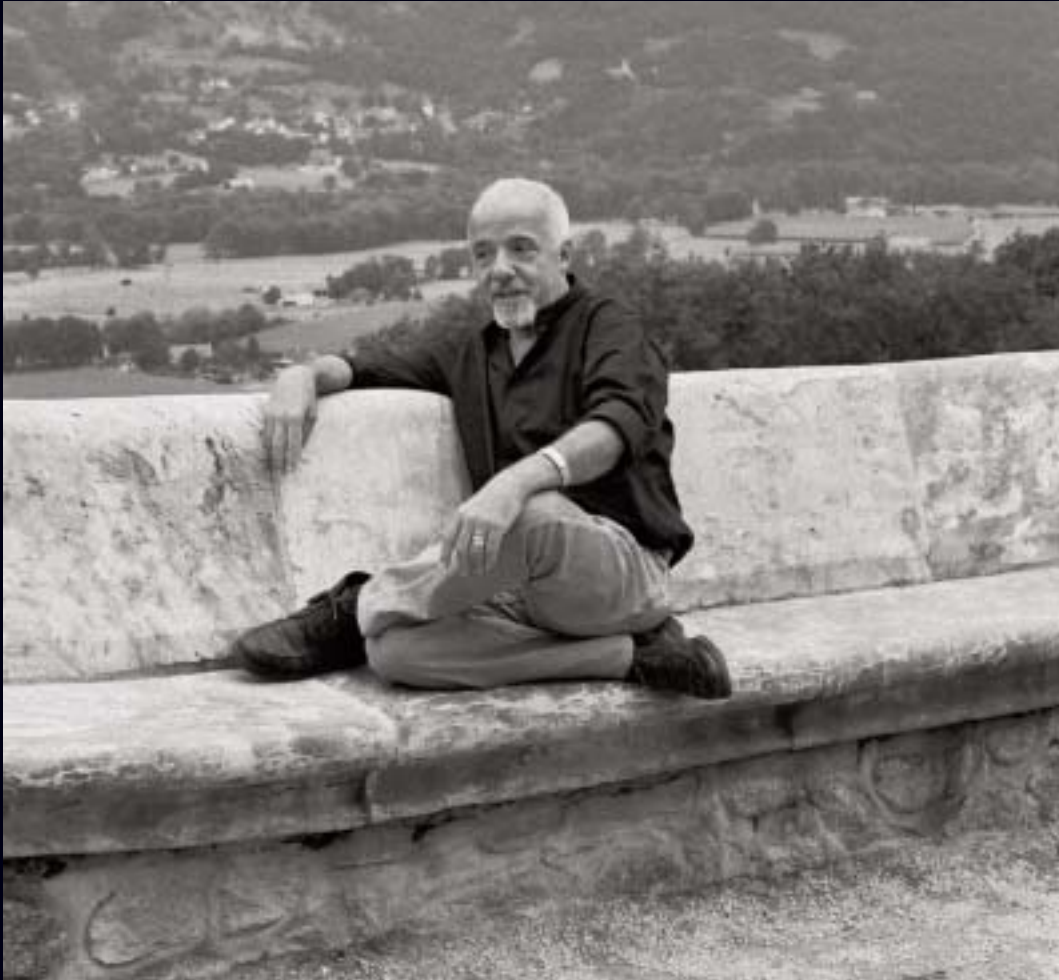


Paulo Coelho



'Paulo Coelho is not only one of the most widely read, but also one of the most influential authors writing today.'

The jury of the 2001 'BAMBI Awards', on presenting him with Germany's most prestigious prize.

Paulo Coelho seen by some as an alchemist of words and, by others, as a mass culture phenomenon, is the most influential author of the present century. Readers from over 150 countries, irrespective of their creed and culture, have turned him into a reference author of our time.

His books, translated into 56 languages, have not only topped the bestseller lists, but have gone on to become the subject of social and cultural debate. The ideas, philosophy and subject matter covered in his books touch the aspirations of millions of readers searching for their own path and for new ways of understanding the world.



Portrait: Photo of Xavier González, ©2001.
Front cover: Photo granted by Drzewo Babel (Poland) taken in France, 2002.



The French magazine "Paris Match" was making a report in the desert. By chance, they met a Bedouin reading *The Alchemist*. They took a photo and sent it to Paulo as a present.

Paulo Coelho was born in 1947 into a middle-class family, the son of Pedro, an engineer, and Lygia, a housewife.

At seven, he entered the Jesuit school of San Ignacio in Rio de Janeiro. Paulo came to detest the obligatory nature of religious practice. However, although he hated praying and going to mass, there were compensations. In the school's austere corridors, Paulo discovered his true vocation: to be a writer. He won his first literary prize in a school poetry competition, and his sister, Sonia, recounts how she won an essay prize by entering something that Paulo had discarded in the wastepaper bin.

However, Paulo's parents had very different plans for their son's future. They wanted him to be an engineer and tried to stifle his desires to devote himself to literature. Their intransigence and his discovery of Henry Miller's *Tropic of Cancer* aroused Paulo's spirit of rebellion, and he began routinely to flout the family

rules. His father took this behaviour as a sign of mental illness and, when Paulo was seventeen, he twice had him committed to a psychiatric hospital, where Paulo underwent several sessions of electroconvulsive therapy.

Shortly after this, Paulo became involved with a theatre group and began working as a journalist. In the eyes of the comfortably-off middle classes of the time, the theatre was a hotbed of immorality. His frightened parents decided to break their promise not to confine him again and had him readmitted to hospital for the third time. When he came out, Paulo was even more lost and more enclosed in his own private world. In despair, the family called in another doctor who told them: Paulo isn't mad and he shouldn't be in a psychiatric hospital. He simply has to learn how to face up to life. Thirty years after these experiences, Paulo Coelho wrote *Veronika Decides to Die*.

According to Paulo: '*Veronika Decides to Die* was published in Brazil in 1998. By September, I had received more than 1,200 e-mails and letters describing similar experiences. In October, some of the subjects discussed in the book - depression, panic attacks, suicide - were addressed at a conference that went on to have national repercussions. On 22nd January of the following year, Senator Eduardo Suplicy read out some extracts from my book at a plenary session and managed to get approval for a law that had been doing the rounds of the Brazilian Congress for ten years - a law prohibiting arbitrary hospitalisation.'



With Pedro, his father, magazine cover "Jornal do Brasil", 1998.

After this period, Paulo returned to his studies and it looked as if he was finally going to follow the route his parents had prepared for him. Not long afterwards, though, he dropped out and went back to the theatre. This was in the sixties, and the hippie movement had exploded onto the world scene. These new trends took root even in Brazil, ruled at the time by a repressive military regime. Paulo wore his hair long and made a point of never

carrying his identity card; for a time, he took drugs, wanting to live the hippie experience to the full. His passion for writing drove him to start a magazine, of which only two issues were ever published.

Around this time, the musician and composer, Raul Seixas invited Paulo to write the words to his songs. Their second record was a huge success and sold more than 500,000 copies. This was the first time Paulo had earned a large amount of money. Their partnership continued up until 1976. Paulo wrote more than sixty songs with Raul Seixas, and together they changed the Brazilian rock scene.

In 1973, Paulo and Raul became part of the Alternative

Society, an organization that opposed capitalist ideology, defended the individual's right to do what he or she pleased, and also practised black magic. He later described these experiences in *The Valkyries* (1992).

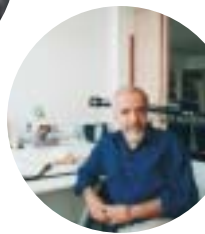
During this period, they began publishing "Kring-ha", a series of comic strips, calling for more freedom. The dictatorship considered these subversive, and Paulo and Raul were detained and imprisoned. Raul was soon released, but Paulo was kept in for longer because he was considered to be the 'brains' behind the comic strips. His problems did not end there however; two days after his release, Paulo was seized as he was walking down the street and taken to a military torture centre where he remained for several days. According to him, he only escaped death by telling them that he was mad and had already been admitted to mental hospitals three times. He started physically harming himself when his kidnappers were there in the room, and, in the end, they stopped torturing him and let him go.



Paulo and Raul in the 70's.

This experience marked him deeply. At twenty-six, Paulo decided that he had had enough experience of 'life' and wanted to be 'normal'. He got a job at the record company, Polygram, where he met the woman who would later become his wife.

In 1977, they moved to London. Paulo bought a typewriter and started writing, without much success. The following year, he returned to Brazil, where he worked as an executive for another record company, CBS. This only lasted three months, after which he separated from his wife and left his job.



Song Title:
I Was Born Ten
Thousand
Years Ago

Eu Nasci Há 10 Mil Anos Atrás

De: Raul Seixas/Paulo Coelho
Gravação: PHILIPS/Raul Seixas
Cat. nº S/20.1865

FL/LR Eb Eb Eb Eb

Repete ad libitum F7 para

Fi/N Eb Eb F7 F7

Im Eb F7 F7 Eb Bb7/6

UM DIA , NUMA RUA DA CIDADE
EU VI UM VELHINHO SENTADO NA CALÇADA
COM UMA CUIA DE ESFOLA E UMA VIOLA NA MÃO
O POVO PAROU PRA OUVIR
ELE AGRADECEU AS MOEDAS
E CANTOU ESSA MUSICA
QUE CONTAVA UMA ESTORIA
QUE ERA MAIS OU MENOS ASSIM
EU NASCI HÁ DEZ MIL ANOS ATRAS } Refrão
E NÃO TEM NADA NESTE MUNDO } Bis
QUE EU NÃO SABIA DEKAIS



In 1979, he met up with an old friend, Christina Oiticica, whom he would later marry and with whom he still lives.

The couple travelled to Europe where they visited several countries. In Germany they went to the concentration camp at Dachau. There Paulo had a vision in which a man appeared to him. Two months later, he met that same man in a café in Amsterdam and spent a long time talking to him and exchanging views and experiences. The man, whose identity Paulo has never revealed, suggested that he should return to Catholicism. Paulo started studying the symbolic language of Christianity. He also proposed that Paulo should walk the Road to Santiago (a medieval pilgrim's route between France and Spain).

In 1987, a year after completing that pilgrimage, Paulo wrote his first book, *The Pilgrimage (The Diary of a Magus)*. The book describes his experiences during the pilgrimage and his discovery that the extraordinary occurs



First book:
The Pilgrimage, 1987.

With Christina Oiticica,
his wife, 1996.



Desci novamente a montanha e ~~comecei~~ ^{voltei} a caminhar em direção à Compostela. Enquanto cruzava pela segunda vez Villafranca del Bierzo, apareceu outro homem, que disse chamar-se Angel ~~XXX~~ e me perguntou se eu queria conhecer a igreja de São José Operário. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Apesar da magia de seu nome (1), eu tinha ^{acabado de ler} ~~tido~~ uma decepção, e já estava começando a ~~achar~~ ^{Certo} que Petrus era um verdadeiro conhecedor do espírito humano. Nós sempre temos a tendência de fantasiar as coisas que não existem, e de não

in the lives of ordinary people. It was published by a small Brazilian publishing house and, although it received very few reviews, it sold quite well.

In 1988, Paulo wrote another, very different book: *The Alchemist*. This was a highly symbolic book, a metaphor of life, which reflected his eleven years spent studying alchemy. The first edition sold only 900 copies, and the publishing house decided not to reprint.

Paulo would not give up the pursuit of his dream. He got a second chance: he found a bigger publishing house, Rocco, that was interested in his work. In 1990, he published *Brida*, in which he wrote about the gift that we all carry within us. The publication of this book, which, this time, received plenty of press attention, took *The Alchemist* and *The Pilgrimage* to the top of the bestseller lists. *The Alchemist* went on to sell more copies than any other book in the history of Brazil, and even made it into the Guinness Book of Records. In 2002, the Portuguese

Magazine cover "Jornal do Brasil" on the occasion of the publication of *Brida*, 1990.



With Mônica at the ABA in Miami, 1993.



literary review, *Jornal de Letras*, the great authority on literature and the Portuguese literary market, declared that *The Alchemist* had sold more copies than any other book written in Portuguese in the entire history of the language.

In May 1993, HarperCollins published 50,000 copies of *The Alchemist*, which was the largest ever initial print run of a Brazilian book in the United States. At the launch, the executive director of HarperCollins, John Loudon, said: 'It was like getting up at dawn and seeing the sun rise while the rest of the world still slept. Wait until everybody else wakes up and sees this too.' Paulo was overwhelmed by HarperCollins' enthusiasm for the book. 'This is a very special moment for me,' he said. His editor ended the launch by saying: 'I hope the publication of the book will be as long, exciting and successful as his Latin American story has been.'

Ten years later, in 2002, John Loudon wrote to Paulo: *The Alchemist* has become one of the most important books in our company's recent history. We are so proud of the book and its success. The story of its success with us mirrors the story of the book! HarperCollins planned an ambitious campaign for the 10th anniversary of publication, which included an international mass market version, to be sold around the world to the book's growing legion of fans.

Julia Roberts said: 'It's like music, really, the way he writes, it's so beautiful. It's a gift that I envy above all others.' (In Paulo Coelho: *The Alchemist of Words*, Discovery Networks/Polo de Imagem [documentary]). Madonna said in an interview in the German magazine "Sontag-Aktuell": '*The Alchemist* is a beautiful book about magic, dreams and the treasures we seek elsewhere and then find on our doorstep.'

The success of *The Alchemist* in the United States marked the beginning of his international career. Several Hollywood producers showed immediate interest in the film rights, which were acquired in 1993 by Warner Brothers.



The Alchemist in the world

Since its launch in Brazil in 1988 to date, *The Alchemist*, translated into 56 languages, has become a classic of our time.

Before publication in the United States, *The Alchemist* had been published by small publishing houses in Spain and in Portugal. In Spain, the book did not make the bestseller lists until 1995. Seven years later, the Spanish Publishers Guild wrote that *The Alchemist* (Editorial Planeta) had been the top-selling book in Spain in 2001. On the other hand, the Spanish publishing house is preparing an unprecedented relaunch of his complete works for year 2002. Paulo Coelho is the top-selling author in Portugal (Editorial Pergaminho), with more than a million copies sold.



In 1993, Mônica Antunes, who has been collaborating with Paulo since 1989 after reading his first two books, established in Barcelona the literary agency Sant Jordi Associados together with Carlos Eduardo Rangel, with the mission of selling the rights of Paulo's works.

In May of that year, after the publication of *The Alchemist* in the United States, Mônica offered the title to several international publishers. The first publishing house to acquire the rights was Ex Libris from Norway. Its publisher, Øyvind Hagen, wrote to Mônica: 'The book has made a strong and continuing impact on me.' A few days later, the newly founded French publishing house Anne Carrière Editions replies to Mônica: 'It's a wonderful book and I will do everything to let it become a best seller in France.'

In September 1993, *The Alchemist* topped the bestseller lists in Australia. The Sydney Morning Herald claimed: 'It's the book of the year. An enchanting work of infinite philosophical beauty.'

In April 1994, *The Alchemist* was launched in France (Anne Carrière Editions). It received marvellous reviews, and

Palmarès

L'Express-RTL (semaine du 10 au 16 novembre 1998) 27 ans 1998

Titres Auteurs Editeurs

Romans, récits

| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--|-------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|--|---|--|
| Le Pénitencier de Compostelle | Le Monde de Sophie | Une mort sans nom | Le Feu du jour d'avant* | Mais l'as-tu vu pour être heureux ? | Le Mystère de la patience* | Jeunes à l'aise | Le Monde de Sophie* | La Dernière Cardine | Der Fresse en blanc | Preque rien sur preque tout | Le Procès Akoua | Voire très sombre et très intéressant roman | L'homme qui inventait à l'arrière des cheveux* | Sur le bord de la rivière Piedra... |
| Paulo Coelho | Paulo Coelho | Patricia Cornwell | Umberto Eco | Micèle de Barros | Joselin Guasco | Arno Wlassensky | Joselin Guasco | Régine Deforges | Jeanne Boscand | Jean d'Ormesson | Vietri Sereen | Hervé Triaud | Nicholas Evans | Paulo Coelho |
| Actes Carrière | Actes Carrière | La Masque | Gallimard | Flammarion | Seuil | Gallimard | Seuil | Fayard | Robert Laffont | Gallimard | Grasset | Flammarion | Albin Michel | Actes Carrière |
| 1 | 4 | 2 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 7 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 1 | 11 | 10 |

"L'Express", bestseller list, France, 1998.

Bestseller buchmarkt.de vom 08. bis 14. September 2002

DER SPIEGEL

| | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Das flammende Kreuz | Diana Galushko/Blaeslein/14,90 | 8.0002/6. Woche |
| 2 | Die Leopardin | Karl Follert/14,90 | 8.0002/3. Woche |
| 3 | Das Lächeln der Sterne | Nikolaus Sparks/Hanser/17,90 | 8.0002/2. Woche |
| 4 | Der Alchimist | Paulo Coelho/Diogenes/17,90 | 1.0004/300. Woche |
| 5 | Das schwarze Haus | King & Street/Heyne/16,90 | 8.0002/4. Woche |
| 6 | Die Korrekturen | Jens Juel Frøstev/Rowohlt/14,90 | 8.0002/12. Woche |
| 7 | Wallanders erster Fall u. a. Erzähl. | Hilmaring Mander/2. Auflage/14,90 | 5.0002/18. Woche |
| 8 | Das blaue Kleid | Daria Dierke/Diogenes/16,90 | 7.0002/8. Woche |
| 9 | Das letzte Revier | Patricia Cornwell/HaCa/14,90 | 8.0002/4. Woche |
| 10 | Der Zeitdieb | Terry Pratchett/Goldmann/10,90 | 8.0002/1. Woche |

"Der Spiegel", bestseller list, Germany, September 2002.



Salon du Livre in Paris, France, 1998.



'Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres' ceremony with Eduardo Rangel and Mônica, 1996.

the reading public went wild about the book, which began its climb up the best seller lists. Two days before Christmas, Anne Carrière wrote to Mônica: 'As a Christmas gift, I am sending you the bestseller lists from France. We are first!'

The Alchemist had reached number one in every list in France, where it stayed for five consecutive years. After its phenomenal success in France, Paulo's books left the purely literary world behind to become a European phenomenon that has spread throughout the world.

Ever since then, each and every one of Paulo Coelho's six novels so far translated into French have made it to number one in the bestseller lists, remaining there for months. He has even had three of his titles in the top ten at the same time.

By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept, published in Brazil by Rocco in 1994, confirmed his international status. In this book, Paulo explored his feminine side.

In 1995, *The Alchemist* was published in Italy (Bompiani), immediately reaching the top of the bestseller lists. The following year Paulo was given two prestigious Italian awards, the Super Grinzane Cavour Book Award and the Flaiano International Award.

In 1996, Editorial Objetiva acquired the rights to his book, *The Fifth Mountain*, paying an advance of one million dollars, the biggest ever paid to a Brazilian author. That same year, Paulo was made a 'Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres', and Philippe Douste-Blazy, the French Minister of Culture, said: 'You have become the alchemist for millions of readers. Your books do good because they stimulate our capacity to dream, our desire to search.' In 1996, Paulo was also appointed special advisor to the UNESCO programme 'Spiritual Convergences and Intercultural Dialogues.'

The same year, *The Alchemist* was published in Germany (Diogenes). The hardback edition beat all

Book signing in Prague, Czech Republic, 1998.



With readers in Istanbul, Turkey, 1998.



With Mônica in Taipei, Taiwan, 1998.



Posters in Warsaw, Poland, 1998.

records in 2002 after remaining over 306 weeks in “Der Spiegel” bestseller list.

At the 1997 Frankfurt Book Fair, his publishers, along with Diogenes and Sant Jordi, held a cocktail party to honour Paulo and to announce the simultaneous international launch of *The Fifth Mountain*. This took place in March 1998 with a main event in Paris. Paulo enjoyed huge success at the Salon du Livre, spending more than seven hours signing books. His French publisher, Anne Carrière, organized a supper in his honour at the Louvre Museum, which was attended by hundreds of celebrities and journalists.

In 1997, Paulo published his remarkable book, *The Manual of the Warrior of Light*, a collection of philosophical thoughts aimed at helping us to discover the warrior of light within. The book has become a point of reference for millions of readers. It was first published

in Italy (Bompiani), where it was a spectacular sales success.

With *Veronika Decides to Die*, published in 1998, Paulo returned to a more narrative style, and the book received excellent reviews.

In January 2000, Umberto Eco said in an interview for “Focus”: ‘I like Coelho's most recent novel. It really touched me deeply.’ Sinéad O'Connor, in “The Irish Sunday Independent”, said: ‘The most incredible book I've ever read is *Veronika Decides to Die*.’

Paulo made a successful tour in 1998, visiting Asia in the spring and the countries of Eastern Europe in the autumn, a journey that began in Istanbul, on the Orient Express, passing through Sofia (Bulgaria) and ending in Riga (Latvia-Baltic States).

Paulo Coelho's vertiginous career continued.

"Lire" magazine (March 1999) declared him to be 1998's second best-selling author worldwide.

In 1999, he was given the prestigious Crystal Award. According to the World Economic Forum, 'Paulo's most important contribution has been to touch and unite so many different cultures through the power of language, which clearly marks him out for this Award.' Paulo has been an invited member of the World Economic Forum from 1998 until the present day. In 2000, he was appointed to the Board of the Schwab Foundation for Social Entrepreneurship.

In 1999, the French government made him a 'Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur'.

In that same year, Paulo took part in the Buenos Aires Book Fair with *Veronika Decides to Die*. The reaction to Paulo's presence there was unprecedented and highly emotional. The media all agreed that no other author could attract so many

people. 'Colleagues who have been working at the Book Fair for the last 25 years say that they have never seen anything like it, not even when Borges was alive. It has been really extraordinary, I don't think I'll ever see another writer get such a response. People's admiration for Paulo defies description,' Lidia Maria from V&R told us. On the day of the signing, people started queuing more than four hours before the appointed time, and the directors of the Fair agreed to close later than usual so that no one would be disappointed.

In September Paulo visited Israel. All his books have been a sales success since the publication of *The Alchemist*. Eri Stematzky, owner of the biggest chain of bookstores in Israel, told us, "I had never seen such a long line, and I only wish the day will come when people will stand in line like this for an Israeli author."

In May 2000, Paulo visited Iran and became the first non-Muslim writer to make an official visit to the country since 1979. He was invited by the International Centre for

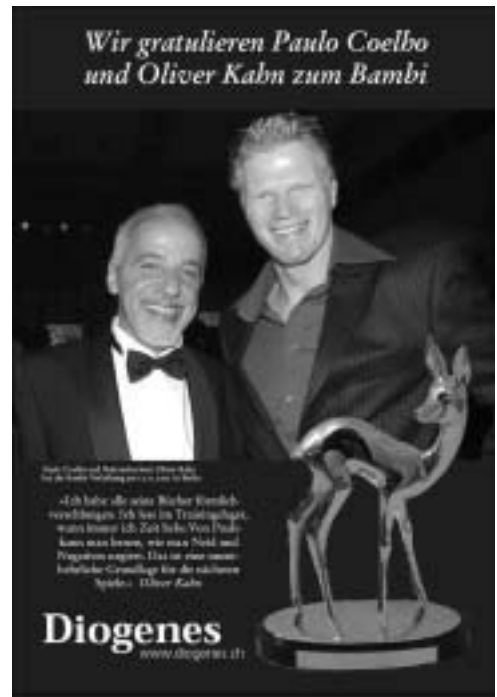
Visit to Iran, article published in "Época" magazine, Brazil 2000.



'Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur' ceremony, 1999.



With Oliver Kahn, football player, during the Bambi Award ceremony, Germany, 2001.





Ceremony at the ABL, Rio de Janeiro, October 2002.

Conference at the Mantova Literature Festival, Italy, 1999.



Visit to Santiago de Compostela, Spain, 2001.



Announcement of the book signing in a Milan department store, Italy, 1999.



Instituto Paulo Coelho in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Dialogue among Civilizations. Before his visit, it is estimated that millions of pirated copies of his books had already been sold (Iran has never signed the International Copyright Agreement). Since that visit, Paulo has become the only non-Muslim writer to receive royalties. He could never have imagined receiving such a warm welcome in a land so distant from and so different to the West. Thousands of Iranian readers came to his signings and his talks. According to Paulo's words, 'I received many gifts, I received much love, but above all I received the understanding of my work, and this touched me profoundly. To my great surprise, my soul had arrived before myself, my books were present and I found old friends in the people I had never met before. I did not feel like a stranger in a foreign land. It was something that moved me deeply and filled me with joy since I felt that beyond anything else, the possibility of a

dialogue with any human being on the face of the earth exists. Iran showed me this was possible.'

In September *The Devil and Miss Prym* was published simultaneously in Italy (Bompiani), Portugal (Pergaminho) and Brazil (Objetiva). To coincide with the launch, Paulo, in his house in Rio de Janeiro, gave dozens of interviews to media from all over the world. The existence of the Instituto Paulo Coelho was made public for the first time; set up in 1996 by Paulo Coelho and his wife, Christina Oiticica, it provides support and opportunities for the underprivileged in Brazil, especially children and the elderly.

Paulo was awarded the 'BAMBI 2001', the oldest and most prestigious award in Germany. In the jury's opinion, Paulo Coelho's belief that the destiny and gift of every human being is to become a 'warrior of light' in a dark world, contains a deeply humanistic message, a message that had particular poignancy that year.



Book signing at the Guadalajara Book Fair, Mexico, 2001.



Book signing at the Bogotá Book Fair, Colombia, 2001.

The first time that Paulo travelled to Colombia was on the occasion of the 2001 International Book Fair in Bogotá. Thousands of people awaited the arrival of their idol, who received a welcome worthy of a pop star. Paulo called for calm and patience; everyone's book would be signed. After five hours, 4,000 books had been signed and sold.

In September, he also attended an amazing book signing at the Borders bookshop in London. According to Events Manager, Finn Lawrence, Paulo's signing of his new novel, *The Devil and Miss Prym* (HarperCollins) 'was, without doubt, the biggest event of the year', with people there from all five continents (from Japan, Pakistan, Angola, America and all the European countries). In November, he travelled to Mexico, where thousands of readers waited for hours for him to arrive at the Guadalajara Book Fair.

In early 2002, Paulo travelled for the first time to China and visited Shanghai, Beijing and Nanjing, taking part in

numerous events, including book signings and meetings with readers.

On 25th July 2002, Paulo Coelho was elected to chair number 21 of the prestigious Brazilian Academy of Letters (ABL). The aim of the Academy, whose headquarters is in Rio de Janeiro, is to safeguard the Brazilian language and culture. Following the announcement of his election and during the following night, Paulo received more than three thousand messages from his readers and became the focus of media attention throughout the country. When he came out of his house, people applauded him. Despite being adored by millions of readers, he has always been spurned by certain literary critics, which is why his admission to the Academy was such an important social event.

On 28th October, delivering a speech that praised utopia and faith, Paulo took up his charge at the ABL. Among his words, he quoted the sentence of his predecessor, the

In September, Paulo attended an amazing book signing at the Borders bookshop in London





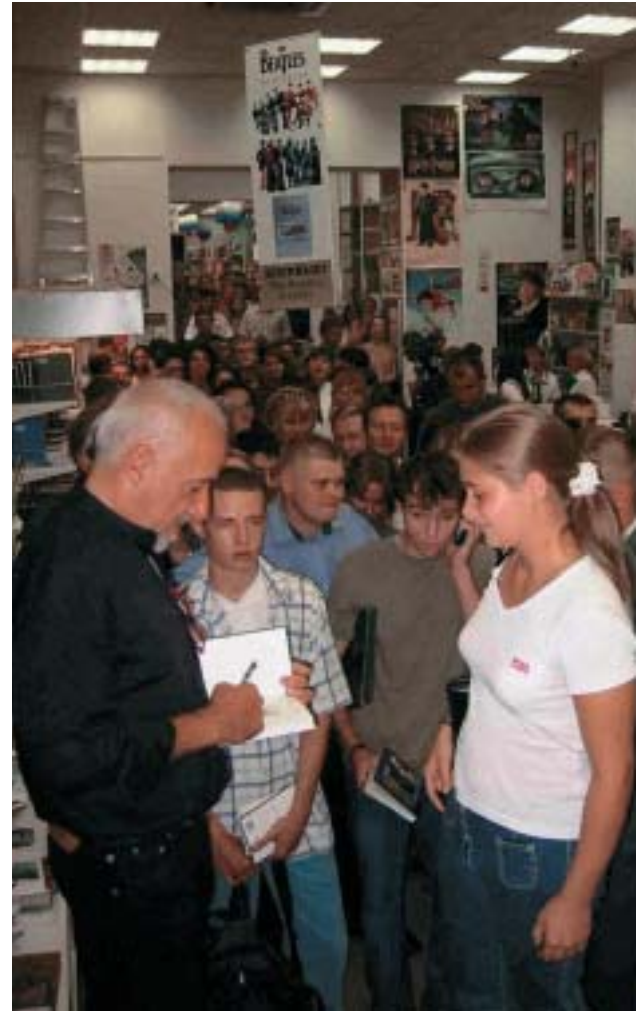
With readers in Beijing, China, 2002.



Book signing at Academic Bookstore, Helsinki, Finland, 2002.

economist Roberto Campos, 'The violence of the arrow dignifies the target', and added, 'many times, at moments in which I felt judged with excessive severity by the critics, I remembered this sentence. And I remembered another dream I was not willing to give up: to enter the Brazilian Academy of Letters one day.'

In September 2002, Paulo caused a real sensation when he travelled to Russia where five of his books were simultaneously on the bestseller lists, with *The Devil and Miss Prym* at number one, followed by *The Alchemist*, *The Manual of the Warrior of Light*, *Veronika Decides to Die* and *The Fifth Mountain* (Sophia Publishers). In only a fortnight, more than 250,000 copies of his books were sold in Russia, bringing to more than a million the total number of copies sold in just one year. According to the marketing director of the MDK chain, Paulo's signing was the biggest ever. 'We have never had so many people coming in to get



Book signing in Moscow, Russia, 2002.

with people there from all five continents, from Japan, Pakistan, Angola, America and Europe.



the signature of their favourite author. We organize a lot of signings and readings at our bookshop, and we have had famous guests here before, like the Russian Presidents Mr Yeltsin and Mr Gorbachev, or even Mr Putin, but we have never had this many people. It was really unbelievable. MDK had to turn away hundreds of readers trying to join the enormous crowd.'

In October 2002, Paulo received the 'Club of Budapest Planetary Arts Award 2002' in Frankfurt, and the 'Best Fiction Corine Award 2002' in Munich.

In November, the author visited the Scandinavian countries and took part in fantastic events organized at the bookstore Tanum Karl Johan and at Rockfeller (for

Bokbadet TV programme) in Oslo, as well as at the Academic Bookstore in Helsinki, and the NK bookstore in Stockholm.

Paulo has always counted on the wholehearted support of his publishers. His success is not limited to his books, but extends into other cultural and social areas.

Various theatre companies have seen the great dramatic and poetic potential of his work. *The Alchemist*, for example, has been adapted and produced on all five continents in various theatrical forms - musicals, dance theatre, puppets, dramatised readings, opera. The book will eventually appear on the Broadway stage in the form of a musical. Other works that have caught the dramatic



The Alchemist,
The Cornish
Theatre
Collective,
England,
season
2001/2002.



The Alchemist, Teatrul
Odeon, Romania,
Spring 2002.



The Alchemist,
Chung Ying Theatre
Company, Hong
Kong, China, 2001.

Diary 2003, V&R,
Argentina.



Electronic
games.

imagination are *Veronika Decides to Die*, *By the River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept* and *The Devil and Miss Prym*.

Alongside the books are a whole series of products related to the author and his work, amongst them, diaries, calendars, journals, appointment books, art books and even three electronic games: 'The Pilgrim', 'The Legend' and 'The Secrets of Alamut' (The Arxel Guild), designed in collaboration with the author.

Paulo's constant presence in the media can also be seen through articles and newspaper columns. Over the years, he has written a large number of articles and essays for all the most important newspapers and magazines.

In March 1998, he began writing a weekly column in the Brazilian newspaper "O Globo". Such was its success among readers, that Sant Jordi started syndicating the columns in other international media. Four years on, newspapers such as Reforma in Mexico are still publishing the columns.

His columns have been published on a regular basis in "Corriere della Sera" (Italy), "El Semanal" (Spain), "Ta Nea" (Greece), "TV Hören + Sehen" and "Welt am Sonntag" (Germany), "Anna" (Estonia), "Zwierciadlo" (Poland), "El Universo" (Ecuador), "El Nacional" (Venezuela), "El Espectador" (Colombia) and "The China Times Daily" (Taiwan), amongst many others.



Column in "Ta Nea", Greece.



Column in "El Semanal", Spain.



Reader's letter, "El Semanal", Spain:

THE LETTER OF THE WEEK

"Coelho's Daily Truths"

I am a 12-year-old girl, and the truth is I am too young to understand the subjects in "El Semanal", but I think it is one of the magazines (not to say the only one) that deals with interesting issues and not with gossips which do not enrich people at all. What I find most amusing (and I wish all children reading this will take it seriously) is Paulo Coelho's stories because they are "daily truths" we do not stop to think about and they might make our life more pleasant or satisfactory.

Cristina Iraberri Pérez, Huesca, Spain.



Message on Brazilian Internet portal UOL.

Press conference,
Interfax, Moscow,
Russia, 2002.



Presentation of
documentary for
Discovery Networks in
Madrid, Spain, 2001.



While shooting a
documentary for Aichi,
Japan, 2001.



Interview for TV programme Twoj Styl, Poland, recorded in France, 2002.

He also appears on the Internet. Paulo has written a series of 365 brief essays, which have been published in the form of a daily message on the following Internet portals: Ynet (Hebrew), RCS (Italian), UOL (Portuguese) and Terra (Spanish). Paulo has also created a newsletter, The Manual On-Line, which has 30,000 subscribers.

Paulo has appeared in various documentaries about his life for Discovery Networks/Polo de Imagem (Latin America and Spain), ZDF (Germany) and Unknown Planet (Russia). In other programmes, he has been filmed travelling (RTE, Ireland) or on pilgrimages (NHK and Aichi, Japan). He has appeared, too, in other documentaries about various aspects of Brazilian life (Productions Espace Vert, Canada and France).

On TV there have been several spaces and interviews about him on programmes for such international channels as Informe Semanal (Spain, 2001), Q&A (CNN, 1999) and Hard Talks with Tim Sebastian (BBC, 1999).

Paulo has granted innumerable interviews to different media from the same level as "The New York Times" (USA), "El País" (Spain), "Der Spiegel" (Germany), "Le Monde" and "Express" (France), "Corriere della Sera" and "La Repubblica" (Italy), among many others.

Paulo Coelho's new book, to be launched in Brazil in 2003

Eleven Minutes

Once upon a time, there was a prostitute called Maria.

Era uma vez uma prostituta chamada Maria.

Um momento. "Era uma vez" é a melhor maneira de começar uma história para crianças, enquanto "prostituta" é para adultos. Como posso escrever um livro com esta aparente contradição inicial? Mas enfim, como a cada instante de nossas vidas temos um pé no conto de fadas e o outro no abismo, vamos manter este início:

Era uma vez uma prostituta chamada Maria. Como todas as prostitutas, tinha um passado e, e durante a sua adolescência se apaixonou por um príncipe de sua vida (rico, bonito, inteligente e encantado), mas não poderia viver em uma linda casa (com vista para o mar, um jardim e um criador, sua mãe costureira, sua cidade era pequena e tinha apenas um cinema, uma boate e um teatro). Por causa disso Maria não deixava de pensar que um dia o príncipe encantado chegaria sem avisar e ela poderia partir com ele para conquistar o mundo.



"His books have had a life-enhancing impact on millions of people".

*"The Times", United Kingdom,
March 1998*

"Paulo Coelho has, for a long time, been more than an average bestselling author. He is a global phenomenon, and mere logic can't explain the impact he makes. With Coelho the boundaries between reality and magic are dissolving - this trademark puts him in the same league with the very best of the South American literary tradition".

"Profil", Austria, February 2000

"Brazil wizard makes books disappear from stores".

*"The New York Times", US,
December 1999*

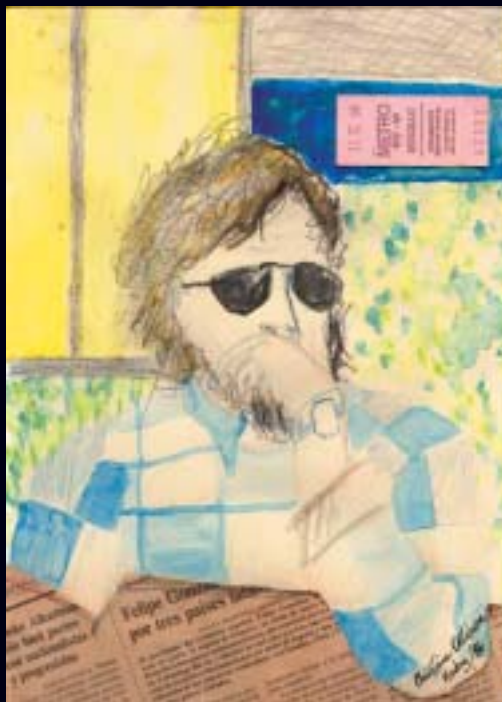


Illustration by Christina Oiticica, 1986.

"Paulo Coelho's strength lies undoubtedly in the fact of his simple, clear and pure language. Don't misunderstand: there is nothing more difficult to do than the simple, the clear and the pure".

*"Le Nouvel Observateur", France,
May 1998*

"His success is an edition phenomenon, the most astonishing success in latest years".

"Le Monde", France, March 1998

"One of the few to deserve the term publishing phenomenon".

*"The Independent on Sunday",
United Kingdom, March 1998*

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