**Answer NO-02**

There is a role of fate in the novel “The Alchemist”.

“The Alchemist” is a [novel](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Novel). It’s [allegorical](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegorical) novel. It was written by Brazilian author “[Paulo Coelho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paulo_Coelho)”. It was first published in 1988. Originally it was written in [Portuguese](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Portuguese_language). It became a widely translated international bestseller. It is combining magic, mysticism, wisdom and wonder into an inspiring tale of self-discovery. It has become a modern classic. It’s a global phenomenon. It has been read and loved by over 62 million readers. It is selling millions of copies around the world and transforming the lives of countless readers across generations. Its main theme is about finding one's [destiny](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Destiny). It’s although according to “[The New York Times](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_New_York_Times)”. It was first released by Rocco. What’s an obscure Brazilian publishing house. Despite its having sold "well," the publisher after a year decided to give Coelho back the rights. Needing to "heal" himself from this setback, Coelho set out to leave Rio de Janeiro with his wife and spent 40 days in the [Mojave Desert](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mojave_Desert). Returning from the excursion, Coelho decided he had to keep on struggling. and was "so convinced it was a great book that he started knocking on doors."

Paulo Coelho wrote ‘The Alchemist’ in only two weeks in 1987. He explained that he was able to write at this pace. Because the story was "already written in his soul." It’s his masterpiece tells the mystical story of Santiago. An Andalusian shepherd boy who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different and far more satisfying than he ever imagined. Santiago's journey teaches us about the essential wisdom of listening to our hearts, of recognizing opportunity and learning to read the omens strewn along life's path and most importantly, to follow our dreams. The plot of the novel builds on the international [folktale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Folklore_genre) type classified as no.1645-"The Treasure at Home" in the [Aarne-Thompson–Uther Index](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Aarne%E2%80%93Thompson%E2%80%93Uther_Index%22%20%5Co%20%22Aarne%E2%80%93Thompson%E2%80%93Uther%20Index) of folktales: "A man dreams that if he goes to a distant city he will find treasure on a certain bridge. Finding no treasure, he tells his dream to a man who says that he too has dreamed of treasure at certain place. He describes the place, which is the first man's home. When the latter returns home he finds the treasure." The earliest known version of this tale type is a poem by the 13th century Persian poet [Rumi](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rumi) and a variant of the tale appears in the [One Thousand and One Nights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/One_Thousand_and_One_Nights) collection of Arabic folktales.

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist and a member of the [Brazilian Academy of Letters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brazilian_Academy_of_Letters) since 2002. He is counted amongst one of the most widely read writers in the contemporary world. He is known for employing rich symbolism in his depictions of the often spiritually motivated journeys taken by his characters. He is best known for his novel, "The Alchemist". For this he became an international best-seller. He has published 28 more books since then. It sold 65 million copies. It’s also the most translated book in the world by a living author. It was his second book. Which made him famous. He achieved fame with. He’s sold 35 million copies and now writes about one book every two years. He is unquestionably of the most [successful authors](https://www.famousauthors.org/) of recent times, selling more than 100 million books in at least 150 countries internationally. He has met with a lot of success. His books have been widely translated in a number of languages, earning him the prestigious Guinness World Record for most translated book by a living author and has received much honour. However, it should be noted that Coelho was not always necessarily celebrated for being the writer that he is today. It holds the Guinness World Record for being the most translated book in the world by a living author. He is one of the most impactful authors of our times. He was born on 24th August, 1947 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He is the son of an engineer and a housewife. He was born into a family of devout Catholics. He attended Jesuit schools. From a young age he dreamed of becoming a writer. Upon telling his mother this, she responded, "My dear, your father is an engineer. He's a logical, reasonable man with a very clear vision of the world. Do you actually know what it means to be a writer?" Born into a Catholic family, his parents were strict about the religion and faith. But he rebelled against the conventions of his Roman Catholic upbringing and, as a result, was temporarily committed to a psychiatric hospital by his parents. From which he escaped three times before being released at the age of 20. He later remarked that "It wasn't that they wanted to hurt me, but they didn't know what to do... They did not do that to destroy me, they did that to save me." At his parents' wishes, he enrolled in law school as a young man and abandoned his dream of becoming a writer. One year later, he dropped out. Then he started living in the "sex, drugs and rock 'n' roll" of hippie life in the 1970s. He wrote song lyrics for Brazilian musicians protesting the country's military rule. He also became involved with a theatre group as an actor and director and worked as a journalist, founding a magazine called 2001. He was jailed three times for his political activism. Because of his progressive activities, he was kidnapped and tortured by a Brazilian paramilitary group in 1974. After his release he worked for Polygram and CBS Records until 1980, when he embarked on new travels in Europe and Africa. In 1980 he married artist [Christina Oiticica](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Christina_Oiticica). Together they had previously spent half the year in [Rio de Janeiro](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rio_de_Janeiro) and the other half in a country house in the [Pyrenees Mountains of France](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/French_Pyrenees), but now the couple reside permanently in [Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva), Switzerland. In 1986 at the age of 39 he walked the 500 plus mile [Road of Santiago de Compostela](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Way_of_St._James) in north-western Spain. On the path, he had a spiritual awakening, which he described autobiographically in [The Pilgrimage](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Pilgrimage). When he was very happy in the things what he was doing. He was doing something that gave him food and water. To use the metaphor in ‘[The Alchemist](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Alchemist_%28novel%29)’, he was working, he had a person whom he loved, he had money. But it was not fulfilling his dream. His dream was and still is, to be a writer. So, he quit his other jobs and devoted himself full-time to the craft of writing.

“[The Alchemist](https://www.gradesaver.com/the-alchemist-coelho/study-guide/character-list#the-alchemist)” tells the story of a young shepherd. Whose name was ‘Santiago’. Who lives in Andalusia, Spain. He loves freedom. He always keeps moving from here to there. He is headed to a beautiful girl whom he met the year before at Tarifa and is pretty ramped up about it. One day he was sleeping near a sycamore tree in the sacristy of an abandoned church while travelling to Tarifa to meet her. He saw a dream what he had many times before. During the dream, a child tells him that he will find a hidden treasure if he travels to the Egyptian pyramids. After Awaking up he got confused. He started to think why he keep dreaming that? Is it true? He eagerly wants to know the meaning of this dream. So, he went to a famous [Gypsy old woman](http://romaministries.com/who-are-the-roma/) who tells people about their dreams meaning. He told her everything about his dream. She said that this dream is prophetic and that he must follow its instructions. But when will he get the treasure he must have to share it with her. He agreed to her because he thinks she deserves and decided to go Egypt to try his luck. After he sets out, he meets an old king [Melchizedek](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/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 him to the pyramids instead robs him of the money he had made from his flock. So then he has to work for a [crystal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lead_glass) merchant so to earn enough to get to the pyramids and he earned a lot of money. Then he got to know that a caravan crossing the Sahara Desert toward Egypt. He joined that and meets an Englishman. Who is studying to become an Alchemist. He learns a lot from [the Englishman](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/the-englishman/) during the journey. For one, he learns that the secret of alchemy is written on a stone called the Emerald Tablet. The ultimate creation of alchemy is the Master Work. Which consists of a solid called the Philosophers' Stone that can turn lead to gold and a liquid called the Elixir of Life that can cure all ills. He learns the Englishman is traveling with the caravan to the Saharan oasis of Al-Fayoum, where a powerful, 200-year-old [alchemist](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/the-alchemist/) resides. The Englishman plans to ask the alchemist the secret of his trade. As it turns out, the caravan must make an extended stop in Al-Fayoum in order to avoid increasingly violent tribal wars taking place in the desert. There, he falls in love with [Fatima](https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-alchemist/character/fatima/). Who lives at the Oasis. During a walk in the desert, he witnesses an omen that portends an attack on the historically neutral oasis. He warns the tribal chieftains of the attack, and as a result, Al-Fayoum successfully defends itself against the assault. The alchemist gets word of his vision and invites him on a trip into the desert, during which he teaches Santiago about the importance of listening to his heart and pursuing his Personal Legend. He convinces Santiago to leave Fatima and the caravan for the time to finish his journey to the pyramids, and he offers to accompany Santiago on the next leg of his trip. While the alchemist and Santiago continue through the desert, the alchemist shares much of his wisdom about the Soul of the World. They are mere days away from the pyramids when a tribe of Arab soldiers captures them. In exchange for his life and the life of Santiago, the alchemist hands over to the tribe all of Santiago’s money and tells the soldiers that Santiago is a powerful alchemist who will turn into wind within three days. Santiago feels alarmed because he has no idea how to turn into the wind, and over the next three days he contemplates the desert. On the third day, he communicates with the wind and the sun and coaxes them to help him create a tremendous sandstorm. 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 the tribesmen, awed by the power of the storm and by Santiago’s ability, let him and the alchemist go free. The alchemist continues to travel with Santiago as far as a Coptic monastery several hours from the pyramids. There, he demonstrates to Santiago his ability to turn lead into gold using the Philosopher’s Stone. He gives Santiago gold and sends him off. Santiago begins digging for the treasure at the foot of the pyramids. But two men accost him and beat him. When Santiago speaks to them about his dream vision, they decide he must have no money and let him live. Before leaving, one of the men tries to illustrate the worthlessness of dreams by telling Santiago about his own dream. It concerns a treasure buried in an abandoned church in Spain where a sycamore tree grows. The church is the same one in which Santiago had his original dream and he finally understands where his treasure is. He returns to Spain to find a chest of jewels and gold buried under the tree and plans to return with it to Al-Fayoum. Where he will reunite with Fatima. Who awaits him.

Here we can see, there is a role of fate in the novel “The Alchemist”. Fate is a power that is believed to control what happens in the future. Fate is a power that some people believe controls and decides everything that happens in a way that cannot be prevented or changed. It is also called Destiny, Fortune. The word “Fate” comes from Latin word “Fatum”. It means “that which has been spoken,” and something that's our fate is a done deal, not open to revision. If we feel like something is our fate, we feel it's beyond our control. Fate is often referred to directly, as if it were a supernatural power: “fate tore us apart." It can also describe our lot in life, like if it's our fate to take over the family farm. In the novel “The Alchemist” we can see, fate is often cited as a reason not to pursue one's Personal Legend, as in the case of the crystal merchant, whose motto is maktub: "It is written." We can see according to the conversation of the crystal merchant maktub, everything is pre-ordained or already written. For Santiago, he means that working to gain his Personal [Legend](https://literarydevices.net/legend/), which will bring happiness for him if it is meant to be. Santiago shows this fate when traveling through the desert and learning about the Personal Legend. When he asks the wind to blow a storm, it happens because of his faith, fate and his Personal Legend. That is why he tells the Englishman that alchemy is not as complicated as he has made. He needs to learn it through his day to day simple existence because he wants to get the treasure from the pyramids. He knows that when he wants to get that treasure, it means that it is his destiny. Santiago firmly believes that it is pre-ordained, but at the same time, he must strive for that.

This is how Brazilian author “[Paulo Coelho](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paulo_Coelho)” place’s a role of fate in the novel “The Alchemist”.