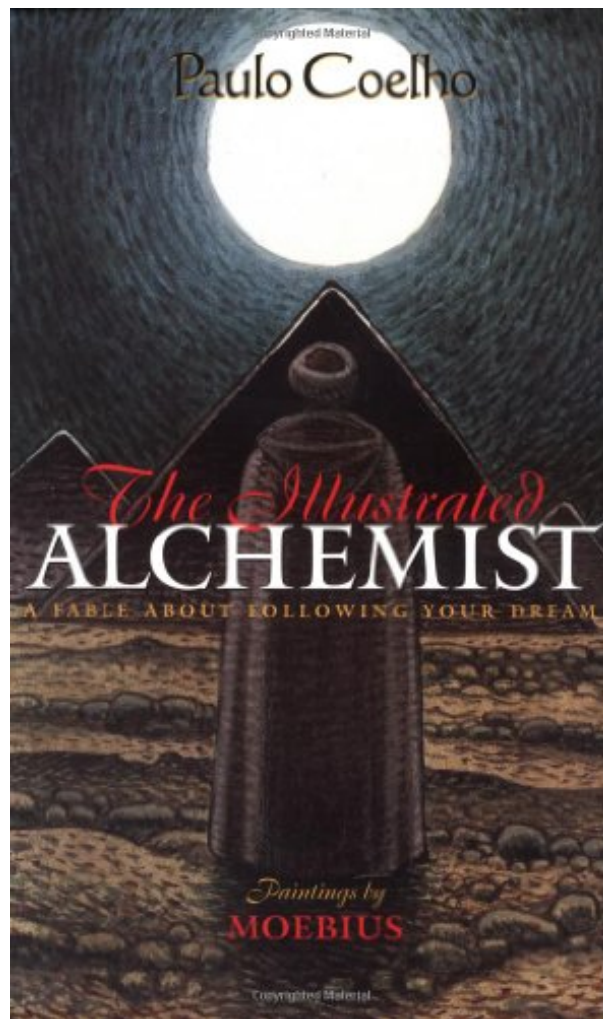
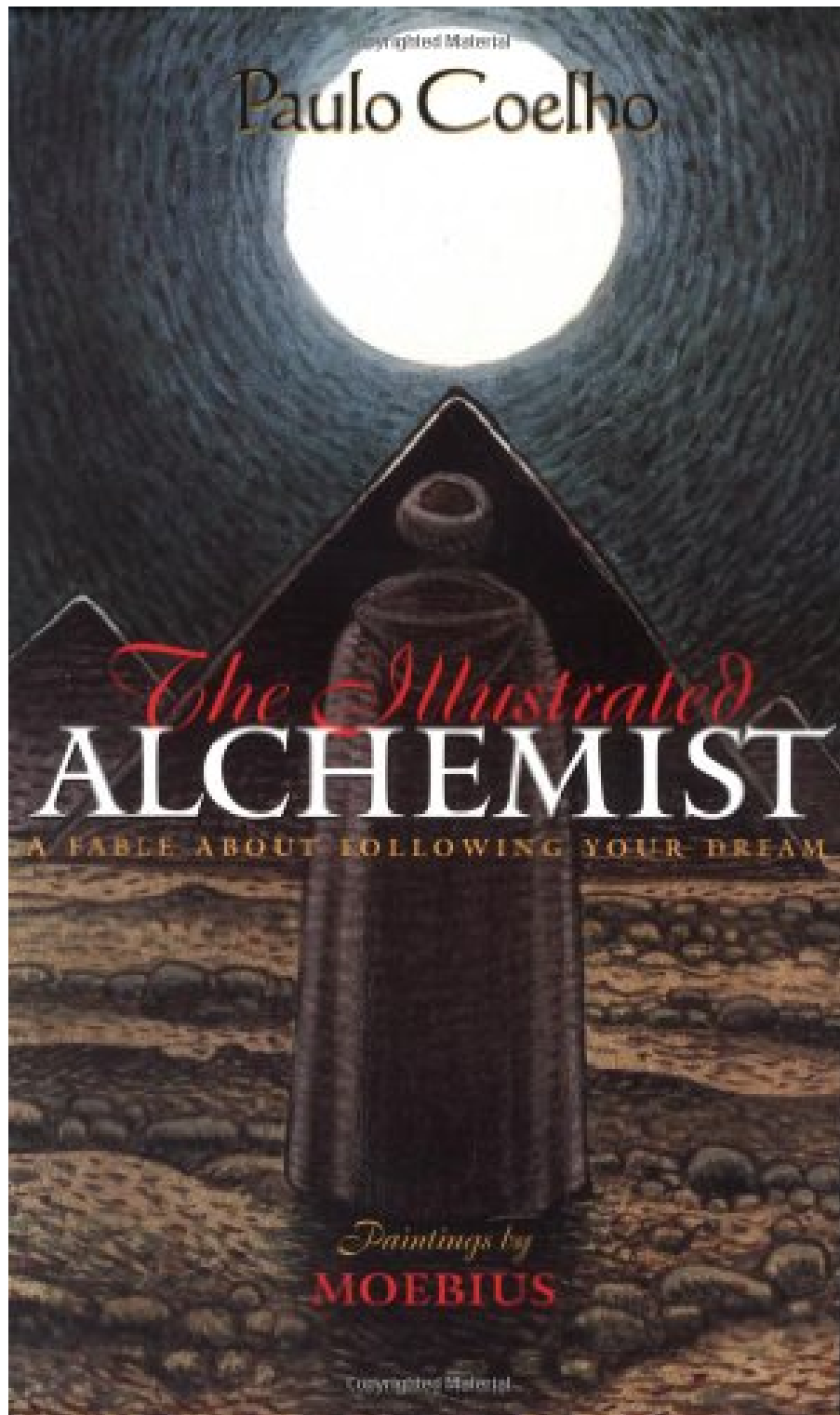


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ABOUT FOLLOWING YOUR DREAM BY  
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Since its publication in 1993, Paulo Coelho's magical novel has enchanted millions of readers around the globe. Now, the following is sure to grow with the release of this stunning edition featuring 35 illustrations from renowned artist Moebius. The Alchemist follows Santiago, a Spanish shepherd boy who leaves his home in search of treasure. What he discovers – about himself and life – as he travels over the continents to the alchemist is more rewarding than any object he ever dreamed of.

- Sales Rank: #759432 in Books
- Published on: 1998-11-01
- Original language: Portuguese
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 9.25" h x .76" w x 5.63" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 208 pages

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2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Ayn Rand's philosophy with a spoonful of mysticism to make it easier to swallow

By Chris

I read this book because my book group selected it. I found it tedious, sexist, and juvenile. The philosophy is very ego centric --there is some "personal journey" every man must complete, and "the universe" wants you to complete yours. (Unless you're female, then you should wait for your man.) There is nothing about service to others except to make money: life for this author is just about following your dreams and having adventures. (No one has children in this novel--or if they do, they are of no consequence.) There are many references to Jesus, Christianity, and Islam, but ironically nearly all of the references to Christianity are ego centric--for example, a story of how Saul's father is so proud that his son's words are remembered. Those words were about Christ--but the author cares nothing about actually trying to understand Jesus or Mohammed or anyone. Just listen to your heart.

It's objectivism with a mystical veneer over top so the self centeredness can appear spiritual rather than just self centered.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

My favorite book of all time!

By Jeff

The Alchemist is a gripping narrative about a young Andalusian shepherd named Santiago and his journey to find the greatest treasure in the world. This charming story follows Santiago on his journey to Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding treasure there. Santiago travels across great distances and encounters crazy adventures in his quest for gold. Little does he know that the ultimate treasure is actually found deep within.

This dream was so prophetic that Santiago genuinely believed this was his ultimate goal in life. After deciding to travel to a Romani fortune-teller in a nearby town to discover its meaning, a gypsy woman tells him that there is a treasure in the Pyramids in Egypt.



Towards the beginning of his journey, Santiago meets an old king, named Melchizedek, who advises him to sell his sheep in order to travel to Egypt. He also introduces the idea of a Personal Legend, stating that your Personal Legend, “is what you have always wanted to accomplish. Everyone, when they are young, knows what their Personal Legend is.”

The Alchemist Physical Cover Along the journey, Santiago meets an Englishman who is in search of an Alchemist and together they continue their search for treasure. As they travel through the Sahara desert, Santiago meets and falls in love with a beautiful Arabian woman named Fatima. After a brief period of time, Santiago asks Fatima to marry him, but she tells him that she will only marry him after he finds his treasures. Perplexed by this, Santiago later learns that true love will not stop one’s Personal Legend, and if it does, it is not true love.

Eventually Santiago meets a lone alchemist who teaches him about Personal Legends. He shares his wisdom that people want to find only the treasure of their Personal Legends but not the Personal Legend itself. The alchemist states,

“Those who don’t understand their Personal Legends will fail to comprehend their teachings.”

If you are looking for a book that will inspire courage, this is the one. No matter what your dream, goals or visions are, the universe will conspire to help you achieve the things you want, regardless of how insurmountable the task seems. You must live the life you truly desire to its fullest extent if you want to look back on a life having worth lived.

The essential message is that treasure is more worthy than gold.

Read more here: [...]

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Good book, but I think the ending is a betrayal

By Brian Driver

As I write this I realize that I am talking about a modern classic, one that I must admit I did enjoy reading overall. But that said, I simply didn’t find this book to be as moving a book as I thought I would.

The novel tells a simple though interesting tale about a boy’s attempts to search for a treasure revealed to him in multiple dreams. Along the way he encounters many people and situations that enable him to learn and grow spiritually, aided by either his clever and inquisitive mind or the guidance of others who effectively serve as mentors.

For the most part, I did like THE ALCHEMIST. I enjoyed the simple style of writing and the stripped-down nature of the tale. We don’t get into the “five senses” kind of environmental description – Coelho’s tale is more of a parable at its heart, and in fact is a story OF the heart and of the mind. I also admired the central character as well: Santiago is not only aptly named, but he is a likable boy full of pleasant good will and a gentle disposition, ready to work and clever when it comes to the things one must do to succeed. He is also brave, and remains positive whether things are going well or they are not, choosing to do the best he can at whatever hand he is dealt by life.

Here, however, comes the problem. While I felt that the book worked for a good deal of the story, it weakened a bit toward the end. Part of it was the story’s mumbo-jumbo manner of religiosity; while I understood the author’s decision to tackle his subject in this simple, unadorned manner, it didn’t hold up at

times. Certainly, the notion that there is a hidden one-ness at the heart of all matter is a notion that works well through a simplistic style, a la the clean, stripped-down beliefs at the heart of innocents or the way we conceptualize the purity of, say, the Native Americans culture when it came to nature. But when the boy began addressing the wind and other elements (a point I'll get to further in a moment), it really broke down for me. It stretched credulity, reducing Nature to a kind of repertory theater. I will speak further on this scene in a second.

HERE I ONE ASPECT THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED A SPOILER – SKIP THIS PARAGRAPH.

What I particularly disliked about *THE ALCHEMIST* is that I felt it broke its own rules. Again, I'm discussing the ending here, so beware. It bothered me that the ending should have been a point when the boy's budding spirituality took its hold upon the lad. I ask: why would a person who is in essence learning so much about what really matters about life still keep seeking money? His interest in gold is not the same as the alchemist's interest in it: the elder character is a man who can manipulate the elements in a near-magical manner, a process he leaves the boy to discover for himself (like when he fact almost comically abandons him to magically "make like the wind" for men who will otherwise kill him – comical because once the alchemist places the boy IN the situation, he simply goes off to play with his birds. And one more thing: while the twist at the end was clever, it disappointed me for two reasons: the first, for point I made above, but the second is trickier. The boy learns that the truth the material treasure HE sought is NOT there; it is, he learns, where the OTHER character says it is. Clever, sure... but is the author telling us the other character's "information" is more true? Why is that? Was it that the other boy was favored? OR, which is probably more true, is it because whatever force it is that imparts such "wisdom" does so knowing that one boy WILL follow his heart and the other won't. Think: if the other boy does follow his quest then Santiago's info is going to be wrong. But IF things are meant to work out the way they actually do, then is Coelho indeed telling us that these actions were predetermined? This sends, I think, the opposite message the author wants to send.

*THE ALCHEMIST* is a book that people will enjoy for its simple values, and the tale of this young boy's spiritual quest has satisfied many. While I too enjoyed it and liked the boy, I ultimately felt a bit disappointed in what I felt to be a contrived ending. Though I initially liked the twist at the end, the story could have ended on that exact moment and left me happier. As it is, I felt the final portion of the boy's quest betrayed his AND the author's intentions, which hurt the novel for me.

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