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**How does Paulo Coelho represent Santiago's quest for personal legend in his novel The Alchemist? Elaborate your answer with a proper example from the text.**

Santiago's quest is to find a hidden treasure that is said to be located in the Egyptian pyramids. He is also on a quest to discover his Personal Legend or his life's purpose. While on this quest, Santiago must battle his inner fears and personal doubts to achieve his goals and fulfill his destiny.

The Alchemist is a powerful and inspiring novel by Paulo Coelho. Written in a poetic style, the book follows Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, on his journey to find a hidden treasure. Along the way, Santiago meets some unusual people, who help him explore the major themes of the novel: the importance of listening to one's instincts, the power of personal transformation, and the strength of faith. At the same time, he learns the universal language of alchemy, allowing him to draw strength from the world around him and capture his dreams. Ultimately, Santiago finds his real treasure at home; his journey to personal fulfillment has been worthwhile. The Alchemist is both a thought-provoking and uplifting read that will stay with you long after you finish the last page.

Every quest need, a “quester”, who is simply just the person who goes on a quest. In this case, that person would be Santiago, a young man who became a shepherd to pursue his dream of traveling, and now travels across his home country of Spain. One night, however, after sleeping in an abandoned church, Santiago has a strange reoccurring dream about a young girl leading him to hidden treasure in the pyramids, only to wake up before finding out where it is buried. Disturbed by this, he sets out to go to Tarifa and visit the old woman who can interpret dreams.

In The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho presents Santiago's quest for his Personal Legend as integral to his identity and sense of purpose in life. The novel follows Santiago’s journey of self-discovery as he embarks on a pilgrimage to Spain. Along the way, Santiago is tormented by the crisis of doubt and wrong turns, which constantly impede his progress and test his commitment to the pursuit of his Personal Legend.

At the beginning of Santiago’s journey, the crystal merchant gives him the advice to “listen to your heart.” This phrase is used constantly throughout the book as an embodiment of the need to stay loyal to his innermost desires—his Personal Legend. By following this advice and carefully weighing each decision against his ultimate heart’s desire, Santiago perseveres and keeps his feet pointed to Spain.

Throughout his journey, Santiago is constantly tested in his commitment to his Personal Legend, which is seen most clearly when his fear of failure and lack of money leads him to give up the job of a shepherd. Nevertheless, the King of Salem reinforces the importance of following the Personal Legend, rousing Santiago’s spirit with the promise of a “reward beyond any of [his] imaginings” if he remains devoted to the path. Soon after, Santiago meets the alchemist, who teaches Santiago that he can interpret omens provided by the Soul of the World to interpret his legend. With the final reminder to have faith in himself, Santiago realizes “Technology was the language of his Personal Legend,” enabling him to unlock the secret of alchemy and achieve his mission.

Through Santiago’s journey, Paulo Coelho conveys the idea that every individual is capable of successfully following their Personal Legend, with the support of their internal motivation as well as wise guidance from knowledgeable people.

In The Alchemist, Paulo Coelho uses Santiago's journey to represent the idea of a personal legend. Along Santiago's journey, he sees different cultures and meets various people, all of which contribute to his growth and understanding of his legend. Through the guidance and lessons of those he meets, Santiago discovers the power of his potential and the importance of listening to his heart. Coelho also uses symbols to represent Santiago's journey, such as the flock of sheep Santiago travels with and his love for his destination, the Pyramids, to emphasize the importance of life's journey and the importance of pursuing one's dreams. Additionally, Santiago's encounters with the mysterious alchemist symbolize his struggle of overcoming fear and self-doubt, emphasizing that, if we face our fears, anything is possible. Ultimately, Coelho's representation of Santiago's journey serves to remind us of the power of dreams and the importance of chasing them.

The alchemist prepares to move on with Santiago to the pyramids, but Santiago complains that he doesn’t want to leave [Fatima](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/fatima/). The alchemist says Fatima understands that Santiago needs to complete his Personal Legend. Santiago asks the alchemist what would happen if he stayed in Al-Fayoum. The alchemist explains that Santiago would have enough money to buy many sheep and camels and that he would marry Fatima. Santiago and Fatima would be happy for one year, but that during the second year Santiago would start to think about the treasure again. He would not be able to ignore the omens. During the third year, Santiago would become increasingly obsessed with his Personal Legend, and Fatima would feel bad for interrupting Santiago’s quest. Santiago and Fatima would still love each other, but by the fourth year, the omens of treasure would disappear. The tribal chieftains would dismiss Santiago as their counselor, and Santiago would live the rest of his life in regret. The alchemist’s story convinces Santiago. The pair returns to Al-Fayoum for one night and Santiago tells Fatima he is leaving, but that he still loves her and he will return. The two embrace, touching for the first time.

[Santiago](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/santiago/) returns to the alchemist’s tent the next night with a horse. The [alchemist](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/the-alchemist/) mounts his horse and puts a falcon on his shoulder. He tells Santiago to lead him to where there is life in the desert. Santiago feels confused, but he understands what to do when the alchemist tells him that life attracts life. He gallops into the desert until his horse slows down. He tells the alchemist life exists where they have stopped because his horse knows life. The pair look around among the desert stones and the alchemist finds a cobra and grabs it by the tail. The cobra flails and hisses and Santiago jumps away. The alchemist draws a circle in the sand with his scimitar and places the cobra inside it. The cobra relaxes, and the alchemist says the cobra will not leave the circle.

That it was a part of the Soul of God. And he saw that the soul of God was his own  
soul. And that he, a boy, could perform miracles (The Alchemist 159-160).  
The wind understands but doesn’t know what to do. Santiago attempts to convince the  
the wind that love can empower it to do anything. This makes the wind feels like Santiago demeans  
it by telling what it already knows how to do. Annoyed, it blows harder and tells Santiago to talk  
to the Hand That Wrote All. Santiago readily accepts what it says with the request to create a  
sandstorm so he can look into the sky without the sun blinding him. The wind agrees to do so  
and picks up into a powerful gale. The tribesman asks their chief if they can stop Santiago’s  
stunt. The chief, however, wants to see Santiago complete his task.  
Santiago communicates with the wind and the sun and coaxes them to help him create a  
tremendous sandstorm. Now Santiago realizes that the soul of God is his soul the supreme  
Self, and that he can perform miracles. Witnessing the miracle of Santiago, they were released.  
He prays to the Hand That Wrote All and at the height of the storm he disappears. He reappears  
on the other side of the camp, and to the tribesmen. “The secret of happiness is to see all the  
marvels of the world, and never to forget the drops of oil on the spoon.” (The Alchemist 30)  
In the novel, Coelho seems to say that if the aspirant hunts for the Divine sincerely within  
his own body, instead of seeking Him outside himself, he will realize the self soon and then view  
the body as the indwelling place of God. Through such knowledge the seeker attains deification.  
He experiences the uniqueness of all things. In the novel, Santiago realizes the oneness of God  
and Man. “The boy reached through to the Soul of the World and saw  
that it was a part of the Soul of God” (The Alchemist 160),

At the end of the novel, Santiago reaches the place of his dreams and feels stunned. In  
order to show the contrast between the one who chases dreams and wins them and the one who  
leaves it thinking it is impossible. Coelho has deliberately portrayed the character of the leader of  
the refugees from the tribal war as a person who have missed an opportunity to attain his  
treasure. Their courage of Santiago opens all the doors of his inner self. In his dream he clearly  
sees the exact location of the treasure. But his ‘self-love’ makes him reluctant to take up  
any endeavor to achieve it because his heart does not want him to suffer in his pursuit of  
the treasure. That’s why he says to Santiago, “I’m not so stupid as to cross an entire  
desert just because of a recurrent dream” (The Alchemist 172). But Santiago has a strong and  
a deep desire to follow his dream. He is willing to accept the pain involved in achieving the  
treasure and attains the treasure at the end. He knows that one should listen to one’s heart,  
“Remember that wherever your heart is, there you will find your treasure” (The Alchemist 111)

Paulo Coelho represents Santiago's quest as a metaphor for the search for true life meaning and understanding. Through surreal experiences and tests of his strength and faith, Santiago discovers the importance of staying open to different ideas, trusting his intuition, believing in his capabilities, and appreciating the beauty of life's adventure. Along his path, Santiago also discovers the importance of being persistent and never giving up on his dreams. With each new obstacle that he desperately strives to overcome, Santiago keeps faith in himself and his abilities, affirming his choices and self-belief.