

Chapter I

Brida as an Unsatisfied Being

Brida is one of the luminous novel written by Paulo Coelho. This novel was published in 2008. A young and beautiful girl Brida is the central character of this novel who shows her hunger towards spiritual knowledge, magic and wisdom. She wants to discover herself, know things more lucidly and wisely for which she learns magic. The main argument of this thesis is that desired existence is possible if one goes ahead even by risking one's journey of life against fears, failures and disappointments.

Brida is a story of a girl's struggle to exist in a mysterious world irrespective of different difficulties. Brida pursues her course of magic ever deeper into the mysteries of life, seeking to answer questions about who she is. Brida wants to explore natural and spiritual aspects to know the realistic explanation of the world. In the course of learning, she encounters with many dangers, fears and difficulties. And she finally becomes able to transform herself into what she had wanted to become.

This novel is about 21 years old girl Brida, who is in search for someone who can be her teacher about magic. She thinks that magic can be the best tool to discover herself about who she is. She wants to explore natural and spiritual aspects for which she considers going to one who can give her realistic explanation of the world. So that she can listen to her inner voices and inner meanings of love, life and other significant things like her purpose and passion in her life.

The central character Brida has the strong passion towards spiritual, magical world. She wants to become a witch and discover the new world of spirituality and magic. Through magic, she wants to establish her own existence in the mysterious magical world. She gives up all her worldly comfort and makes effort to achieve her

dream. For that, she meets the teacher named Magus, who is worldly renowned for his knowledge of magic and spirit. Magus teaches her about 'Tradition of the Sun' and 'Tradition of the Moon' (Coelho 17). Brida follows all his instructions and continues her journey towards the path of magic. Her eagerness grows day by day and she wants more knowledge about magic. For that she thinks only one teacher is not enough for her query so that she approaches another teacher named Wicca. Wicca makes her meet and understand many things like path of life and struggle.

On the process of learning Wicca motivates her genuinely. In the course learning, Wicca says, "the path of magic – like the path of life – is and always will be the path of mystery. Learning something means coming into contact with a world of which you know nothing. In order to learn, you must be humble" (Coelho 56). That is to say Wicca accepts Brida as her disciple and teaches her lesson to encourage her to keep patience and continue to struggle in her quest. While she goes through various trials and tribulations she never gives up at any cost. She always carries positivism and optimism with her. In the difficult situation, she remembers her father's saying, "The night is just a part of the day" (Coelho 23). Those line mean problems do not last forever. They are just part of life like night is just part of a day. Those lines contain vast concept of positivism. And finally, she becomes able to reach her destination that is becoming a witch.

The whole story of this novel revolves around the central character Brida and the struggle she did to discover her true self. It focuses on how Brida struggles to find a balance between her relationships and her desires to transform herself to exist in the mysterious magical world. The novel is based on love, passion, mystery and spirituality. The central character Brida shows her hunger toward spiritual knowledge and wisdom. She wants to discover herself. In the course of learning, she encounters

many dangers, fears and difficulties and she is finally able to transform herself into what she wants. In this work, the central character Brida follows her dream and adopts to the path of self-discovery. She is a girl of strong will power who dares to tackle with everything in life. She is aware of her goal and undertakes very adventurous and courageous tasks. We can find existential and spiritual preoccupation at the core of this novel. While reading this novel, we find the connection between fact and magic with religion, giving spiritual messages. This novel encourage readers to dare to follow their dream, to have courage to be different and to master the fear which prevents them from living truly.

Literature Review

Brida attracted both popular as well as critical and popular views when it was published in 2008. It has been interpreted and analyzed by various critics and scholars through different perspectives focusing mainly on the desire of protagonist to discover her own way of life. Many studies have been done about it by various critics. Though *Brida* has been studied from different point of views, very few critics have analyzed it as existential novel. So, this study analyzes the novel through existential perspective.

Seema Dutta and Ruchi Nigam, have analyzed *Brida* on the ground of "Searching the other Half," they write, "The theory of soulmate also entwines with it the idea of reincarnation and the multiple ways by which one can recognize the other half. The present paper explores the concept of soulmate as presented in Paulo Coelho's novel *Brida*" (1). That is to say the novel is about exploring the concept of soulmate and it focuses on the searching of other half who can be the soulmate of Brida. In the novel, Brida also is bound up with other person named Magus, her teacher, by an unknown force who she feels is her soulmate also. Seema Dutta and Ruchi Nigam further claim:

The novel under consideration reveals many ideas about the existence of soulmate along with ways by which we can get to know the presence of the soulmate. The book argues that the quest for love and search for perfect partner is really a quest for wholeness. Ideas of reincarnation, magic and witchcraft have also been used in the novel to substantiate the existence of soulmate in the world and to prove that soulmate is in reality the other half of a man or a woman. (1)

As the quotes above mentions, one's quest for his/her soulmate is a quest for wholeness within. It reveals that this novel touches on many subjects like wholeness related to the human condition of incompleteness with a hint of the supernatural thrown in. As Brida wants her different existence she uses the tools magic and witchcraft. Through those tools she chooses her soulmate who can be different in physical appearance but their soul is alike.

To become complete and to exchange our thoughts and feelings, a soulmate is important. So in the novel Brida also is in search of someone who can be her soulmate and wants to make her life complete. Among these topics are witchcraft, spirituality, magic and the search for self. Perhaps the most important theme dominant in the novel is the idea of soulmate. The protagonist of the novel also struggles with the mere visceral challenges of the heart. The struggle is personified by the two people Brida considers her soulmates. The first is her teacher Magus. The second is her lover Lorens. In evaluating the novel as searching the other half we happen to judge Brida's search for her other half of her existence as her soulmate. Hence, Seema Dutta and Ruchi Nigam, too emphasizes on Brida's choice for her existential struggle.

Connecting the novel to a postmodern reading, G. Sharon Roque Corera states:

Postmodernism in literature is a cultural detour that evolved in the latter

half of the 20th century. This movement, as a name suggests, marked a distinct departure from modernism. It aims to deconstruct the society by dissecting the notion of hierarchy, politics, language and memory. It also offers a ray of hope to those who are traumatized by holocaust, wars and violence through its advanced narrative techniques such as reverse narration, time travel sequence, magic realism and many more. (1)

As discussed in the quotes above the novel also focuses on some post-modern characteristics which clearly appear through the novel *Brida* such as language of magic and magical realism. In this novel, Brida, the central character who is 21 years' old who feels frustrated and lost in her life. To find the answers regarding life and to be complete and satisfied in life, she learns magic.

In the novel magic and spirituality are the tools she chooses in her life to materialize her dream. This novel deals with mixture of magic, reincarnation and search for identity: hence existence. Brida learns the art of magic and witchcraft to explore her identity through that. With the help of her two teacher named Magus and Wicca she visits another world of mystery. She experiences the power of sex with her boyfriend Lorens. Those post-modern characteristics also make this novel *Brida* as an existential novel.

The novel is also analyzed as a depiction of philosophical dimensions. In this regard, Kundan Makwana and Dr. S.G. Chauhan claim:

Brida is one of all Paulo Coelho's philosophical works published in 2008. It is a story of young Irish girl who was in search of knowledge and her gift. In her Journey of knowledge and gift she encounters with Magus and Wicca. Who taught her the 'tradition of sun' and 'tradition of moon'. Through this Story Paulo Coelho gives so many lessons about faith, soulmate, mistakes, risks,

emotions, life, opportunity, sacrifice, doubt, childhood etc. (2)

As the scholars mentioned above, the novel *Brida* shows various philosophical dimensions. The central character Brida wants to make her life worth living. Her choice is to gain more knowledge from the world and make her identity in Witchcraft. She has strong faith, she is in search of a soulmate, she accepts her mistakes and dares to take risks. She accepts life as a blessing of God and sacrifices many things of her comfort to achieve her goal. The character Brida uses many philosophical dimensions as a tools for her worth living in her desired world.

The novel is also analyzed from the perspective of life as an act of faith. In this regard, Vijay R More contends:

Coelho believes that life is an act of faith. He illustrates his philosophy wonderfully in *Brida*. Spending the night in forest Brida learnt about the dark night. She learnt that the search of God is like a dark night. None of us knows what might happen even the next minute and still we go forward. It's only because we trust and have faith. We just don't see the mystery contained in the next second. And that every moment in life is an act of faith. (5)

The above quote reveals that we can find an act of faith in the novel. In this sense, we can define act of faith as a guiding principle for our behaviour to obtain knowledge and existence. We can define this novel as an act of faith because Brida has strong faith that after the fearful night there will be a golden day.

Brida has faith that to gain more knowledge about magic and mystery can be gained on personal efforts. So that she is able to make her unique existence. In the novel Brida has faith on herself that she believes that we have to face difficulties and sufferings to reach to our goal and Brida also suffers a lot during her journey but she never gives up. And that faith helps her to make her unique identity as a witch for her

existence.

Brida and her Strange Desire

In the novel '*Brida*' by Paulo Coelho the central character Brida, a young beautiful girl, shows her quest towards spiritual knowledge and wisdom. She has a desire to discover herself, know things more lucidly and wisely for which she learns magic. She wants to find answers to some of the questions regarding her life so that she can learn about the occult powers and possibly how to travel back into the past and forwards into the future.

Brida is the leading character in the novel. She has everything a human being can possibly possess in life. Responsive and loving boyfriend, good job and whole life ahead. But she is not satisfied with what she has got and shows her hunger for knowledge. She wants to learn to understand the whole world and its mysteries. Brida is a determined woman who was to be able to take risks, fail and not to be scared by disillusion. That is why Brida is an interesting character in the novel. Brida is a woman who is interested about magic, she wants to learn about magic. Then she meets a teacher named Magus and asserts her interest:

I want to learn about magic', said the girl. The magus looked at her. Faded jeans, T-shirt, a challenging look adopted by all shy people precisely when it's least needed.' I must be twice her age', he thought. And despite this, he knew that he had met his soulmate.' My name is Brida', she went on.' forgive me for not introducing myself. I've waited a long time for this moment and I'm more Nervous than I thought I would be. (Coelho 9)

When she meets her teacher named Magus, she asserts that she is more interested to learn the magic and she is in search for someone who can teach her about that. She feels nervous and excited at the same time when she meets the teacher. They continue

their conversation 'Why do you want to learn about magic?' he asked. 'So that I can find answers to some of the questions I have regarding life, so that I can learn about the occult powers, and possibly, how to travel back in to the past and forwards in to the future' (Coelho 9).

Brida in the story is shown as very passionate character towards more knowledge in the world. For this she impressed her teacher with more seriousness to reach her dream. "Don't you think you are rather young? I'm twenty-one," said Brida. If I wanted to start learning ballet, I'd be consider too old" (Coelho10). Before starting to teach her, Magus the teacher, wants to ask her some questions and said her that she must be absolutely honest in her answers. If she tells him the truth, he will teach her what she asks. If she lies she must never again return to that forest:

Would you give up everything you had learned until then – all the possibilities and all the mysteries that the world of magic could offer you – in order to Stay with the love of your life?' 'I'd give it all up,' she said at last. 'Look at me,' said the Magus. Brida felt ashamed, but did as he asked. You told the truth. I will be your teacher. (Coelho 14-15)

From the above lines we come to know that she is really an honest woman towards her teacher and more interested towards her desire of learning magic and to make her existence in mysterious magical world.

Brida is very much interested to know about magic. She cannot remain calm until she knows the answer to her curiosity. Then she asks her teacher about magic. She asks Magus "What is magic?" (Coelho 16). Magus answers, "Magic is a bridge that allows you to walk from the visible world over into the invisible world, and to learn the lesson of both those worlds" (16). He adds, "By discovering your own way of crossing it. Everyone has find their own way" (16). Then she starts her journey

with independency, adventure and struggle. Her hunger made her more devoted towards each and every task given to her by her teacher:

For a whole week, Brida devoted half an hour a day to spreading the tarot cards on the table in the living room. She went to bed at ten o' clock and set the alarm for one in the morning. She would get up, make a quick cup of coffee, and sit down to contemplate the cards, trying to decipher their hidden language. (Coelho 42)

The quote above clearly shows Brida's eagerness to get knowledge about magic. This quote also characterizes her as a beautiful, honest, powerful and interested woman.

This analysis also reveals Brida's devotion towards her desire with full passion and continuous quest. Curiosity and quest as such about human existence and beyond can be best explained by existentialism.

Chapter II

Existentialism as a Concept and Theory

Existentialism as a term, came into prominence through theory in Germany and France as a philosophical movement after the world wars. Existentialism insists that choices have to be made arbitrarily by individuals, thus they create themselves, because there are no objective standards to determine the choice. Existentialism as a theory focuses on the existence of human being. According to existentialism, always particular and individual existence is primarily the problem of existence that is of its mode of being. It is therefore also the investigation of the meaning of being. This approach emphasizes the existence of the individual person as a free and responsible agent determining their own development through acts of their free will.

Besides, existentialism is a movement in philosophy and literature that emphasizes individual existence, freedom and choice. It focuses on the questions of human existence and the feeling that there is no purpose or explanation at the core of existence. It is based on the view that humans define their own meaning in life, and try to make rational decision despite existing in an irrational universe. Thus existentialism believes that individuals are entirely free and must take personal responsibility for themselves.

Albert Camus, Gabriel Marcel, Simone de Beauvoir and Jean Paul Sartre made the most significant contribution to existentialism. Jean Paul Sartre is one of the greatest French thinkers. Sartre's existentialism is based on human freedom and choice. Existentialism maintains that existence precedes essence. This means that every human being is solely responsible for their actions because we choose who we are. Humans are born as "nothing" and then become who they are through their choices and actions. In this regard, Sartre gives an explanation of existentialism:

Man is nothing else but what he makes of himself. Such is the first principle of existentialism. It is also what is called subjectivity, the name we are labeled with when charges are brought against us. But what do we mean by this, if not that man has a greater dignity than a stone or table? For we mean that man first exist, that is, that man first of all is the being who hurls himself toward a future and who is conscious of imagining himself as being in the future. (15-16)

According to Sartre there is no fixed design for how we should be but we must decide for ourselves and define ourselves. Every choice that we make defines us and our actions give the meaning in our life.

The human choice is subjective. Individuals make their own choices without the limitation of traditions, laws and any ethical rules. Every individual is free to make their choice and they are completely responsible for their choice too. Jack Reynolds in his book *Understanding Existentialism* clarify Sartre's view:

We might summarize Sartre's comment as suggesting that human existence is notable for the fact that we are always ahead of ourselves, and "on the way", with various project, intentions and aspirations for the future. Rather than our identity being determined by our biological or social status, existentialism insist that our identity must be continually created, and there is a resultant emphasis on our freedom or, in the preferred philosophical vocabulary of the existentialists, our transcendence. (3)

People are free agents who have control over their choices and actions. Existentialist believe that our biological or social status should not restrict our life.

We should take responsibility for our actions and live our life without being bothered much by any religious or social beliefs. Likewise, Ronald Grimsley in his

book *Existentialist Thought* define existentialism in terms of existence and essence:

The 'essence' of man lies in his 'existence'. It is of course, easy to abstract certain aspects (physical, biological, and psychological) and construct a 'science' of man, but this does not correspond to what we mean by man in the fullest sense. Man is revealed through his free choice of himself, through his capacity for making moral decisions and so through his 'freedom'. To understand man it is necessary to turn to the living 'existing' individual, that is, we ourselves are. (4-5)

Existentialism maintains that existence precedes essence that human being has no essence, no essential self and s/he is no more than what s/he does. People create who they are through their choices and actions. This philosophy emphasizes on the individual existence, freedom and choice. According to this philosophy, all the human beings derive their own meaning in life, and try to make rational decisions despite existing in an irrational universe.

Simone de Beauvoir, the existential feminist in her book *The Second Sex* describes existentialism linking to feminism, she writes:

What woman essentially lacks today for doing great things is forgetfulness of herself; but to forget oneself it is first of all necessary to be firmly assured that now and for the future one has found oneself. Newly come into the world of men, poorly seconded by them, woman is still too busily occupied to search for herself. (Beauvoir 711)

Human being is what s/he can be. First, one should focus on herself or himself to shape life as for her/his their wish. In the case of woman too, firstly she must find herself, only after she will be able to conquer other significant things. Discover oneself first is the key point to existentialism. Brida too does the same. She further adds,

"Woman most constantly win the confidence that is not at first accorded her: at the start she is suspected, she has to prove herself. If she has worth she will pass the tests, so they say. But worth is not a given essence: it is the outcome of a successful development" (Beauvoir 710). Confidence power is the weapon to defeat all the fears. Fear is the barrier of success. To prove oneself first, one should conquer the fear which prevents them from doing great things. In the novel too, Brida builds the strong will power and confidence within herself. Then she starts her new journey towards magic, and finally triumphs over her aim.

In the novel, before learning about witchcraft, Brida was normal human being. She does not have any particular identity. But she makes decision to be a Witch and learns witchcraft. That was her choice and interest. She learns to be more patient and courageous. She struggles a lot mentally and physically to make her identity as a witch. Her choice and actions shape her identity that's why she gets her aim also fulfilled. Doing the close study of this novel on the basis of existentialism, we see the protagonist's choice, freedom and actions are fundamental directives for determining her existence.

Existence of the person rely on their individual choice and freedom. No one is born with specific qualities and any existence. But his choice to be something and freedom and struggle against his nothingness to be something gives him the unique identity.

Doing the close study of the novel *Brida* from existential point of view, Brida too suffers from the existential crisis for not having proper value, meaning and purpose in her life. She is not satisfied with what she has got and want to make her unique identity in magic and spirituality. Brida never lose her hope and always continues in her journey with optimistic point of view. She suffers a lot in the path of

learning and finally she gets victory over her aim. That is to say the novel *Brida* is a finest example of existential crisis and practice of free will to making a purposeless existence a purposeful one.

Chapter III

Brida's Struggle to Exist in Her Desired World

The central character Brida is an independent woman who makes efforts to look for a teacher to reach to her dream that is to become a witch. This study mainly focuses on Brida's struggle who strives to achieve her dream.

Brida, is a very young and beautiful girl of 21 years. She has got all worldly necessities but her desire is something different than that. She is not satisfied with what she has with her and shows her hunger towards magic. She wants to know about mystery and spirituality, so that, she decides to meet someone who can understand about her and shows the right path towards her destiny. She meets people of great knowledge and wisdom. She meets Magus, the teacher of the traditions. Magus asks her a questions and says if she answers it honestly, only then he will teach her about magic, mystery, spirituality, soulmate and different kind of traditions. After giving the honest answer to her teacher, Magus is ready to teach her about her quest. Before starting their first lesson, Magus remind her one thing:

'[W]hen you find your path, you must not be afraid. You need to have sufficient courage to make mistakes. Disappointment, defeat and despair are the tools God uses to show us the way.' 'Strange tools', said Brida.'They often dissuade people from carrying on.' The Magus knew the reasons for these tools, he had already experienced both in body and soul.' Teach me the 'tradition of the sun,' she insisted. (Coelho 17-18)

After knowing about the tools she should use during her journey, she feels strange. But in front of her eagerness towards knowledge she takes them as a gift from her teacher and ready to accept them. Then after, her first lesson starts:

In the darkness, Brida could just make out the shape of the Magus going back

into the forest and disappearing among the trees to her left. She was afraid of being left there alone, but tried to remain relaxed. This was her first lesson, and she must not show that she was nervous. 'He accepted me as his pupil. I can't disappoint him.' (Coelho 19)

In *Brida* Coelho presents Brida as a strong, courageous and honest woman who accepts to be alone in dense forest despite her fear because she does not want to disappoint her teacher and wants to show that she is capable of learning the first lesson of magic, "I'm strong, determined woman," she repeated to herself under her breathe" (19). She reiterates to herself what she wants to become to cast a subconscious effect upon herself.

When she was alone in the forest a sudden noise made her jump and she found her earlier confidence vanished. There was nothing but her fear started to rise up and spread through her body. But her inner soul convinced her to control and overcome that terror. Then she boldly convinced herself as:

'I must get a grip on myself', she thought, but it was impossible. Images of snakes and scorpions and childhood ghost began to appear before her. Brida was too terrified to stay calm. Another image arose: that of a powerful magician who had made a pact with the Devil and was offering her up as a sacrifice. 'Where are you?' she cried. She didn't care now what impression she made on anyone. She simply wanted to get out of there. No one answered. 'I want to get out of here! Help me!' There was only the forest and it's strange noises. (Coelho 21-22)

Brida gets into a wave of terror. That terror crosses the limit and starts to spread all over her body. But she controls herself by convincing her soul. Then she commands herself for controlling that terror. She makes effort to remain humble and face the

challenges whatever she gets. She then remains calm and stays controlled in this way:

Brida felt so dizzy with fear she thought she might faint. But she mustn't. Now that she was quite sure he was nowhere around, fainting certainly wouldn't help matters. She must stay control. This thought made her aware that there was some part of her struggling to maintain control. I mustn't call out', she said herself. (Coelho 22)

After spending the whole night in the forest, her soul starts rejoicing. She came to know that: "learned about the dark night: I learned that the search for God is a dark Night, that faith is Dark Night. That every moment in life is an act of faith. That you could choose to fill it with snakes and scorpions or with a strong protecting force" (Coelho 25-26). It's an existential choice that she has to create the kind of life she wants.

Brida whose hunger towards more knowledge about other significant things like magic, spirituality and tradition goes much wider. She made her mind struggle more to find her path. Then she goes in search of another teacher. She meets Wicca with the help of a shopkeeper. Brida told her teacher, "I came in search of teacher. I want to follow the road of magic" (Coelho 34). Wicca picked the deck of cards and ask Brida if she knew about cards. Spreading cards on the table disorderly, Wicca tries to teach about hidden meanings of cards, soulmate and Tradition of the Moon. Brida asked her how she knew about her soulmate? Then Wicca replied, "By taking risks', said to Brida. 'By risking failure, disappointment, disillusion, but never ceasing in your search for love. As long as you keep looking you will triumph in the end" (Coelho 39). Brida is ready to face any challenges and risks to achieve her dream and to explore the new path of life in mysterious world.

As the existentialist scholar Ronald Grimsley mentions, "Man is revealed

through his free choice of himself, through his capacity for making moral decisions and so through his ‘freedom’” (5). Wicca teaches her that she should feel free inwardly and outwardly to express her emotions. Wicca said, “If you think that you won’t be able to stand a world in which living is more important than understanding, then give up magic now. The best way to destroy the bridge between the visible and the invisible is by trying to explain your emotions” (Coelho 87). That is to say if someone wants to achieve his goal in life, they shouldn’t allow their inner feelings and fear restrict them. Expressing emotions freely is one of the best way to win the race of life. In the novel, Brida also did not allow her emotions to come in her way instead she masters them.

We can have many instances of Brida’s struggle to make her existence in mysterious world. Her eagerness towards strange tasks given by her teacher grow higher day by day. Inside the magic, one should know about secret rituals, divine wisdom, idea of soulmate and occult power.

Brida’s teacher Wicca suggest her to study the language of tarot cards and then she will know better. For this task Brida devoted herself in day and day out to find out the hidden meaning of the tarot cards. Brida understands nothing, she felt like crying and disappointed. Cards refuse to reveal their hidden meaning. She thinks to taking of help from Magus but she promises herself not to go until she knows enough about magic on her own efforts. She never gives up and at last comes to know their meaning. She continues to perform the tasks and rituals taught by Wicca with Commitment and perseverance.

Along her tasks, Brida had to change her dressing style as per her teacher Wicca’s order. For this she had to surrender her soul and change her dressing style to become a witch. This is not easy for her:

Brida had surrendered her soul to a strange woman and-odd through it might seem-it was far easier to surrender her soul than her way of dressing. Only now she was beginning to understand how much those apparently meaningless exercises were influencing her life. Only now, when she was considering changing on outside, could she realize how much she had changed inside.

(Coelho 136)

Wicca taught her about sex and it's symbolic meaning to communion with the God and re-encounter with the meaning of life. Brida had completed so many complicated rituals as now she has to discover the meaning of life. Before the initiation Brida has to experience the sex. Only after she will learn about great mysteries. Brida experiences that force with her boyfriend Lorens; and She does it without any fear and shame. That experience makes her to discover the bridge which joins the visible to the invisible, that she never again forgets.

Wicca as the teacher, always encourages Brida to overcome challenges and fears until she gets her path. She always suggests her not to give up and never to be afraid to make mistakes until she finds the path she chooses. 'Play your part and don't worry about what others do. Believe that God also speaks to them, and that they are engaged as you are in discovering the meaning of life' (Coelho 169). Wicca suggests Brida that don't be afraid of what others say or think, only focuses on your target and become the winner of your aim. God will answer to others.

During her journey, Brida had to perform a naked ritual. She accepts that task also as a gift by God and performs with her heart. Her teacher said, "accept what life offers you and try to drink from every cup. All wines should be tasted; some should only be sipped, but with others drink the whole bottle" (Coelho 254). This means one should get experience of all the things in life where ever they are wrong or right. Only

few people have courage to accept mistakes and move forward. In this novel, Brida has this courage who accepts all things that life offers and is able to master her dream.

To reach to her destiny Brida heartily accepts all tasks given by her teachers and overcomes all the fears and challenges. Her teachers are very proud of her for taking the path shown by them. Sometimes, Brida doubts herself if she choose right path or wrong path and in spite of having doubts she still continuing on her journey. One day she went to church and stood outside. She feels something new in herself. She realizes that she is a witch. Brida's perception leads:

'I'm a witch' she said to herself, struggling against a growing impulse to enter a church. Hers was now a different tradition, and even if it was the same God, if she walked through those doors she would be profaning the place, and would, in turn, be profaned. She lit a cigarette and stared across at the horizon, trying not to think about these things. She thought instead of her mother.

(Coelho 212)

That feeling of joy makes her to remember her mother. She thinks about meeting her mother, hug her and says her about her entry into the mysteries of witchcraft. She makes choice i.e of being a witch and does not care whether she's been a profane person. She rejoices the fulfilment of her choice:

she felt like running back home, flinging her arms about her neck, and telling her that in two days' time she was going to be initiated into the great Mysteries of witchcraft, that she has made journeys in time, that she had experienced the power of sex, that she could guess what was in a shop window using only the techniques of the Tradition of the Moon. She needed love and understanding, because she, too, knew stories she could tell no one.

(Coelho 212)

Finally, Brida finds the path and gets victory over her desire. Only few people have courage to do so and finally she does it. Wicca was very happy that she was a teacher of the Tradition of the Moon.

It is true that everyone wants to become happy. All people have their own choice about their life. They have no any option but they should to change. For change, the great struggle is needed. In this novel, Brida want to be very happy so that she chooses the path of magic to change herself and overcome the many difficult situations. Brida meets with her teacher Wicca and in their final performance of rituals for her transformation in to the witch. She enjoys a sense of fulfillment:

‘Brida opened the eyes of her soul. She was in a desert and the place looked very familiar. she remembered that she had been there before with the Magus. She looked around but couldn’t see him. Yet she was not afraid; she felt calm and happy. She knew who she was and where she lived; She knew that in some other place in time a party was going on. But none of this mattered, because the landscape before her was so much prettier: the sand, the mountains, in the distance and the huge stone. (Coelho 251)

We can find the joyful moments of Brida in the sense that when she transforms into what she wants. She feels new energy all over her body. She sees the landscape around her much pretty. At the same time, she listens to the voice of someone during her rituals. The voice:

‘Welcome,’ said a voice. Beside her stood a gentleman wearing clothes like those worn by her grandfather. ‘Iam Wicca’s teacher. When you become a teacher, your student will find Wicca here, and so on and so forth until the soul of the world finally makes itself manifest.’ ‘I’m at a ritual for

witches,'Brida said, 'a sabbath. (Coelho 251)

Wicca's teacher appears in front of Brida during the ritual where her soul is going for manifest. He said Brida that when Brida becomes the teacher, Wicca will appear before Brida's students. The teacher appreciates Brida's success, "The teacher laughed. 'you have found your path. Few people have the courage to do so. They prefer to follow a path that is not their own. Everyone has a gift but they choose not to see it. You accepted yours, and your encounter with your gift is your encounter with the world'" (Coelho 252). Those line clearly bestows Brida's continuous effort for her self- discovery.

After finishing the rituals Brida went to her boyfriend. He was proud of her. He was very much impressed by Brida's choice and determination. Brida's victory over her choice is vivid instance of her braveness:

The brave are those who make decisions despite their fear, who are tormented by the Devil every step of the way and grip by anxiety about their every actions, wondering if they are right or wrong. And yet, nevertheless they act. They do so because they also believe in miracles, like the witches who had danced round the fire that night. (Coelho 260)

Certainly, the novel contains a portrait of someone's determination to transformation into new identity. Here the central character Brida makes the huge struggle to transfer herself into a Witch from a normal human being. She bears many obstacles and did strange tasks to be who she wants.

Thus this novel is all about struggles to get spiritual strength. Brida never gives up her attempt to enter into the imaginative world. Her strong will power shown as the best weapon to defeat all the obstacles during her journey.

Chapter IV

Brada's Success, Sense of Satisfaction and Wholeness

Coelho's *Brida* is the most significant existential novel which is an inspiration for anyone aspiring to follow their unique path in life. It is an existential novel which describes the central character's struggle to reach to her desire of being a witch. As existentialism gives focus on personal freedom and choice, here in the novel too Brida nurtures her desire to become a witch. Nobody is born with any particular identity but later their action decides who they become. Person's will power and determination shape their existence or being. This novel also represents the central characters strong will power and her personal choice. The strong weapon to defeat all the difficulties during her journey for Brida was her courage, self-will and determination. Everyone is responsible for their life and they have rights to take decisions about their life. Brida doesn't feel satisfied with her present life as a normal human being, so she seeks a new way to make her life valuable.

Brida's struggle to exist in a mysterious world is the central issue in this analysis. This analysis is a deeper portrayal of the protagonist Brida, who has various characteristics. She is a young, determined, ambitious and openminded girl with bravery and tenacity. Willpower, confidence, passion, thirst for knowledge and ability to risk fears, failures and disappointments are the responsible factors to Brida's success for her entrance and existence in mysterious world. This analysis presents that such characteristics can help people to reach their goals or attain their dreams.

Though in the beginning, Brida is unknown about magic and mystery, she decides that she will know all about magic and she will be a witch one day. She determines to be a witch and chooses a path towards her dream. Her determination to be a witch is her own choice to gain a full control over her life and surrounding and to

be happy in life. She is not satisfied with what she has got previously but her passion towards a different life and her will to exist in the magical world is her choice. All people want their self- existence in the world by doing different things and by building their identity or being; so does Brida in the novel.

Even though her determination to make herself a witch, that is a supernaturally powerful being, was not so easy, she made more effort in the path. She sought for teachers who could teach her about magic and finally met. She struggles more and more to attain to her destiny. Sometimes she went into the stage of giving up all the practices and live the life as well. But she never gives up and never surrenders herself to the difficult circumstances. She fights against fear and trouble courageously. During her journey, Brida always embraces defeat, despair, disappointment and her mistakes heartily. From those hindrances she always gets new lesson and continues her journey until she achieves her dream as well as the sense of satisfaction and wholeness. None of her tasks were easy and they'd take a lot of time besides effort but she never gives up instead gives her best to understand the world in every step.

During her journey, she dwells alone in the dense forest, climbs on top of the tree, conquers the hidden meaning of tarot cards, have sex with her lover, being naked in front of the fire during rituals. These are some of the instances she performs during her journey to become the true witch. From those practices we come to know that she accepts all the complex and strange tasks and does her best during her journey. After completing all rituals, she transformed into the witch. She becomes able to know everything about witchcraft, magic and spirituality. She feels free in her body and soul.

Finally, she gets new energy in her body. In this way she becomes successful in attaining her aim. She changes herself into a witch from a normal being. Brida

becomes successful in her self-discovery and makes her identity as a 'Witch' in the mysterious world.

Thus, on the basis of the above discussed events, ideas and testimonies from to the text as well as theory we can conclude that desired existence is possible if one goes ahead with a search continuously even by risking one's journey of life against fears, failures and disappointments as Brida does in the novel.

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