

Depiction of Philosophical dimensions in Paulo Coelho's *BRIDA*

Kundan Makwana* & Dr.S.G.Chauhan**

*Research Scholar, HNGU, Patan.

**Principal, Palanpur.

Received: September 13, 2018

Accepted: October 22, 2018

Philosophy of life was the major branch in ancient times in Europe and Asia, but it seems to have almost disappeared from contemporary Philosophy. Before we understand the meaning of 'Philosophy of life', we should have an eye on philosophy and life differently. Here the researcher starts with some statements of Philosophy, which has been given by some critics and experts. Wikipedia defines it as;

"Philosophy is a particular term, used in two ways: formal and informal way. In a formal way, it is the systematic study of major spheres of life, like logic, aesthetics, moral values, metaphysics, epistemology etc. And another way of philosophy is informal which deals with personal philosophy which differs person to person and is based on human condition."

Masahiro Morioka, a researcher has written in one article that

At one stage of life, he realized that there was no particular branch of 'Philosophy of life', he started to build this branch by reviewing people of Japan about life, he made some questionnaire about the image of life and asked them to write about the subject without any hesitation. He got a wonderful response from them, more than a thousand copies he got. He published those responses in his paper entitled *'The concept of life in contemporary Japan'* in 2012. Through those responses, he found two terms about life; irreparability and interrelatedness. Life has a direct connection with these two terms. Afterward finally, he started to think about 'Philosophy of life' and began to make this discipline. For this, he made peer-reviewed open access journal entitled *'Journal of Philosophy of life'* in 2011. And it includes different type of topics related to life like; the meaning of life and death, ethics in human life, whether God help us or not, feminism and its disability, etc. Afterward, in 2015 they published another issue entitled *'Reconsidering meaning in Life: A Philosophical Dialogue with Thaddeus Metz'*, which deals with the views of international philosophers about the book of Thaddeus Metz' *'The meaning of Life'* (Oxford University Press,2013). And again in 2017, they published another special issue entitled; *'Nihilism and the meaning of life: a philosophical dialogue with James Tartaglia'* which discussed the book of Tartaglia *'Philosophy in a meaningless life'*, (Bloomsbury, 2016).

The term 'Philosophy of life' is also call 'Moral Philosophy' or ethics. Britannica defines it as:

"The discipline deals with whether it is ethically right or wrong and whether it is better or worse. It is also applicable to any system or theory of principles and ethical values. It deals with;

The way of living,

What is our aim of life?

Whether it is regarding happiness, virtue or any knowledge or making any wonderful object?

If it is happiness then how we see or feel happiness? Is it through our own ways or by making others happy?"

(Rachel)

In Researcher's point of view, philosophy of life is one type of philosophy which correlate with the meaning of life and the way of living life which includes ethics, morality and the true learning of life. A philosophy of life is an opinion about the purpose of life. The practical philosophy of life derived from ethics, or from the teaching of great religious leaders like Abraham, Moses, Jesus, and Buddha or Confucius. Although this philosophy help in coping with the problems of daily life and it also inspires people to follow their dreams. The main emphasis is laid upon the relation between philosophy and life. Just like the uniqueness of every thumb impression, our individual meaning of life is also unique. Everyone tries to express the term life in different ways.

What life means to us depends on questions such as,

- Whether we have positive or negative thinking
- Level of our confidence
- What we think about our self and around us
- What is important to us
- How do we measure success

So Philosophy of life can refer to one's personal philosophy of life, For Example; Shakespeare described life in his famous work Macbeth in Act 5, Scene 5;

*"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player,
That struts and frets his hour upon the stage,
And then is heard no more. It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury,
signifying nothing." (Hazlitt)*

It means trying to explore the answers of following questions;

- What is Life
- What is the purpose of life
- What is called a meaningful life
- How to lead a good life
- What is happiness
- What is the right approach to living life

Philosophy of life constitutes one amongst the foremost necessary pillars of life studies.

The fundamental task of the philosophy of life is to think deeply about the question, what is life, and the way of living life. Literature is the best medium for exploring the answer to these questions.

- Literature and Philosophy of life

The first vital factor is that the basically creative quality of all literature: All art is that the expression of life in styles of truth and beauty; or rather, it's the reflection of some truth and wonder that is within the world, however that stay ignored till dropped at our attention by some sensitive human soul called an author.

In easy words, we can say that the philosophy of life is one sort of philosophy that offer us the meaning of life and teach us the method of living life and provides us the understanding of right and wrong.

There is particular aim after writing any work of art. Some authors write art for art sake and a few for life sake and here a Researcher assumes by reading Paulo Coelho's works that Paulo Coelho is among those writers whose aim is to teach life philosophy means it deals with the meaning of life and therefore the method of living life through his works, however this type of authors place their philosophy in such a creative method in their works that it offers the teachings of life with delight.

Dryden says in his *An Essay on Dramatic Poesy*;

"The chief role is of delight if it is not then only instruction first. Instruction is necessary but it must be in second place, for poesy instruction must serve through delight." (Cowl)

And these authors apply this criticism in their works. They indirectly give the lessons of life through the interesting story or characters. Here the researcher found some of those writers whose works have the reflection of life philosophy. There are several writers, for example, Richard Bach, the writer of Jonathan Livingston Seagull.

Here the researcher focuses on the philosophy used by Paulo Coelho. Paulo Coelho the Brazilian author is the best selling writer of this era. He is famous for his novel *The Alchemist*. Paulo Coelho's works have been translated into eight languages and published in more than 170 countries, Moreover; Coelho's works have sold in the hundreds of millions.

Brida is the one of all Paulo Coelho's philosophical works published in 2008. It is a story of young Irish girl who was in search of knowledge and her gift. In her journey of knowledge and gift she encountered with Magus and Wicca who taught her the 'tradition of sun' and 'tradition of moon'. Through this story, Paulo Coelho gives so many lessons about faith, soul mate, mistakes, risk, emotions, life, opportunity, sacrifice, doubt, childhood etc.

About faith the writer says in *Brida*;

The search for God is a Dark Night that Faith is a Dark Night. Moreover, that's hardly a surprise really, because for us each day is a Dark Night. None of us knows what happen even the next minute, and yet still we go forwards, because we have Faith. Every moment in life is an act of faith. (Coelho 23)

In his every novel we find the lesson of faith. Like in his famous, work '*The Alchemist*' at one stage Santiago lost everything except two stones. However, he had faith on those stones and on his luck. And that faith took him to his treasure. Here the author co relates this with our day to day life. We plan everything for future but there is no certainty of our life, even we do not have any idea about what will happen on next second. Still we have faith, one type of assurance by which we live freely, without fear. Moreover, to live

freely, we have to make mistake, we have to take risk, because your mistake leads to the success. Of course, you will find hurdles in your path but you must have strength to face it as Paulo Coelho says about mistakes in this work;

"When you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat, and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way."(21)

By reading his works, we can find there are many ways to live life in better way. He emphasizes on how to live life in positive way. According to him;

"Accept what life offers you and try to drink from every cup. All wines should be tasted; some should only be sipped, but with others, drink the whole bottle."(213)

As he says in *'The Alchemist'*;

'Life will be a party for you, a grand festival, because life is the moment we're living now'. (Coelho 46)

So to live life happily, you must have positive attitude towards life. Moreover, it comes from your own thinking as he says at one point in his novel that *'Nothing in the world is ever completely wrong. Even a stopped clock is right twice a day.'*(87)

In *Brida* Paulo Coelho has given good description of love and soul mate. *Brida*, a young girl who was very curious to know about her soul mate so she asked;

"But how will I know who my Soulmate is?" Brida felt that this was one of the most important questions, she had ever asked in her life.

By taking risks' she said to Brida. 'By risking failure, disappointment, disillusion, but never ceasing in you search for Love. As long as you keep looking, you will triumph in the end.' (28)

Further she says;

"You could tell your soul mate by the light in their eyes, and since the time began, that has been how people have recognized their true love." (38)

It is the description, which we may never think about. Alternatively, the researcher thinks that we do not have such power to recognize our soul mate. Still we also in search of our soul mate. For *love* he says in this novel;

"She feared pain, loss and separation. These things were inevitable on the path to love, and the only way of avoiding them was by deciding not to take that path at all. In order not to suffer, you had to renounce love. It was like putting out your own eyes in order not to see the bad things in life." (85)

It is truly said that we have to suffer, have to face difficulties and hurdles to get our love whether it is a love of our soul mate or any other human being or thing.

Work cited

1. "Philosophy Meaning in the Cambridge English Dictionary." Gender Pay Gap Definition in the Cambridge English Dictionary. N.p., n.d. Web. 15 June 2018.
2. Masahiro, Morioka. "Philosophy of life." Lifestudies.org. N.p., 4 Apr. 2010. Web. <www.lifestudies.org/lifestudies.html>.
3. Rachel, James. "Ethics (Philosophy)" *Encyclopædia Britannica*. 2003. *Britannica Online*. Web. 29 Sept. 2011.
4. Guiseppi, Robert, ed. "PHILOSOPHY." history World.org. World History Center, n.d. Web. <history-world.org/philosophy.htm>.
5. Coelho, Paulo. *The Alchemist*. Noida: Harper Collins Publishers, 1988. Print.
6. Coelho, Paulo. *Brida*. UK: Harper Collins Publishers, 2008. Print.