

From Understanding to Understanding: The Self and Life
– A Reading of the Select Novels of Paulo Coelho

A Thesis submitted to Bharathiar University in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the award of the Degree of

Doctor of Philosophy in English

Submitted by

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Under the Supervision of

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Department of English

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Tamil Nadu, India

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This is to certify that the thesis, entitled “**From Understanding to Understanding: The Self and Life – A Reading of the Select Novels of Paulo Coelho**” submitted to the Bharathiar University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in English Literature is a record of original research work done by **R. Maheswari** during the period **2017 – 2022** of her research in the **Department of English at PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore** under my supervision and guidance and the thesis has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/ Diploma/ Associateship/ Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate of any University.


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Declaration

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I, **R. Maheswari**, hereby declare that the thesis, entitled, “**From Understanding to Understanding: The Self and Life – A Reading of the Select Novels of Paulo Coelho**”, submitted to the Bharathiar University, in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of the Degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in English Literature is a record of original and independent research work done by me during 2017 – 2022 under the supervision and guidance of **Dr. Sushil Mary Mathews, M.A., M.Phil., Ph.D., Associate Professor and Head, Department of English, PSGR Krishnammal College for Women, Coimbatore**, and it has not formed the basis for the award of any Degree/ Diploma/ Associateship/ Fellowship or other similar title to any candidate in any University.



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This is to certify that Ph.D. candidate **R. Maheswari**, working under my supervision has published two research articles in the following standard UGC Approved, peer reviewed, Indexed, and, refereed journals.

1. Published paper entitled 'Identity and Integration: A Study of R.Chudamani's *Bhuvana and Planet Guru*' in *International Journal of English Language, Literature and Humanities* with impact factor **5.97**, ISSN **2582-4406**, Vol. **6** Issue **9**, Page Nos. ---**1250-1252** and year of publication **September 2018**, published by **IJCRT**.
2. Published paper entititled 'Paulo Coelho's Women Characters Viewed as the Alter Ego of the Protagonists in his Select Novels' in *International Journal of Advanced Study and Research Work with Cosmos* Impact Factor- 2.658, IJIFactor – 2.98 & Ranking A++, ISSN – **2581-5997**, Vol.3, Issue **17**, Page Nos. **41-43** and year of publication **July 2020**, published by **Alborear(OPC) Pvt.Ltd.** Thane, India.

The contents of the publications incorporate part of the results presented in her thesis.


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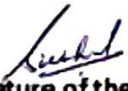
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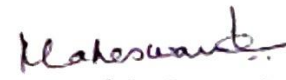
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1 CHAPTER 1 Introduction – Paulo Coelho: the Enigma Unveiled Literature is a record of knowledge and entertainment that has social, political, psychological and spiritual implications. It is an art form that impacts society for a formidable change. It is a creative process and is an imprint of the creator's personality. It is a product of life about life. Literary works have been influential in bringing about remarkable societal changes. Brazilian Literature: the literature written in Portuguese language by the Brazilians, before and after its independence in 1822 from Portugal. Brazilian literature is finding new literary trends in the present literary scenario, finding its authenticity, carving for itself a definite space in world literature and not as an adjunct of Latin American literature. Some of the notable Brazilian writers include Machado de Assis, Guimaraes Rosa, Jorge Amado, Clarice Lispector, and Graciliano Ramos and literary critics such as Antonio Candido and Otto Maria Carpeaux. Remarkable feature of these writers is that the stories of contemporary Brazil, its loneliness, and political turmoil are told in a compelling manner with a blend of magical realism. Ferreira Gullar, one of the most acclaimed poets of the 20th century had been nominated for the Nobel Prize in 2002. Paulo Coelho is one of the most influential writers of the present century transcending the geographical boundary of Brazil. His stories are not mere lives of people, but of those who learn the meaning of life. He was born to very devout catholic parents Pedro Coelho de Souza and Lygia de Souza August twenty fourth 1947. Even when he was born, he had defied the ordinary norms of existence. He was then dead as the collarbone of the infant had snapped. But the nun, the only person they could get at that time to perform the funeral rites, heard a faint mewling sound.


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Abbreviations

Abbreviations

TA	-	The Alchemist
TP	-	The Pilgrimage
TZ	-	The Zahir
VDD	-	Veronika Decides to Die
TDMP	-	The Devil and Miss Prym
BRP	-	By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept