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Mid Assessment

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Ans to the ques no-1

In *The Alchemist* by Paulo Coelho, a shepherd named Santiago embarks on a journey to the Egyptian Pyramids in search of treasure after meeting an old man. The man, who is the self-described King of Salem, speaks about Personal Legends and convinces Santiago to live out his dream of travelling the world.

A Personal Legend is, simply put the act of achieving one's destiny. While Personal Legends

is fulfilled by embarking on an educational journey and realizing the full importance of one's own significance in relation to the universe. In *The Alchemist*, a Personal Legend can be defined as one's ultimate spiritual purpose in life. Everyone has a Personal Legend but for a variety of reasons, not everyone is willing or able to fulfill their purpose. Achieving one's Personal Legend requires patience, humility and above all, wisdom as Santiago

discovers when he embarks upon his own spiritual quest.

Another relevant character in the story is the Crystal Merchant. He has a very clearly defined personal Legend to make a pilgrimage to the holy city of Mecca. But he fails to take steps to achieve what, for Muslims, is a very important spiritual goal. The Crystal Merchant won't travel to Mecca because he's worried that, once he's achieved his spiritual purpose in life, he'll

have nothing left to live for. However, as we see in the story of the Englishman, it's not enough to have a Personal Legend and act on it. The Englishman is a deeply spiritual individual who shows that he is ready to learn whatever the Alchemist has to teach him. But because all his knowledge derives from books and not experience, he lacks the wisdom necessary to become the Alchemist's protegee, which is what he wants most of all in life. A Personal Legend is not just

the result found at the end of one's life though. It is more than simply reaching a final destination. A Personal Legend is achieved when a person fulfills the complete measure of his or her creation. This achievement is different for each person and can only be discovered by interpreting and following omens that lead one through an educational journey. By going through this journey, people learn what they need to know in order to fulfill their unique Personal

Legends. Only after people achieve this end can they experience true joy and satisfaction in life. Those who do not reach this goal are left to wonder what their destinies could have been. They never find out what they could have accomplished in life. A personal legend, as its referred to in The Alchemist is one's destiny in life. Its identify in our purpose in life and pursuing it. In the story, the main character, Santiago goes in search of his personal Legend.

Santiago, in the end discovers these realities in addition to realizing that his experiences were all part of his quest to find discover his personal legend. In words, the discovery comes as part of the quest, it's result comes from the journey and not the destination.