

The boy's name was Santiago. His father wanted him to be a priest, but the boy wanted to be a traveler. As his father told him that only the rich and shepherds could travel, he decided to be a shepherd. Then, he found a merchant's daughter who made him want to settle. Then, he went to a gypsy to learn about his dream. She told him that he had to give one-tenth of his treasure if she told him about the true meaning behind his dream. He consented. She told him that he was about to find a treasure in an Egypt. He was puzzled. All he wanted was to shear his sheep in front of a textile merchant.

Before he entered the town, he met an old man who seemed wise and told him that he would give information where to find his treasures if he was willing to give one-tenth of his sheep. They conversed for a while and old man told him that people give up too early and tend to leave everything on the fate while they can achieve it themselves. Next morning, he gave the remaining six sheep. The old man who claimed himself as the King of Salem told him that he will find his treasure in the Pyramid. So, he traveled to a port city on Africa continent. Then, all his money was stolen by a disguised tour guide.

He was broken but when a crystal merchant saw him asking to clean his dirty glassware in return for food. The boy was a good omen for his shop. He hired the boy, and soon his shops were teeming with costumers. After a year, the buy had enough money to buy a hundred sleep, a return ticket, and a license to import. So, he decided to leave the shop. But he didn't want to return to being a shepherd yet. So, he decided to cross the desert. Then, he met an Englishman who traveled there to find an Alchemist to enlighten him. He lent a book about Alchemy to the boy, but the boy was not too interested in it.

There were talks of tribal war while they were crossing the desert. Then, before they arrived at the oasis, war broke out. But they reached the oasis safely. They searched for the alchemist there, but the oasis was too vast to find a person easily. Then, the boy saw a woman filling a vessel and they asked about a man who cured everything. She pointed to a tent and the Englishman went there. But the boy was very much in love with that woman named Fatima. He went to see her every day at the well. The man told the Englishman that he had to try again. So, he built a furnace outside of his tent.

Fatima told the boy that she loved him too, but he must go and find his treasure and she would wait for him. Then, he saw a sign of desert that says there is going to be a war in this

sacred Oasis. So, he sought the chieftains of Oasis and warned them. After a long discussion, they said they would allow their inhabitants to bear arms for a day and offer them gold for every 10 dead enemies. Next evening, tribesmen entered the Oasis with their weapons hidden. They were easily slayed and their commander who broke the sacred tradition that bars the attacks on Oasis was dishonorably hung to death from a palm tree.

The boy went outside of that place to meet the Alchemist. Then, he agreed to follow the alchemist to the pyramids in search of his treasure. He missed his love, Fatima. Just before they arrived at the pyramids, they were apprehended by a military but, thanks to the wisdom and eloquence of the alchemist, they were spared for three days with a deal. The deal was the boy had to show that he can turn himself to the wind. On the third day, the boy talked the language of the world, soul, and, god to the desert, the wind, the sun, and the God summoning the strongest sandstorm ever. The chief was exalted. They were allowed to continue their journey. At a monastery, the alchemist showed the boy that he could turn lead into gold. Then, they went separate ways. The boy went on to pyramids in search of his treasures. Then, he saw a mesmerizing pyramid and a beetle scuttling near it. So, the boy dug that ground, but four strangers came by and robbed him and beat him. One of the strangers said he was also having a recurrent dream that he was going to find a treasure near a sycamore tree. The boy knew where he had to dig now. He found spoils of a Spanish conquest. He was going to give one-tenth to the gypsy and come back to Fatima.

This summary was written by “Thura Htoo.”

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