



Aleph

By Paulo Coelho

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Aleph By Paulo Coelho

Transform your life. Rewrite your destiny.

In his most personal novel to date, internationally best-selling author Paulo Coelho returns with a remarkable journey of self-discovery. Like the main character in his much-beloved *The Alchemist*, Paulo is facing a grave crisis of faith. As he seeks a path of spiritual renewal and growth, he decides to begin again: to travel, to experiment, to reconnect with people and the landscapes around him.

Setting off to Africa, and then to Europe and Asia via the Trans-Siberian Railway, he initiates a journey to revitalize his energy and passion. Even so, he never expects to meet Hilal. A gifted young violinist, she is the woman Paulo loved five hundred years before—and the woman he betrayed in an act of cowardice so far-reaching that it prevents him from finding real happiness in this life. Together they will initiate a mystical voyage through time and space, traveling a path that teaches love, forgiveness, and the courage to overcome life's inevitable challenges. Beautiful and inspiring, *Aleph* invites us to consider the meaning of our own personal journeys: Are we where we want to be, doing what we want to do?

Some books are read. *Aleph* is lived.

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Editorial Review

Review

“A new tale of magical longing. . . . Masterful.” —*San Francisco Chronicle*

“Coelho is a novelist who writes in a universal language.” —*The New York Times*

“It’s time for American readers to set out on a journey of discovery that will lead them to the works of this exceptional writer.” —*USA Today*

“[Coelho’s] books have had a life-enhancing effect on millions of people.” —*The Times* (London)

“Spiritualists and wanderlusts will eagerly devour *The Alchemist* author’s fiery diatribes about love, fear, and the search for all things meaningful.” —*The Washington Post*

“*Aleph* is a book written by the soul, and for the soul. At once tender and fiercely courageous, it challenges you with an embrace while seducing you with a discerning blade that points directly at the heart of what matters most in life and death. And when you have finished the last word on the last page, even if your logical mind doesn’t completely understand all that you’ve read, your eternal spirit will be dancing with joy.” —Cecilia Samartin, author of *Broken Paradise*

“Vivid, captivating. . . . So engaging that readers will not want to put it down for even a fraction of a second. As the author sets out on his journey, the reader gets the sense that, he too, is embarking on the same voyage.” —*The International Herald Tribune*

“[A] chimerical tale. . . . There’s no better author to serve such a work than Coelho.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Enigmatic. . . . An illuminating book.” —*The National*

“Borges set the standard that Coelho capably upholds. . . . Coelho the writer is both discerning and revealing of Coelho the protagonist, whose enthusiasms we share.” —*The Washington Independent Review*

About the Author

Paulo Coelho is the author of many international best sellers, including *The Alchemist*, *Eleven Minutes*, and *The Pilgrimage*. His books have sold more than 130 million copies in 160 countries and have been translated into 72 languages. In 2007, he was named a United Nations Messenger of Peace. He lives in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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"Remember the Aleph. Remember what you felt at that moment. Try to bring into this sacred place something that you don't know but that is there in your heart. If necessary, think of a favorite symphony and let it guide you to where you need to go. That's all that matters now. Words, explanations, and questions won't help; they'll only confuse something that is already quite complex enough. Forgive me, but let that forgiveness come from the depths of your soul, the same soul that passes from one body to another and learns as it travels through nonexistent time and infinite space.

“We can never wound the soul, just as we can never wound God, but we can become imprisoned by our

memories, and that makes our lives wretched even when we have everything we need in order to be happy. If only we could be entirely here, as if we had just woken up on planet Earth and found ourselves inside a golden temple, but we can't."

"I don't see why I should forgive the man I love. Or perhaps only for one thing, for never having heard those same words on his lips." A smell of incense begins to waft toward us. The priests are coming in for morning prayers.

"Forget who you are now and go to the place where the person you always were is waiting. There you will find the right words, and then you can forgive me."

Hilal seeks inspiration in the gilded walls, the pillars, the people entering the church at this early hour, the flames of the lit candles. She closes her eyes, possibly following my suggestion and imagining some music.

"You won't believe this, but I think I can see a girl, a girl who isn't here anymore but who wants to come back . . ."

I ask her to listen to what the girl has to say.

"The girl forgives you, not because she has become a saint but because she can no longer bear to carry this burden of hatred. Hating is very wearisome. I don't know if something is changing in Heaven or on Earth, or if my soul is being damned or saved, but I feel utterly exhausted, and only now do I understand why. I forgive the man who tried to destroy me when I was ten years old. He knew what he was doing, and I did not. But I felt that it was my fault, and I hated him and myself. I hated everyone who came near me, but now my soul is being set free."

This isn't what I was expecting.

"Forgive everything and everyone, but forgive me, too,"

I ask her. "Include me in your forgiveness."

"I forgive everything and everyone, including you, even though I don't know what crime you have committed. I forgive you because I love you and because you don't love me. I forgive you because you help me to stay close to my Devil, even though I haven't thought of him for years. I forgive you because you reject me and my powers are wasted, and I forgive you because you don't understand who I am or what I'm doing here. I forgive you and the Devil who touched my body before I even knew what life was about. He touched my body but distorted my soul."

She puts her hands together in prayer. I would have liked her forgiveness to have been exclusively for me, but Hilal is redeeming her whole world, and perhaps that is better. Her body starts to tremble. Her eyes fill with tears.

"Must it be here, in a church? Let's go outside into the open air. Please!"

"No, it has to be in a church. One day we'll do the same thing outside, but today it has to be in a church."

Please, forgive me.”

She closes her eyes and holds her hands aloft. A woman coming into the church sees this gesture and shakes her head disapprovingly. We are in a sacred place; the rituals are different here, and we should respect the traditions. I pretend not to notice, and feel relieved because Hilal, I realize, is talking with the Spirit who dictates prayers and the true laws, and nothing in the world will distract her now.

“I free myself from hatred through forgiveness and love. I understand that suffering, when it cannot be avoided, is here to help me on my way to glory. I understand that everything is connected, that all roads meet, and that all rivers flow into the same sea. That is why I am, at this moment, an instrument of forgiveness, forgiveness for crimes that were committed; one crime I know about, the other I do not.”

Yes, a spirit was talking to her. I knew that spirit and that prayer, which I had learned many years ago in Brazil. It was spoken by a little boy then, not a girl. But Hilal was repeating the words that were in the Cosmos, waiting to be used when necessary.

Hilal is speaking softly, but the acoustics in the church are so perfect that everything she says seems to reach every corner.

*“I forgive the tears I was made to shed,
I forgive the pain and the disappointments,
I forgive the betrayals and the lies,
I forgive the slanders and intrigues,
I forgive the hatred and the persecution,
I forgive the blows that hurt me,
I forgive the wrecked dreams,
I forgive the stillborn hopes,
I forgive the hostility and jealousy,
I forgive the indifference and ill will,
I forgive the injustice carried out in the name of justice,
I forgive the anger and the cruelty,
I forgive the neglect and the contempt,
I forgive the world and all its evils.”*

She lowers her arms, opens her eyes, and puts her hands to her face. I go over to embrace her, but she stops me with a gesture.

“I haven’t finished yet.”

She closes her eyes again and raises her face heavenward.

“I also forgive myself. May the misfortunes of the past no longer weigh on my heart. Instead of pain and resentment, I choose understanding and compassion. Instead of rebellion, I choose the music from my violin. Instead of grief, I choose forgetting. Instead of vengeance, I choose victory.

*“I will be capable of loving, regardless of whether I am loved
in return,
Of giving, even when I have nothing,*

*Of working happily, even in the midst of difficulties,
Of holding out my hand, even when utterly alone and
abandoned,
Of drying my tears, even while I weep,
Of believing, even when no one believes in me.”*

She opens her eyes, places her hands on my head, and says with an authority that comes from on high, “So it is. So it will be.”

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Patrick Sherman:

Inside other case, little individuals like to read book Aleph. You can choose the best book if you like reading a book. Providing we know about how is important any book Aleph. You can add knowledge and of course you can around the world by just a book. Absolutely right, since from book you can recognize everything! From your country until eventually foreign or abroad you can be known. About simple issue until wonderful thing you may know that. In this era, we can open a book as well as searching by internet unit. It is called e-book. You can use it when you feel bored stiff to go to the library. Let's examine.

Linda Hupp:

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