all its things and beings. Herman Hesse said that 'the river is everywhere at the same time. It shows that along with this time, there is another parallel time, and in this scenario, the natural or physical world and the spiritual world are completely unified. He learned many lessons from nature, but in the end, the river teaches him about eternity through being one with the cosmos, 'to them was not just water, but the voice of life, the voice of being, the voice of perpetual Becoming' (Hesse, 1922). The water has both internal and external forces, as the external force represented nature and an internal force represented a source of nourishment for the spirit. Nature unifies life and death, so Siddhartha understands that through life's unification with nature, eternity can be attained.

"When Siddhartha listened attentively to this river, to this song of thousands of voices; when he did not listen to the sorrow or laughter, when he did not bind his soul to anyone particular voice and absorb it in his Self but heard them all, the whole, the unity; then the great song of thousand voices consisted of one word: Om-Perfection (Hesse, 1922, p. 136)."

It is a point where truth is revealed that everything is connected with one. We believe that everything is one, we share a single soul, and each drop of light in this soul spread to the dark spot that surrounds it" (Coelho, 2018). In magical tradition, it is taken as a point in the Universe that contains all other points, present and past, large and small. You normally come across it by chance (Coelho, Aleph, 2010). Instead of 'many routes, one peak', Jorge Ferrer advocates 'one ocean, many shores'.

This concept is the shared wisdom of every religion and ultimate pure reality beyond cultures, religions, philosophies, emotions, languages, nations, and colors. The occult religion conceives the unity of all religions, called *Philosophia perennis*. Pythagoras is seen, along with other great religious leaders of the world from Rama to Jesus, as an initiate of the esoteric tradition, and the tenets of Pythagoreanism are considered an intrinsic part of occult doctrine. Thus, through *the occult*, Ruben Dario became familiar with the ultimate belief that God is the one that is everything. He observed the teaching that the image of God is represented through the image of both man and the Universe. He described clearly the aspects of the harmonious unfolding of God in his poem "Coloquio de Los centauros", written in 1895. The keyword is Signo (a sign of unity), for all of nature is seen as a sign of the unity of life in and through God (Jrade, 2018).

We found its roots in *Egyptian and Greek* literature. In the third century *neo-Platonism*, a Platonic philosophy that developed AD, they have a "monistic" idea that *all reality can be derived from a single 'principle', "The One"*. The *Perennial Philosophy* that each of the world religions is sharing the same origin or single metaphysical truth from which all esoteric and exoteric knowledge and doctrine have grown (Republic, Book IV). In his famous course "analogy of the sun," Plato presents the ideal of reality that ONE is the only source of reality, which he described into the following two "*hypothesis*", *Nous and Soul* or *being and thought or idea and ideal world*. He believed that this world is certainly a single visible living entity containing all other living entities, which are all related by their essence (Plato, Timaeus, 30 b-c). He believed that human perfection and happiness were attainable in this world through contemplation returning to the ONE, from which they emanated. After the death of the physical body, the soul takes up a level as they believed in reincarnation. The concepts are followed by Paulo Coelho in his writings, especially in the "Hippie" and "Aleph".

Unlike the *Anatta (no-self) theory of Buddhism, Advaita* (non-duality), the philosophy of Hinduism Sankara, believed in the unity in multiplicity and a single hierarchy of a creator and created a universe that is essentially a non-dual oneness. The non-dual oneness is the belief of Advaitins that the divine is within oneself, in others and all beings, in everything (Menon, 2012). Jerry Katz, in his “*What is Non-duality?*” elaborated that “*The sense that all things are interconnected and not separate, while at the same time all things retain their individuality*” (Katz, 2007).

In the explanation of “Five Ranks” of Zen Buddhism, the question about the relationship between phenomenal and ultimate reality or between Samsara and Nirvana is answered, the researcher Heinrich Dumoulin describes the ranks of realization, in which the first rank is that “*all diverse things and events are in their essence the same, formless and empty*” (Hakuin, 2015). *Heart Sutra* says that the ultimate reality is present in the daily world of comparative reality but how the absolute is present is not obvious. This needs hard work and effort (Kasulis 2003, p. 29).

“Everything is catenated in its mystery, caught in its oneness.....That is the entire single-chain from top to bottom, to the last link, everything is connected, and so heavenly spirit (divine essence) is below as well as above, in heaven and earth. There is nothing else” (1988).”

In *ancient Chinese Philosophy*, Yin Yang has a very significant impact. *Yin-yang* under the Chinese religion and philosophy of Taoism or Daoism: a. Shadows, femininity, and the channel of a wave is associated with *yin*: the shape of the dark spiral, whereas brightness, passion, and growth is associated with the light spiral: The *yang*. The duality of Yin Yang is, in fact, an indivisible whole, which is not opposite but complementary and presents *oneness before duality*. *Tao* means “way”, which has a great relationship with its belief of “*flow of the Universe*”, that:

“The One, which is natural, spontaneous, eternal, nameless and indescribable. It is at once the beginning of all things and the way, in which all things pursue their course” (Chan, 1963, p.136).

We have seen that the scientific revolution rejected these theological realities regarded as having a lack of reliable sources of knowledge. Today mechanistic philosophy describes whole in terms of their parts; that is why we lost sight of wholeness. The wholeness of things was connected to the older philosophical tradition as their ‘form’ that arranges these parts into a consistent unity. However, in the Western philosophical tradition, there is an idea within the things (Universale in re), which establishes its innate nature, which enables to constitute the things as an entity with its coherence and cohesion. We cannot ignore the qualitative attributes of nature that surround us. In his book “*Harmony*”, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, discover that today the main problem we are facing is the ‘lack of perception’. We concentrate on outward problems instead of inner or central. All things have inner dispositions, so to solve our problems completely, we have to look deeper, in the right way in their divine aspect, ‘in divinis’.

Paul Harrison stated that the religious beliefs of *North American Indians* are diverse between tribes, but the fundamental belief in a Divine essence who created the earth and transfused everything reflected a pantheist belief. Christians mostly tend towards pantheistic tendency, which is mostly similar to the pantheism of Wordsworth. Wordsworth believed that in everything, there is a god, even alike spirit, in all animals and plants, which are closely related to animism.

Sitting Bull, Chief Seattle, a famous and heroic personality in Native Americans, Said:

“Every seed and all animal life is lively and awakened. The mysterious power makes us that we too have our being; therefore we must thank divine power and give our animal neighbors the same right as ourselves, to reside in this land.”

Rumi believed, “*In the shop of unity; anything that you see there, except the one, is an idol*” (Harmless, 2008). In his view, man, matter and God are a single essence. He focused on oneness even in churches,

monasteries, synagogues, even in secular art, as in his thought, “all these beams of light return to one”. So it means all these beams of light come from one and return to one; all are connected and part of the one.

The “Over-soul” is influenced by the universal soul. Ralph Waldo Emerson narrates that we see the world in pieces as there are mountains, lakes, sun, moon, animals, plants, trees, etc., but all these are part of one, an indivisible totality, i.e. the over-soul. This proves that God resides in us, and without church or any intermediary, we can talk to him. He believed that we live in a sequence and are divided spirits, but besides these parts, particles, and divisions, there is one whole soul, which is the wise silence, the beauty of the Universe, and unites us all (Emerson, 1841). *Thomas Browne*, in his “*Religio Medici*” Part 1 wrote that it was not only his opinion but since the known history and the opinion of Plato and the belief of Hermetical philosophers that in divided spirits, there is a common spirit which unites and ties the scattered and divided souls into one soul (*Browne, 1643*).

Paul Harrison, president of the WPM, introduced pantheism with science, which is the first science-philosophy of life that brings this concept (soul of the world) under the umbrella of science that this concept embraces the natural Universe and natural law and stimulating attitude towards scientific endeavor to understand nature better.

Russell said that science derives from methods and proof, and it is the empirical method as *the things that we know*, whereas philosophy derives from the things as “*we believed but didn't know*”. This concept of unity is proved scientifically that the base of everything is beautifully presented in the picture below:



Figure 1: Spirals a Relation between the Physical and Biological Pattern

Figure 1 is a picture from the gallery of the World Pantheist Movement. The spirals are shown a variety of things in each part of the picture (in the shell, galaxy, the flower, etc.), symbolizes a relation between the physical and biological pattern, which is related to evolution, eternity, spirituality, and growth.

In short, how individual life is a part of the grand cycle of all things around or nature is the unity of the world. That unity is the *soul of the world*, and to understand the true meaning of oneness and unity; it is necessary to spend time by nature as done by Paulo in *Hippie*, who realizes that unity is but the unification of the spiritual and physical world. There is a link or interconnectedness between living and non-living things that all have some sort of divine connection. It is like an umbrella concept that includes people from Buddhists to philosophers, new age ideas, religions, superstitions, earth-worshippers, pagans, Humanists, Science, Universalists, Gaia hypothesis, atmospheric chemistry, environmental theories, monism, theism, Transcendentalism, Pantheism, Panentheism, Monism, deism, etc. Classical Pantheists said: “*You are to God, as an individual blood cell in your vein is to you*”. All cells have their existence and free will of right and wrong, but these cells do their jobs which are assigning by the greater being of which they are apart.

Rayan, an Irishman, shared this experience of stepped out of the present time and stepped into a parallel reality that is very similar to Coelho presented in *Aleph*. Rayan described that it is a spiritual state that takes

over your body and soul, and for at least a fraction of a second, you entered into the state which connects you to the soul of the world, and you can taste the nectar of gods. After this experience, everything seems new to take a new meaning, or the hidden meanings will be evident. Paulo tried to give words to that experience which is not easy to be explained. Sometimes it would be difficult to explain what could only be experienced. Paulo stated that many parallel realities make things new and more vibrant and, on the other hand, make things ugly, and then tiny things transform into a big problem.

The Final Words

After the whole discussion, it is explored that from *King Arthur Legends* to the modern-day fantasy of J.R.R. Tolkien, many writers presented the Bildungsroman stories, which dealt with the psychological and moral growth of the protagonist. They faced many difficulties and hardships and learned many lessons. In the words of Hugh, 'The works of nature are like a freshly spoken word of God', and in Goethe's words, *nature speaks to us in God's voice*. However, to listen and understand the voice, we have to create a relationship with nature; otherwise, our eyes are unable to see, our ears are unable to hear the actual reality we live in. First, they learned how to love others, sacrifice honesty and truth. It is essential to eliminate the negative thoughts and sins from the heart and make a room or space for good thoughts to enter. But your sins or your wrongdoings with others will never be forgivable until or unless the victim forgives you. Therefore, for this redemption, Coelho used the concept of reincarnation to go back and ask forgiveness for whom he did wrong. After this forgiveness, the heart will be purified, more receptive to the divine presence, and will be able to understand the Truth of Unity: the last stage of their process of self-development. This stage is completed when they started to understand the mysterious language of the things around them and learned to find out the hidden meanings of the signs, symbols, and omens which came in their way, but all these things tried to help the protagonist because it is the law that once we determined to do something all things around us conspires in helping us.

It is a Universe (not a twoneverse); *uni* means one, a single truth of oneness, which simply, absolutely, and certainly unites us all. It is the last ingredient or last level of realization that protagonists must pass through, understand, and learned to get enlightened that the Universe has unity. Everything is connected, tangled, and intertwined. All voices, dreams, good, evil, suffering, pleasure together make a flow of the world and music of life, which is its beauty and charm. These all perceived the whole, the oneness, and then these thousand words make one song, and these thousand voices turned into a single word, the perfection. If we see any dairy item, we can guess that it is made of milk, and on the other hand, if we saw a vase, we can guess that it is made of clay because the final product always shows its basic ingredient. As the vase is made of clay, and the dairy items are made of milk. As Ibn Arabi said that everything is either God's face or God's veil, same this God made this Universe from his light that is why everything presents its basic ingredient, which is the light of God or God himself.

Concisely, passing through the different trials and daily training in their journey, strugglers, must learn how to overcome the ego that enables them to awaken to reality. This awakening involves meditation, detachment from familiar and attachment to unfamiliar, self-denial, charity, sacrifice, love, etc. But the realization of the one soul of the world (the concept of unity or the true nature of reality) is the last step towards enlightenment, a wordless, imageless, and unexplainable experience which is difficult but necessary to understand the whole concepts of the Universe. According to Huxley, the only way we can wake up from the nightmare of history is by focusing on the "Eternal Now".

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