



The Alchemist

What will you make of your life?

About the Author

- Paulo Coelho
- Born in Brazil, 1947. Still alive!
- A nonconformist who was part of a political revolution in 1968
- Believes in free expression
- A bestselling author

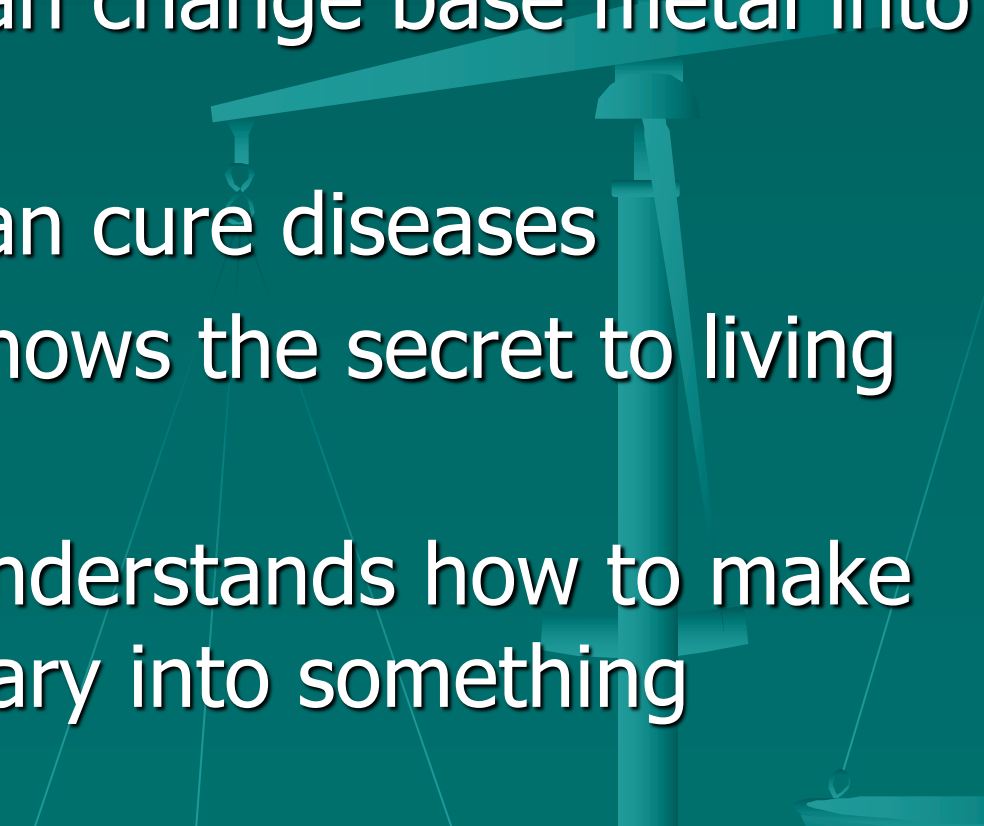
About The Alchemist

- First published in 1988
- Your version is a translation from the original Portuguese version called O Alquimista
- Bestselling book in the history of Brazil
- Currently a bestseller internationally

What is alchemy?

- A medieval chemical science/philosophy that attempts to change base metals into gold
- The attempt to discover a universal cure for disease
- The attempt to find a way to indefinitely prolong life
- The process of transforming something common into something special

What is an alchemist?

- Someone who can change base metal into gold
 - Someone who can cure diseases
 - Someone who knows the secret to living forever
 - Someone who understands how to make something ordinary into something extraordinary
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Literary term: Allegory

- An allegory is a story that symbolically represents something greater than just the story
- The Alchemist is a story about a young man, but he represents a philosophy of life and living

Literary motif: The Journey

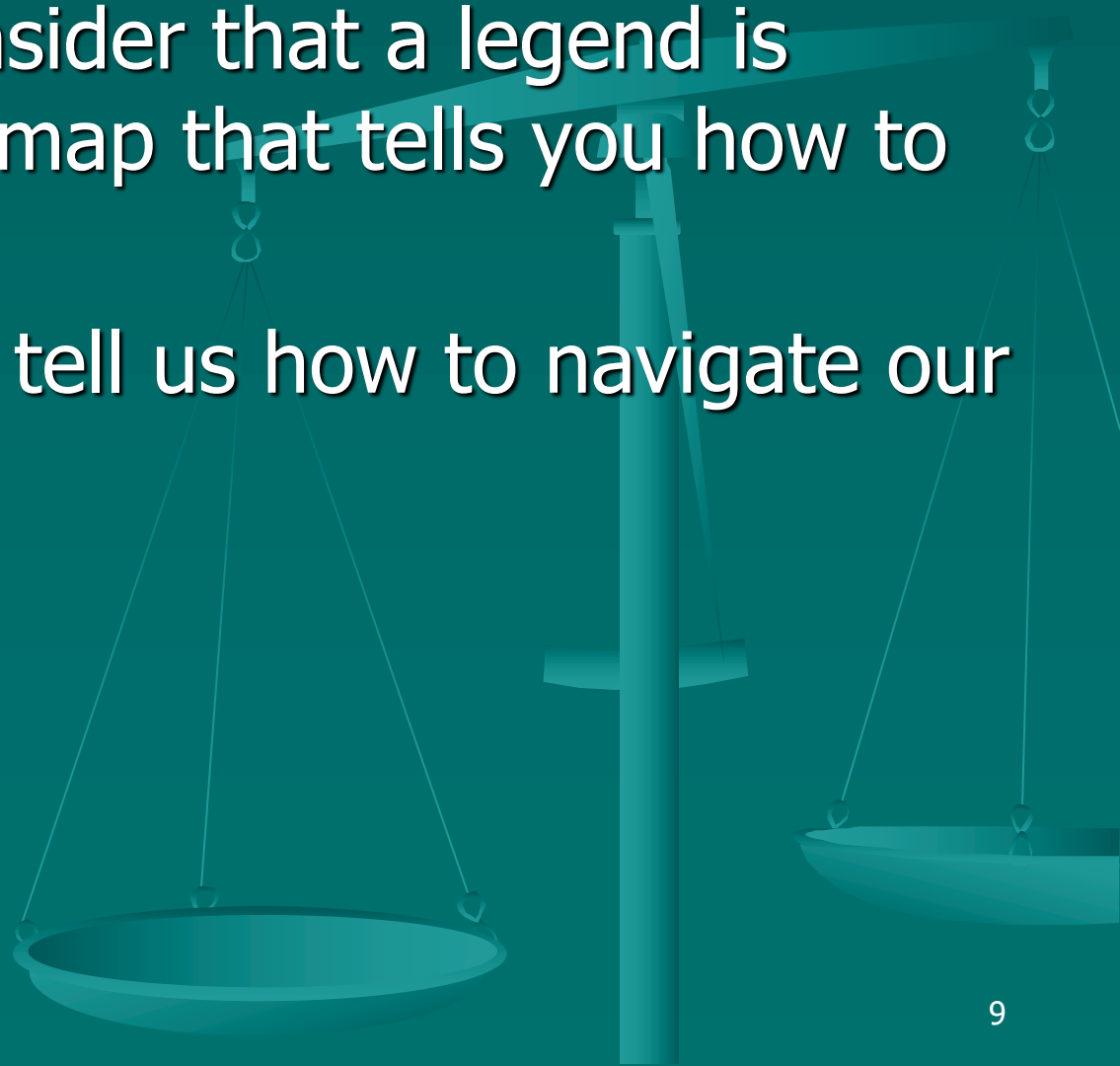
- Many great works of literature involve characters who are going somewhere
- Their journey represents a spiritual change of some kind
- We learn from watching other people travel through their lives
- We learn from considering how our own lives are really a path toward something

What is a legend?

- What do you think is the definition of a legend?
- Name some famous legends that you know.
- Why are legends important to people?
- Why are children often told legends by adults?

Hmmmmmm.....

- Did you also consider that a legend is something on a map that tells you how to read the map?
- How do legends tell us how to navigate our lives?



Personal legends

- What do you think a “personal legend” could be?
- What is your “personal legend”?
- What will it take to pursue your “personal legend”?
- Would you have to gain things or lose things?

So far...

- We know that alchemy is about the ordinary becoming extraordinary
- We know that allegories are stories that represent something beyond themselves
- We know that the journey is a common motif in literature and makes us think about the paths of our own lives
- We know legends are stories or myths that tell of great deeds and inspire people

We expect this novel to be about...

- A person who goes on a journey to pursue his personal legend and ends up turning an ordinary life into an extraordinary life.
- It is an allegory because it is not just about a young man, it's about how YOU will approach your life's journey that is only beginning.
- Could you be an alchemist?

The Alchemist: Setting

- Time: probably more than a century ago, although you will see that it doesn't really matter. "the timeless past"
- Place: It's a journey, so it has more than one location. That's the idea...



As we read, think about:

- Santiago's reason/motivation for his journey
- The role of coincidence and luck
- The importance of language: reading, speaking, a universal language?
- The Soul of the World

Coelho's Four Obstacles

- One: We are told from childhood onward that everything we want to do is impossible.
- Two: Love – We know what we want to do, but are afraid of hurting those around us by abandoning everything in order to pursue our dream.

- Three: Fear of the defeats we will meet on the path. Are defeats necessary? In a way.
- If we can overcome defeats, we are filled by a greater sense of euphoria and confidence.
- Four: Fear of realizing the dream for which we fought all our lives...fear we do not deserve to get what we want.