



# Minimalistic Language a Tool used by Paulo Coelho to Propagate Enlightening Philosophy

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## Abstract

*A simple mind can help one build one's own philosophy is the mantra of Paulo Coelho. Philosophy is a elevated thoughts but it need not be a complicated one. A tree can preach a philosophy, a windmill can give us hope is what Coelho strongly believes. Happiness and peace in life can be achieved by developing a simple philosophy that can lead to the former in a effective way. Paulo Coelho stresses the importance of having a optimistic mind. Philosophy is something everyone is capable of developing. His book Like the Flowing River: Thoughts and Reflection rather than defining his readers to follow his philosophy he aims to instigate his readers and give them hope to have their own philosophy and morals in life*

**Keywords:** minimalistic, optimism, philosophy, nurturing nature, freedom

## Minimalistic Philosophy in Various Disciplines

Minimalism is an art movement that began in post-World War II in Western art, most strongly with American Visual arts in the 1960s and early 1970s. Prominent artist associated with minimalism include Donald Judd, Agnes Martin, Dan Havin, Carl Andre, Robert Morris, Anne Truitt and Frank Stella. It is observed as reaction against abstract expressionism and modernism.

The term minimalist often colloquially refers to anything or anyone that is spare or stripped to its essentials. Plays and novels of Samuel Beckett the films of Robert Bresson, the Stories of Raymond Carver and the automobile design of Colin Chapman can be categorized under this theory. The Word War first used in English in the early 20th Century to

describe a 1915 composition by the Soviet painter Kasimir Malevich, *Black Square*.

Literary minimalism is characterized as economy with words and a focus on surface description. Minimalist writers less focus on adverbs and believe that context is enough to dictate meaning Readers are stressed to take an active role in creating the story, to "choose sides" based on oblique, hints and innuendo rather than react to directions from the writer. Adolf Loos, Austrian architect and theorist wrote about minimalism in *Ornament and Crime* Prose style of James M. Cain and Jim Thompson, 1940s- era crime fiction of writers is classified as minimalism.

Traces of literary minimalism aroused in as rebel against metafiction that emerged in 1960s and early



1970s. John Barth, Robert Coover and William H. Gass American poets such as Stephen Crane, William Carlos Williams, Ezra Pound, Robert Creeley, Robert Grenier and Aram Saroyan are sometimes identified to have used minimalistic style in their writings. Haiku is also sometimes associated as with minimalism.

The Irish writer Samuel Beckett and Jon Fosse, Norwegian Writer is well known for their minimalist plays and prose. Dimitris Iyacos's *With the People from the Bridge* combining elliptical monologues with a paced down prose narrative is a contemporary example of minimalist playwrighting.

The term "minimal music" was derived around 1970 by Michael Nyman from the Concept of minimalism. It was in a 1968 review in *The Spectator*; Nyman used the term to describe a ten minutes piano composition by the Danish Composer Hemming Christiansen.

In film, minimalism is associated with Robert Bresson, Chantal Akerman, Carl Theodor Dreyer and Yasujiro Ozu. They portrayed minimalism by using straightforward camera usage and minimal use of score. Paul Schrader named their kind of cinema "transcendental cinema". Joshua Fields Millburn, Ryan Nicodemus and Matt D'Avella's film *Minimalism: A Documentary* which showcased the idea of minimal living in the modern world.

Orthodox haute cuisine, nouvelle cuisine came to light with the help of minimalism and conceptualism. It got connected with minimalism because it emphasized more basic flavors, careful presentation and a less involved preparation process. In case of fashion capsule Wardrobe is the best example. It stressed on one or two colors, light, flexible and adaptable can be paired with seasonal pieces irrespective of any situation. This wardrobe dates back to 1970s and is credited to London boutique owner Susie Faux. The concept was further popularized by American fashion designer, Donna Karan, who designed a seminal Collection of capsule workwear pieces in 1985.

In field of science communication to portray global warming to non-scientists in 2018 British climate scientist Ed Hawkins developed warming

stripes graphics that are deliberately devoid of scientific or technical indicia for ease of understanding by non-scientists. A portmanteau word was coined from this design called *tempestry* a blend of temperature and tapestry as specific color of yarn was used to represent respective temperature.

Another popular field that flourished in a new way is lifestyle. Minimalist decors, minimalist skincare, minimalist style, minimalist accessories, etc., came into light associating itself with minimalism. All such terms insist the usage of only essential products in that niche into one's life. It helps one to focus on things that are important in one's life. It can reduce waste and also help in time. It allows to enjoy life with simple things and lead to less clutter in living spaces.

### Paulo Coelho - An Introduction

Paul Coelho is one of the most renowned and successful writers of our time. His books have been translated into 80 languages and published in 170 countries. He is a recipient of numerous prestigious international awards and was inducted into Brazilian academy of Letters in 2002. In 2007 he was named as United Nations Messenger of peace by UN secretary General Ban Ki-moon. Coelho also writes a weekly Column syndicated throughout the world.

Paulo Coelho de Souza (1947-Present) is a Brazilian lyricist and novelist. His novel *The Alchemist* has sold more than 150 million copies worldwide and is the all-time best-selling best-selling book by a Brazilian writer.

Coelho can be associated with minimalism as his simple yet amusing, self-sufficient words can bring magic in mind of readers. Coelho himself has written. The Simple things are also the most extraordinary things and only the wise can see them. Coelho bought an impact in minds of readers by proving Simple by of minimalistic words can give them hope, dream and find their personal legend in life. Coelho himself is a minimalistic person he prefers country life over city life.



### **Layman's man Language a tool to convey great philosophy**

Coelho draws philosophical insights from minimal things like mountain, river, trees in a collective term nature. To climb a mountain, one must know which mountain to climb as a minimalistic life can help in choosing it and no other person's judgement can guide us to choose the mountain, next we must know how to reach the mountain, from a distant view it looks pretty simple but once we step into its premises it has forest, rivers animals all sort of adventure we need to cross to reach the peak Gather tips from people who have already climbed it and to avoid danger we must know where to put foot. Respect our body and soul at the same time Celebrate after we reach the peak and become an inspiration to others. A minimal life can help one focus on our goal by eliminating the useless things that consume our time.

Coelho once got a chance, to meet Hoki, a Japanese woman ex - wife of Henry Miller one of his favorite author Hoki plays him "Autumn Leaves" which made Miller fall in love with her. She didn't inherit a penny after his death. From her Coelho learnt "there was no point in squabbling over the inheritance: love was enough". (Coelho 24)

Coelho retells the story of Genghis khan and Falcon. Genghis Khan doesn't depend on any other weapons to hunt but swiftly on his Falcon to hunt. One day his falcon failed and he was disappointed of his Falcon. Khan stayed in forest for long and was thirsty so he drank water from a thread of water but his falcon repeatedly spilled the cup preventing him to drink. In fit of anger he killed the falcon later to his regret found out a dead poisonous snake in the stream from where the thread of water was flowing. He made a statue of the falcon craving two lines "Even when a friend does something you do not like he continues to be your friend "on one side of wing and "Any action committed in anger is an action doomed to failure"(Coelho 29).

After Prometheus had stolen fire giving freedom to men, Zeus to avenge him orders. Pandora to marry Prometheus' brother Epimetheus. He gave her a box forbidden to open who like eve opens it is Curiosity letting out all evils leaving hope in the box. Though

Coelho accepts "You cannot argue with force, Where there's life there's hope" (Coelho 33)

Sao Paulo painter in New York asked his students to look through the window questioning what they see everyone had the same answer "a street then he placed a paper covering the entire window with a small hole and asked the same question. the answer was same Paulo Coelho was Surprised by his minimal method to teach "Just as each of these holes contains within it the whole view of the same street, so each of us contains in our soul the same universe" (Coelho 34)

Coelho once visited a chapel in smalltown of Azereix in France where he was enlightened by a young woman's voice and understood the greatness of God always reveals itself in the simple things. Coelho read a news of man found dead in his pyjamas on 10 June 2004, he wanted to find out the reason for his death and only to his regret finding that dead man skeleton wearing pyjamas, a newspaper dated 20 February 1984 was found. He had been there for twenty years no one had noticed his absence not even his alive ex-wife Coelho from the old man's pathetic life concludes that hunger, thirst, unemployment, love failure are nothing in front of feeling that absolutely no one care about us.

Coelho bring out importance of appreciating life in our busy life from Story of Manuel. He is a hardworking sincere man who works 24/7 for his family. He has a dreary dream where an angel questions him work becomes Curse when the stops thinking about the meaning of his life. Even for fifteen minutes but Manual Maps ignoring it like us and getting ready for even a busier day. After Manuel gets retired angel questions him whether he has lived a life. he dreamt always, he realizes. only he has passed through life and didn't live it. Coelho regrets " His hard-won freedom is merely exile in disguise (pg:46). Shimon Peres at World Economic Forum in Davos" the optimist and the pessimist both die in the end, but each lives his life in a completely different way" (Coelho 48)

Coelho encountered a Pianist who played in streets. ignoring whether any one is listening to his song through him Coelho realized fulfilling once personal legend. doesn't have anything to do with



people supporting us or ignoring us or criticizing us. Paulo once tried Nordic Walking to burn Calories with his wife and gave it up when he understood insignificance of it questioning why human beings are obsessed with making rules about everything

Coelho gives a simple solution to misinterpretation it is Communicating through gestures, smiles, facial expressions and the desire to share something clearly without words. Coelho brings to light the fact of golden days when our parents didn't Check our location due to absence of Cellphones. we were punished but occasionally, bright and dull students who were never taken to psychotherapists. A Rabbi questioned his student's what is the moment when night ends and day begins. He answers" when a stranger approaches and we think he is our brother, and all conflicts disappear, that is the moment when night ends and day begins. (Coelho 74)

Coelho claims that "for the lack of one brick we completely distort the original plan of our lives" (Coelho 80) Coelho beings out the beauty of minimalism "Elegance is achieved when all superfluous things have been discarded and the human things being discovers simplicity and concentration. The simpler and more sober the posture, the more beautiful it will be." (Coelho 87) In Zen Buddhism cats were considered to be part of meditation after a long period of struggle it was removed. Just like that human hold on to many things that are futile like cat just because we are told cats are important to keep everything run smoothly.

According to Coelho everyone is protagonist of our own life and anonymous heroes leaves a everlasting marks in history. Coelho gives travels tips such as to avoid museums, hang out in bars, be open avoid tour guide, try to travel alone or with one's spouse, don't compare, don't buy too much

don't try to see the world in a month and always remember a journey is a adventure.

Coelho desperately searched for a beggar woman who he failed to help and only did it on second chance, according to Coelho it can be a futile thing to others if it gives content to you us only efforts matter and there is no wrong in going to greater length to achieve simple things that keeps us going.

### Summation

Coelho gives solution to loneliness that when it crushes us, we must be open like rose. Coelho live a minimal life as a writer he doesn't store many books but he gifts and donate them believing the writer travels across readers by this act. Thus, Coelho through simple yet profound words have always been an inspiration proves a minimalistic language is a great tool to ignite optimistic thoughts in minds of readers.

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