

The Inner Conflicts in Paulo Coelho's novel *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept*

S.Asha

M.phil , English

St. John's college of art's and science

Ammandivillai-629 209

Abstract:

In literature, a conflict is a literary element that involves a struggle between two opposing forces usually a protagonist and an antagonist. "Conflict is something that dramatic, referring to the battle their action and retaliation" (Wellek and Warren, 1989).

Key words: Childhood, love, Societal rules, struggles ,conflicts

According to Galtung "life is the pursuit of goals, social life is the exchange of value and that which pursues values, and exchange values, is referred to as an actor" An internal or psychological conflict arises as soon as a character experiences two opposite emotion or desires; usually virtue or vice, or good and evil inside him

In the *Cambridge Introduction to Narrative*, Abbot says, "There may be multiple points of conflict in a single story, as characters may have more than one desire or may struggle against more than opposing force. And there is five commonest types of conflict in literature, those are:

1. Conflict Man versus Self.

These are internal battles that characters wage within themselves; these are internal issues that affect their actions, motivations and interactions with other

characters. The conflict can be a recurring theme throughout the story or at a particular point in time.

2.Conflict Man versus Society.

These are conflicts where your characters' firm beliefs are against norms that the entire society as a whole endorses. It could be social evils or discrimination practiced by society that is opposed by a minority.

3.Conflict Man versus Man.

These sort conflicts are the most common. Your characters will be opposing the actions, reactions, motivations of another character or characters. As a writer you can choose to use this sort of conflict to provide comic relief to a narrative work.

4.Conflict Man versus Nature.

Nature serves as the obstacle for characters. You could choose to write a particular scene around a natural calamity such as a typhoon or tsunami. There are many stories waiting to be explored because an inspirational story such as the triumph of human spirit over adversity will never go out of fashion.

5.Conflict Man versus Supernatural.

Supernatural elements are typically those that defy the laws of nature and are beyond scientific understanding. Such as setting adds gravitas and drama to the story.

Almost everyone in this world might have thought of being a child again. Childhood is the world of miracles and magic. In this novel Paulo Coelho brings out about the childhood friends who meet each other after quite a long time. Both of the friends had a wonderful childhood together, Fate made them to get separated. Both travelled in different track. Pilar completed her schooling and does her higher studies with scholarship. Pilar's friend a young priest had a thirst of wander and to gain knowledge, he had travelled around the world. The letter from her friend made her to think that her wings were tied.

Pilar has many struggled throughout her life and has been hurt by people in the past. She has failed the societal rules and struggles to suppress her happiness to cut here. A divided kingdom cannot defend itself from its adversaries. A divided person cannot face life in a dignified way.

Pilar is the main character in the story. She wants to marry a good man, have children, live in a nice house and have a good stable life. She was born and raised in a small conservative town in Spain called Soria. She is a timid person, scared to branch out and learn new things because she fears change and rejection. She has been strayed from the conservative Catholic life a few times by sleeping with other men before marriage, and has been hurt by them all.

Pilar is a deeply conflicted person and she is constantly being controlled by the other. Her friend gives her an exercise to do in order to rid her of the societal and religious burdens that control her life. The exercise teaches her to be aware of when the other is trying to control her by questioning every action that she makes and comparing it to the action that the person she wants to be would have made.

When Pilar and her childhood friend met each other they became child again .Pilar accepted her friend's invitation to Bilbao .Both of them were very happy and needs to spend time together . In one of the letters Priest mentions that he was about to enter the seminary .Pilar felt something bad for his decision .So she wrote a letter requesting not to take serious decision but she tore it up because she thought that he knows much more than her.

Pilar's life gets changed when she accepted the invitation of her childhood friend to Madrid .She made four hours trip to meet her friend .On Saturday,December,4,1993 Pilar met her friend. She was that shocked by seeing the crowd gathered there to listen his talk.

After the lecture the audience rushed up to him. Pilar was waiting for him but a huge crowd gathered around him this made Pilar quite jealous insecure and tensed .Pilar notices that he wanted to accompany with her. He said that " I really need to talk to you. Tomorrow I have a lecture in Bilbao. I have a car. Come with me.""I have to get back to Zaragoza,"(11). He invites her to Bilbao " they're about to celebrate the holiday of the Immaculate Conception in Bilbao. I can go there with you and then continue on to Zaragoza."(11) Pilar encounters with a stranger woman named Birda from whom Pilar learned about the presence of Mother Mary.

Birda warns Pilar about the struggle which she is about to face

I can read your eyes. I can read your heart. You are going to fall in love. And suffer." I am?"You know what I'm talking about. I saw how he was looking at you. He loves you.' This woman was really nuts!'That's why I asked you to come with me—because he is important. Even though he says some silly things, at least he recognizes the Great Mother. Don't let him lose his way. Help him.""You don't

know what you're talking about. You're dreaming!' And I turned and rushed back into the traffic, swearing I'd forget everything she had said. (17)

Pilar and the young priest reached Bilbao. The priest expressed his love to Pilar. Pilar was happy. They both shared about their childhood days. They both shared their love physically. Then they both decided to start a new life, but when the Superior priest told Pilar about the gift of her childhood friend from Virgin Mary to cure the sick

By knowing the inner conflict that aroused in Pilar the superior priest advised her not to worry and also told her that love always brings trouble in one's life. Pilar was struggling with herself by thinking either to continue a familial life with her childhood friend or to break up with her love so that he could serve the poor.

Pilar starts to write down her pain in a paper to throw it into the river thinking that her pain of love will surely fade away one day. The priest too underwent the same problem and he goes in search of his mission with much pain thinking that his pain will fade away. The conflicts will never remain stable in one's life; it changes accordingly to the situation.

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