





The
ALCHEMIST

25th
ANNIVERSARY
EDITION

 PAULO COELHO 



 **PAULO COELHO** 

TRANSLATED BY ALAN R. CLARKE



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Contents

International Acclaim for
Paulo Coelho's

Foreword

Prologue

Part One

Part Two

Epilogue

A Preview of Paulo Coelho's:
Warrior of the Light

[Warrior of the Light:](#)

[Prologue](#)

[About the Author](#)

[Also by Paulo Coelho](#)

[Back Ads](#)

[Copyright](#)

[About the Publisher](#)

International Acclaim
for Paulo Coelho's

THE ALCHEMIST

“The story has the comic charm, dramatic tension, and psychological intensity of a fairy tale, but it's full of specific wisdom as well. . . .

A sweetly exotic tale for

young and old alike.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“Beneath this novel’s compelling story and the shimmering elegance with which it’s told lies a bedrock of wisdom about following one’s heart.”

—*Booklist*

“As memorable and

meaningful as Saint-
Exupéry's *The Little Prince*."

—*Austin American-
Statesman*

"A touching, inspiring fable."

—*Indianapolis Star*

"A little poke in the ribs from
on high."

—*Detroit Free Press*

“*The Alchemist* is a fabulous success.”

—*Der Spiegel* (Germany)

“A remarkable tale about the most magical of all journeys: the quest to fulfill one’s destiny. I recommend *The Alchemist* to anyone who is passionately committed to claiming the life of their dreams—today.”

—Anthony Robbins, author
of *Awaken the Giant Within*

“An entrepreneurial tale of
universal wisdom we can
apply to the business of our
own lives.”

—Spencer Johnson, M.D.,
author of *Who Moved My
Cheese*

“An adventure story full of

magic and wisdom.”

—Rudolfo Anaya, author of
Bless Me, Ultima

“*The Alchemist* is a beautiful book about magic, dreams, and the treasures we seek elsewhere and then find at our doorstep.”

—Madonna in *Sonntag Aktuell* (Germany)

“*The Alchemist* is an unabashed delight and inspirational wonder. This fable is a roseate amalgam of spiritual quest, existential puzzle, lovely sensitivity, and deep strength.”

—Malcolm Boyd, author of
*Are You Running with Me,
Jesus?*

“Paulo Coelho knows the

secret of literary alchemy.”

—Kenzaburo Oé, winner of
the Nobel Prize in Literature

“A most tender and gentle
story. It is a rare gem of a
book, and will most certainly
touch the very core of every
heart earnestly seeking its
own destiny on the journey of
life.”

—Gerald G. Jampolsky,

M.D., coauthor of *Change Your Mind, Change Your Life* and *Love Is Letting Go of Fear*

“Rarely do I come across a story with the directness and simplicity of Coelho’s *The Alchemist*. It lifts the reader out of time and focuses through a believably unlikely story on a young dreamer looking for himself. A

beautiful story with a pointed message for every reader.”

—Joseph Girzone, author of
Joshua

“This is the type of book that makes you understand more about yourself and about life.

It has philosophy and is spiced with colors, flavors, and subjects, like a fairy tale.

A lovely book.”

—*Yedi'ot Aharonot* (Israel)

“A boy named Santiago joins the ranks of Candide and Pinocchio by taking us on a very excellent adventure.”

—Paul Zindel, author of the Pulitzer Prize–winning play *The Effect of Gamma Rays on Man-in-the-Moon Marigolds*

“The mystic quality in the

odd adventures of the boy, Santiago, may bring not only him but others who read this fine book closer to recognizing and reaching their own inner destinies.”

—Charlotte Zolotow, author
of *If You Listen*

“Paulo Coelho gives you the inspiration to follow your own dreams by seeing the

world through your own eyes
and not someone else's.”

—Lynn Andrews, author of
the Medicine Woman series

“Nothing is impossible, such
is Coelho's message, as long
as you wish it with all your
heart. No other book bears so
much hope; small wonder its
author became a guru among
all those in search of the

meaning of life.”

—*Focus* (Germany)

“*The Alchemist* is a truly poetic book.”

—*Welt am Sonntag*
(Germany)

“Dotted throughout the story and illuminated in a poetic style are metaphors and deep insights that stir our

imagination and transport the reader on a fantastic journey of the soul.”

—*Yomiuri Shimbun* (Japan)

“*The Alchemist* brings to mind *The Little Prince* by Saint-Exupéry and *The Prophet* by Khalil Gibran, as well as biblical parables.”

—*Gazeta Wyborcza* (Poland)

“*The Alchemist* is a beautiful and heartwarming story with an exotic flavor. . . . You may or may not agree with Paulo Coelho’s philosophy, but it’s nonetheless a tale that comforts our hearts as much as our souls.”

—*Bergensavisen* (Norway)

“*The Alchemist* is like a modern-day *The Little*

Prince. A supreme and
simple book.”

—Milorad Pavic, author of
Dictionary of the Khazars

“Among Latin American
writers, only Colombia’s
Gabriel Garcia Marquez is
more widely read than
Brazil’s Paulo Coelho.”

—*The Economist*

Foreword

When *The Alchemist* was first published twenty-five years ago in my native Brazil, no one noticed. A bookseller in the northeast corner of the country told me that only one person purchased a copy the first week of its release. It took another six months for the bookseller to unload a

second copy—and that was to the same person who bought the first! And who knows how long it took to sell the third.

By the end of the year, it was clear to everyone that *The Alchemist* wasn't working. My original publisher decided to cut me loose and cancelled our contract. They wiped their hands of the project and let

me take the book with me. I was forty-one and desperate.

But I never lost faith in the book or ever wavered in my vision. Why? Because it was me in there, all of me, heart and soul. I was living my own metaphor. A man sets out on a journey, dreaming of a beautiful or magical place, in pursuit of some unknown treasure. At the end of his journey, the

man realizes the treasure was with him the entire time. I was following my Personal Legend, and my treasure was my capacity to write. And I wanted to share this treasure with the world.

As I wrote in *The Alchemist*, when you want something, the whole universe conspires to help you. I started knocking on the doors of other publishers.