

### Is Death an Escapism? A Study of Paulo Coelho's *The Spy*

Paulo Coelho is a Brazilian author, well-known for his journey motif in most of his novels. In the novel, *The Spy*, Coelho discussed about two important perspectives on women's life and dreams. The novel revolved around the life and profession of the protagonist, Mata Hari. She lived her life as a famous dancer. Georges Laudox gave a fake evidence about Mata Hari. Laudox said that Mata Hari is a spy of Germany but she was not a criminal. She was ordered to be killed. But in Off-stage, as a normal woman she faced many struggles to lead her life in the society. Now, she also needed to face some more struggles from the nation. She thought that it was the right time to be free in thinking and act accordingly to escape from all around her. She used to lead her life as an independent woman. Coelho figured the character, Mata Hari with an inner development to act accordingly with the society.

**Keywords:** profession, love, spiritual being, transformation, death, life

The Brazilian author, Paulo Coelho wrote the novel, *The Spy*. Coelho born in 24<sup>th</sup> August 1947 in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Coelho worked as a journalist, director, actor, and lyricist. After 17 years old age, Coelho travelled to many places and returned to Brazil, that time he started using drugs in the 1960s.

Paulo Coelho married Christina Oitifica in 1980. In 1988, Coelho published his first signature work, *The Alchemist* which brought a lot of popularity. Through many of his successful works in the following years, Coelho made her name at the top among the readers' community. In 2016, Coelho came with his work, *The Spy*, a fictional tale of exotic dancer's life. This novel explained the life of an independent woman life.

The novel, *The Spy* penned about two important perspective of a woman in the alien land. The first one was Mata Hari, a protagonist of the work, wrote a letter to Edward Clunet and second one was her lawyers investigation and perspecting, Mata Hari's

original name MaragaretghaGeotruideZelle.She was a famous exotic dancer. Mata hari was born in Northern Holland in 1876. She went to a boarding school.There, She wasraped by a school principal and other of her classmates.Also, Mata Hari faced many societal problems in her life.

After few years later,Mata Hari married RudelphMacleed, a Newspaper Advertisement Officer. The lovely couple lived in Indonesia. They had two children, a daughter and a son. Their son was prisoned by his servant.Maclood was abusive his wife so she left him.After leaving his husband, MarigarethaZelleShe changed her name as Mata Hari. She became a famous exotic dancer. She decided a preferred path and an independent life. Mata started a dance performance for the people of Indonesia.She went to Paris and she presented a classical dance to oriental music.Sometimes, She presented a nudity dance performance.she wanted to get relationship with the powerful man.

Few days after Mata Hari popularity went out in France.Because, she became older.At that time, She appointed to Germany by France Olav. She thoughtto rise her popularity in Germany. But that time Germany soldiers shut down all dance performances and the halls.So, She returned to Netherland, a natural country.

Franz Olav requested her to act as a spy for Germany. Mata Hari replied him that she was not accept to do so. Franz Olav gave a name of his friend, Karl Kramer.Karl is a German Counsul in the Hague. When he explained to her.Mata immediately met GeorageLadrux, the head of the opposite nation for the French. Mata Hari appointed for surveillance. Suddenly, Georges Ladoux brought a fake information against Mata Hari.

Georageladoux already included in many social crimes. So, he gave a fake information about Mata Hari. She refused to work as a spy. He ordered charge against MataHari. The German government decided to kill Mata Hari. She was ordered to be killed

by firing squad. One week before the firing squad, Mata Hari wrote a letter to the lawyer, Clunet. He refused the message. She was not a spy but the people decided to kill Mata Hari. The lawyer, Edward Clunet argued against. Finally, Mata Hari fell down by firing squad.

The fake news killed a famous exotic dancer life. Thus the way, Coelho embroidered the life of a popular woman dancer with many created crimes against her. Coelho figured his protagonist, Mata Hari as a skilled dancer who loved her profession. At the end of the story, Mata's decision to converse her life as an independent woman, she made her life free but not as an independent dancer. Coelho estimated that the absence of one face is a beginning of the new fine-tuned face.

#### WORKS CITED

Abrams, M.H. *A Glossary of Literary Terms*. 7<sup>th</sup>ed. New Delhi: Harcourt India Private Limited, 2001. Print.

Arias, Juan. *Paulo Coelho: Confessions of a Pilgrim*. Trans. Anne McLean. London: Harper Collins, 2001. Print.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Pilgrimage*. Trans. Alan Clarke. New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2004. Print.

Coelho, Paulo. *The Spy*. Trans. Zoe Perry. New Delhi: Harper Collins, 2016. Print.

Kierkegaard, Soren. *The Concept of Anxiety*. Trans. Reidar Thomte, Princeton UP, 1980. Print.

Lugo, Elena. "Reflections on Philosophy, Spirituality: and Mariology" in *Divine Representations: Postmodernism and Spirituality*, ed. Ann W. Astell. New York: Paulist Press, 1994. Print.

Mishra, Jyoti. *Paulo Coelho's Fiction: Existential and Spiritual Preoccupation: Select Study of Seven Novels*. Germany: LAP LAMBERT Academic Publishing GmbH & co. KG, 2012. Print.

**Author Details:**

Ms. R. Ramalakshmi (M.A.,)

II-M.A., English Student

Department of English

Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education

Krishnankoil-626 126

Tamilnadu-India

[ramalakshmiramaraj165@gmail.com](mailto:ramalakshmiramaraj165@gmail.com)

+91 9360088394