‘When you want something with all your heart, all the universe conspires in helping you to achieve it.'

Book Review:

Book Name: The Alchemist

Original Title: O Alguimista

Author: Paulo Coelho

Country: Brazil

Language : Portuguese

Genre: Quest, Adventure, Fantasy

Published On: 1988 (English 1993)

Pages:163

Synopsis of the Book:

An Andalusian shepherd boy named Santiago dreams of a treasure while in ruined church. He consults a Gypsy fortune teller about the meaning of his recurring dream. The woman interprets it as a prophecy, telling the boy that he will discover a treasure at the Egyptian Pyramid.

After Santiago sets out, he meets an old king Melchizedek or the king of Salem who tells him to sell his sheep so as to travel to Egypt and accomplish his personal legend. Early on his arrival in Africa, a man who claims to be able to take Santiago to the Pyramids instead robs him of the money he had from his flock. Then Santiago has to work for a crystal merchant to earn enough to go to the Pyramids.

Along the way, the boy meets an English man who has come in search of an Alchemist and continues his journey with his new companion. When they reach an oasis, Santiago meets and falls in love with an Arabian girl named Fatima, to whom he proposes marriage. She promises to marry him only after he completes his journey. Being frustrated at first, he later learns that true love will not stop nor must one sacrifice one's destiny to it, since to do so robs it of truth.

The boy then encounters a wise Alchemist, who teaches him to realize his true self. They made a journey through the territory of warring tribes, where Santiago is forced to prove his oneness with the 'Soul of the World' by turning Himself into a dust storm before he is allowed to proceed.

When the reaches the Pyramids ang begins digging, he is robbed by thieves who asks him about his digging. In reply, he says that a dream has led him to bury treasure. The thieves scoff, and the leader remarks about a dream he once had about treasure under a tree at a ruined church. Santiago realises the treasure he sought was where he had his original dream all along.