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**Travel Writing And Spiritual Transcendence**

**Case Study: Jon Krakauer's "Into The Wild" And Cheryl Stray's  
"Wild"**

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of The  
requirements for the Degree of Master in English Language and Cultures

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## **Dedication**

For the journey of deliberate joy the lover had put me on to allow the light to break in, which became an eternal journey of determination and strength after receiving the light without any resistance to the struggles. Also to 'l'oeuvre de mes parent' for they were the crack in the cement for my seed to sprout out. Besides, to Mr. J the unknown spiritual master who has been guiding me all along the Aleph. Lastly, for my soul to finally awake through the journey, while being on the train before arriving to the final station of the road.

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## Abstract

This thesis explores inner and spiritual voyages deeply rooted in any outward physical quest, and seeks to examine the meditative observation to the external world in relation to the internal world found in Travel Literature. It is divided to three chapters, the first one is concerned with discussing definition of some theories concerned with travel writing, the second and the third are related to analyzing the case studies. This paper firstly discovers this literary genre through travel as a refer to Environmental Psychology and a mean of Cognitive Flexibility to increase creativity. It also studies Travel and Travel Writing not only from a psycho-sociological perspective, but also deepens its depth through the philosophical movement of Transcendentalism as a way of going beyond the old perspectives and paradigms of literature, philosophy and politics to take to rest on the premises that the focus on the individual is part of travel writing and transcendentalism. It also proposes to put in this category novels rely on trips and whose characters widely travel in the course of narrative, and the other assumption that it should be added to the curriculum of students. In This thesis we encircle the broad range of travel novels, including the hiking travel novels of Jon Krakauer "*Into The Wild*", and Cheryl Strayed's "*Wild*", they are respectively chosen for sense of individualism, to rely on oneself and go through the inner work of searching for finding the truth. The two stories are chosen because they are real, and they depict individual struggles from the female view of Strayed, and male view of Chris McCandless, to stick to the point of enhancing both outer and inner knowledge, through Alienating from the inner fictional inabilities.

**Key words:** Travel Writing - Travel - Transcendentalism - Environmental Psychology - Cognitive Flexibility - Alienation - Epiphany

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## Introduction:

There are many ways of travelling, the voyage of business representatives, the voyage of military forces, the touristic voyage, the internal voyages of meeting the inner being through meditation, and the voyage in which the traveller is seeking artistic inspiration for aesthetic needs of expression, besides the voyages to find refuge back to nature. No matter which way of travelling, those artists are either running from something towards nature or other societies, or they are seeking some holistic patterns in life through the journey they chose to live, or they have chosen travelling as a way of living to write about their trips and get payed for it, in newspapers or in online blogs. However; specifically in the art of writing and literature there is another form of writing which is based upon travelling, it is not well-known as other form of literature like prose, poetry, drama, or even modern or post-modern literature, but it can inspire writers to write in those genres. Travel writing, what is it? How it was raised? Who are the first writers in this field? What are literary theories that discussed this new form of writing? And many more ideas should will be discussed through out the research.

Studies about Travel Literature are few in comparison with other literary genres, however; in his research about it David Seeds from university of Liverpool, emphasizes on Sara Mills a linguist researcher and author, she shows in her classic study *Discourses Of Difference (1991)*, travel texts follow a number of discursive strategies that vary according to gender, female writers face a lot more restrictions, than male writers (Sara Mills)

However, the American author Michael Mewshaw in his article, *Travel, Travel Writing and The Literature (2001)*, he argues that travel no longer exists, for it is all replaced by the invasion of tourism, to go further by explaining that travel writing is losing its integrity within the polemic concept of tourism, and that travel writing needs authentic travelers and writers to keep the esthetic beauty of the gender (Michael Mewshaw).



Moreover, there other researches covering many sides about Travel Writing, yet; this research is covering the psychological and spiritual view of this literary genre, from the eye of philosophers, and authors who committed for both writing and traveling. Besides, this paper uses psychoanalytical approach throughout studying the spiritual journey of self development both writers and their characters go through. Secondly, the thesis uses the qualitative research methodology through the use of two case studies.

Hence, this paper has three chapters, each chapter is providing some researches about travel writing. The first chapter is going to deal with general definitions for the reader before getting involved with the deeper researches to make the picture clearer. The second chapter will discuss the two case studies we are providing for the research. Besides that, the last chapter will tackle a comparison of the two case studies, *'Into The Wild'* by Jon Krakauer *'Wild'* by Charyle Strayd,

# Chapter

# I

## **I. Chapter one: A Definition Quandary:**

The First chapter is devoted to explore Travel Writing theoretically. Firstly the main definitions to go through the study of the topic and to facilitate for the reader some terms and vocabularies concerned with the paper. However; the study would deepen to psychological studies, sociological concepts, tracing travel writing historically, philosophically and partially politically. Starting from the the meaning of travelling, change of scenery and how all of those effect congestive flexibility and the creativity of writers and artists. Till reaching transcendentalism movement for being the main lead point of the birth of travel writing theoretically, and many historical events related to this literary genre.

### **1.1. Travel Through A Philosophical Scope:**

In Oxford Basic English Dictionary, travel: verb /'trævl/ (British travels; travelling, travelled /'trævld/) (American travelling, travelled) is to go from one place to another, travelers seek other places other countries, and different cultures, either the culture of other people, or the culture of nature, in other words, to move to different cities and places for a period of time (213, 214).

In the article “L’homme Et La Nature Chez Rousseau”, man and nature by Rousseau, Guichet Jean-Luc discusses two views of travel, to nature, or to the city, Jean-Jacques Rousseau considers travelling as a way of leaving the corrupted society, inequality and social contract, and he found that the life in nature connects the human being with himself, the universe, even reasoning and moralities are coming from the deep connection of the human being to nature and the countryside life. In this point the Dutch philosopher Spinoza also shares the same concepts about reasoning and morality when it comes to the

life in the city versus the life in nature or the countryside, to have more moments in nature.

Unlike Voltaire, who considered the human being as a social being for sharing and interacting with the others in the city, with the contribution of modernity

and the life of innovation. Guichet analyses the different perspectives of philosophers between travelling to nature or to the city, however; he ends his idea by referring to the need of the traveler to chose between them (Guichet 06).

However, In Paulo Coelho's *Aleph*, away from where to travel, to nature or to the city; travel is explained as the need for visiting another geographical places as a mean of meditative experience, for him, as walking in a new unknown city, to feel deep inside the sense of belonging to that city as if he belongs to unknown place (93).

This is exactly what I need to do right now: to walk, walk, walk, breathe some fresh air, take a look at a city I've never visited before, and enjoy feeling that it's mine ( Coelho 93).

Moreover about Paulo Coelho; he also believes travelling is an eternal journey of learning, self developing and how it becomes addictive to travel, the more one travels and comes to certain point to say enough about that, they would want more; and in the same same passage, in his novel "*Aleph*" Coelho mentions that deep inside there is another hidden person in each human being, an intelligent, adventurous, and an open person to new experiences, that person exists in the unconscious mind, and they can be released by travelling. However; Mr. J, the spiritual master Paulo Coelho met in his real life and he mentioned him in many of his books; one of the characters in "*Aleph*", he explains to Coelho that life is not the station but rather the train, and he also explains that there is a difference between travelling and changing countries, that lies within the change a person goes through after meeting, new people, going to new landscapes, new cultures and adding new needs to their lives ( 19).

It is easier to discover another such a new world as Columbus did, than to go within one fold of this which we appear to know so well; the land is lost sight of, the compass varies, and mankind mutiny; and still history accumulates like rubbish before the portals of nature (249 Guichet)

Besides that when travelling there are life lessons we learn only in outdoors, away from work and daily routine struggles, lessons and expediences that could be learned only through recreational travel which involves travel for pleasure to no matter which location. Also there are many studies shows the effect of travelling and the recreational travel on the cognitive flexibility, and how travelling to different geographical places and environments effects the mental capacities, which leads to an easy life besides the inspiration most people get and specially artists from different fields and writers.

### **1.2. The Effect Of Environmental Psychology on Cognitive Flexibility:**

As students or researchers, we may face moments when we lose the thrill that connect us to our studies, thoughts or ideas we should write, specially when we work in the same place for hours or days, precisely when we are working on a paper, thesis, or dissertation, however; even moving from a room to another, or changing the decoration or the atmosphere of the place, can help to inspire some people or to enhance the level of creativity to write more, in other words, it can be a change of scenery, which is the emotion we get when we change the environment, or the place we have been in for a long period of time. Researchers found that the environment and the geographical place we are living in have a strong effect on both the psychology and the cognitive flexibility, yet; that effect is much powerful through travelling; which means, travelling has a powerful effect over the psychological growth of the person and their cognitive flexibility.

In one of his researches about Environmental Psychology Dr. Jen Jack Gieseeking; an Environmental Psychologist developed its conceptual framework during the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the work of the founders of psychology, it is an interdisciplinary field in psychology and sociology that studies and examines the transaction and the interrelation of the human behavior, attitude and mental function in accordance with their physical surroundings including buildings or nature and environment, it also deepens the study to examines the interference of education, urban planning, landscape architecture, anthropology, sociology and public policy, with the human behavior (1).

However, in a chapter from a collective work by scholars, Robert Gifford , Linda Steg , and Joseph P. Reser, they explain that in Environmental Perception and spatial cognition the journal of personality and social psychology get affected by the complexities of everyday scenes through the different responses we associate with the daily life bases, in other words; the responses to those different complexity scenes defers from a person to another in accordance to their personal awareness, degree of adaptation and necessary selectiveness of environmental cues, also they discuss how people see, react and interpret differently to the same situation in according to their environmental culture, which means; the environment give the person cultures that interferes with their perception, their way of problem solving and the way they interpret different life situations (442).

Similarly, in the same article by Robert Gifford, discusses, how students who studied abroad has a better learning capacities, workers who travelled or had outdoor sessions had the ability to finish their tasks in a better an creative way, and more about that they done a research on workers that shows the effect of looking on a picture of nature for forty seconds only had improved focus and performance on the next task. Besides, Other researches shows that travelling increases the level of creativity through travelling abroad, studying abroad or integrating a new culture into their identity, in a study they did, they showed that, people who

worked or studied abroad, or at least had an experience in a different country are more creative, doing what the locals do or an extended period of time opens up their minds forcing them to think in a different way and bounce around between different ideas, it is a concept scientists called Cognitive Flexibility, and the more cognitively flexible they are, the more creative they will be (453).

Most working companies in Algeria during the last decade lost their place in the market because of holding on to old paradigms the workers and the owners had, in other words, they didn't get over their old way of thinking and adapt a new way of thinking, to solve the new problems the market is dealing with. Basically it is mostly about cognitive flexibility. Further; Cognitive flexibility is the human ability to adapt the cognitive processing strategies to face new and unexpected conditions in the environment (Canas 296).

In an online journal written by Jessica De Bloom and other writers, the article discusses the effect of recreational travel on cognitive flexibility and originality, in addition to that; recreational travel is the touristic travel where travelers have a trip for no specific working reasons. Also It is mentioned that travel releases the stress workers have, it provides a diversified amount of experience to them besides increasing positive emotions which consequently may increase creativity and originality in work. More than that, it is proven by scientists and artists that travel increases cognitive flexibility to deal daily life situations and also open up the mind for creation, creativity and innovation, De Bloom and the other writers then relates to famous writers, artists and scientists who won international prizes to show the importance of the change of scenery (164).

Travelling seems to broaden the mind. Famous artists like Paul Gauguin, Ernest Hemingway and Igor Stravinsky created their most admired works during or directly after a period abroad. Scientists like Henri Poincare and Freeman Dyson reputedly cracked the most difficult scientific problems of their career while they

were travelling. Apart from Nobel-prize winning geniuses who are inspired by travelling, two out of three American executives believe that vacations can improve their creativity ( De Bloom 164).

### **1.3. Travel Writing**

‘Travelers eventually become story tellers’

In each decade there was famous travelers known by their stories. As we remember for children stories, comics, grandparents stories and legends from each part of the world about people who had adventures in the wild or to other countries and places, other Greek myths about heroes who defeated monsters during their trips to rescue prince or to rescue their tribe, like the old famous story of Perseus who had ten quests to get Medusa’s head and to prove himself as hero, half god half human. Not only with the adventures of son of Zeus in the Greek mythology, or the old storytelling of native Indians, however; it is all about travelling to get through different adventures. More than that; there are dozens of stories through the history of different nations who talk about travelling adventures, Mark Twain, Marco Polo, Jack Kerouac, and the very famous ones in the Arab legends are the stories of the adventures of Ibn Battuta’s voyages (Corbet 4).

A man once said “Traveling - it leaves you speechless, then turns you into a storyteller”. He travelled 3,000 miles to create Hajj, pilgrimage to Mecca, and after that went on to travel another 72,000 miles after he performed his devout obligation. Ibn Battuta’s voyages may not as it were be limited to moving from one put to another, his voyages go distant past to include all sorts of voyaging, a travel inside one’s soul, a travel from one day to another, a voyaging inside the borders of one’s nation or a voyaging that goes past mainland divisions. Consider the divine involvement that Ibn Battuta adventured to in relationship for a however more profound one, to be specific composing, a prepare through which we dive into



the complexities of dialect and the fantasies of our intellect; a work test to use words, in which one sets out on with an awfully bashful trial until they are intrigued by the result. The mingling of these two disclosure encounters gave birth to travel writing to most of his adventurous spiritual written works (Dunn 7).

Ibn Battuta had the pleasure to dictate the course of his journey to Ibn Juzay to later publish the accounts of his travels as an eminent travel book *Tuhfat al-anzar fi gharaaib al-amsar wa ajaab al-asfar*, or *A Gift to Those Who Contemplate the Wonders of Cities and the Marvels of Travelling*, or what is commonly known as Ibn Battuta's *Rihla*(Trip). As far as the method is concerned, the historical way of conducting travel writing used to take one form, namely a notebook and a pen. Nevertheless, with the advancement of technological gadgets, many tools can take on the occupation of the notebook and the pen. With the massive progress of websites and phone applications, one may claim that everyone is becoming a travel writer to give some fairness to the label "writer". What really characterizes the authentic type of travel writing is its pertinence as far as the information it is given to those interested in some kind of knowledge, architecture, history, and geography along with others. People used to learn a great deal from those brave people who could hit the road and become the senses of those staying put in their communities. New travelers, however, are not as curious as the old explorers were about the external physical and geographical existence as much as the inner journey they explore, today's travel writing is about the personal experience of the traveler. Besides that, a lot of writers who prefer travelling and writing as Freelancers and Bloggers, to travel, write about their adventure and get paid for that.

Travel writing may be a diversified, ancient and ignored genre of literature to which numerous popular, more or less proficient or 'full-time' journalists have contributed, which has moreover been improved by a number of periodical scholars, journalists and writers. For the most part these have been diplomats, scholars, missionaries, soldiers of fortune, doctors,

explorers and sailors. The genre carries works of exploration and adventure as well as guides and accounts of vacations and visits to foreign lands. In other words, those who have such characteristics are travel writers, but their works are not entitled by this writing genre (Cuddon 736).

Moreover, in the dictionary of literary terms by Cuddon, they mention some notable works throughout the history of writing and the history of humanity since old ages, classical time and the middle ages which are considered as travel books, not forgetting to mention women's contributions to this literary genre. Some of the earliest records of travels come from Egypt; for instance, an anonymous 14th c. BC record known as *The Journeying of the Master of the Captains of Egypt*. From China we have early accounts of travels in India by Fa-Hian (c. ad 399–414), and by Shaman Hwui-Li (c. ad 630) of journeys in the Far East. A notable Arabian traveller was Ibn Battutah (1304–78), who for twenty-eight years travelled round the Far East, India, Africa, South Russia, Egypt, Spain and elsewhere and who in 1354 compiled a copious description of his journeyings. These are only a handful of the many who, in Classical times, in the Middle Ages and during the Renaissance period, explored the then known world and opened up the unknown. From the 16th c. onwards the Near East, the Middle East and the Far East, Asia and parts of Africa were increasingly explored and colonized by the Europeans, and the world of the Americas was gradually charted. As the world became more navigable, so travel books of every kind proliferated. In the last half of the 16th c. a number of accounts of exploratory journeys began to appear. A notable example is Hakluyt's *Principal Navigations, Voiages, and Discoveries of the English Nation* (1598). In the 18th c. travel became easier (hence the popularity of the Grand Tour, q.v.) and thus there is a steadily increasing number of works. The following are a few of the more notable instances: Montesquieu's *Lettres Persanes* (1721); Defoe's *A Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain* (1724–6); Lady Mary Wortley Montagu's *Letters . . . During Travels in*

Europe, Asia and Africa (1763–7); Smollett's *Travels in France and Italy* (1766); Sterne's *Sentimental Journey through France and Italy*; plus many other works by European writers. Early in the 19th c. Alexander von Humboldt, the great German explorer, geographer, botanist and mineralogist, began to publish the voluminous accounts of his global travels. All told they amount to the biggest body of travel literature in existence composed by a single person. Between 1808 and 1827 he published thirty-five volumes, finally gathered together under the title '*Voyage aux régions équinoxiales du Nouveau Continent*'. In the 19th and 20th c. there was a positive flood of one sort and another which shows no signs of abating. Since the Second World War, 'armchair' travelling has become an occupation for many people; and, as travelling has become easier and easier, so people read more books about the places they have heard of, have been to or are going to. Here follow just a few of some of the outstanding works of the last 200-odd years: Nikolai Karamzin's *Letters of a Russian Traveller* (1801), translated into English in 1957; Lamartine's *Souvenirs, impressions, pensées et paysages pendant un voyage en Orient* (1835); Charles Darwin's *Voyage of the Beagle* (1839); Sir Henry Stanley's *How I Found Livingstone* (1872) and *Through the Dark Continent* (1878); Mary Kingsley's *Travels in West Africa* (1897); Edith Durham's *High Albania* (1909); Rebecca West's *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon* (1942); Eric Newby's *A Short Walk in the Hindu Kush* (1958), which he followed with *Slowly Down the Ganges* (1966) and *The Big Red Train Ride* (1978); V. S. Naipaul's *An Area of Darkness* (1964) which he followed with *A Turn in the South* (1989); Bruce Chatwin's *In Patagonia* (1978) and *The Songlines* (1987); Pico Iyer's *Video Night in Kathmandu: And Other Reports from the Not-so-Far East* (1988); Bill Bryson's *Neither Here nor There: Travels in Europe* (1991); Cees Nooteboom's *Berlijn 1989/2009* (2009); and their numerous other travel books. This selection suggests the remarkable richness and variety of travel literature. In 1997, Tim Youngs launched a journal *Studies in Travel Writing*, and has played an important role in the development of travel

writing studies as a discipline. Scholarly research on travel texts has blossomed over the last couple of decades. Of particular note has been the research concerned with women's travel writing and the relationship between travel books and European colonial expansion. Mary Louise Pratt's *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (1992) and Sara Mills's *Discourses of Difference: Analysis of Women's Travel Writing and Colonialism* (1991) are notable examples (Cuddon 737)

Travel writers are simply adventure seekers, who has much of a linguistic and stylistic features and skills they gained from their trips, they put a whole journey into words, to allow the imagination of the reader to travel with them too, besides making their stories always alive through time to share life experiences, lessons, and their journey to face a problematic issue,, or to fight for a race or certain ethnicity, like in the story of '*12 Years A Slave*' by Solomon Northup which was told to and edited by David Wilson. This novel is considered as Travel Slave Narrative Book, it tackles the journey of a black man who was born as a free man in New York, and got tricked to travel to Washington, D.C., where he was kidnapped and soled into slavery to the deep south. This novel is a memoir of a real story from 1853, however; the journey the protagonist had is still alive in the book, his trip to Washington, to the South, beside other stops, and back to New York.

Earlier travel writing is recognized only as a literary endeavour existing in various forms in different eras of human history. Now in the shaping and forming of new genres Travel Writing is emerging as a genre in its own right, however; it is far less dis-sociable from an outside world, and in the desperateness of the intellectual class in the post-modernist era that has led to the recognition of Travel Writing as a distinct literary genre (Lucy 20)

.... the intellectual class of today is much more disparate than it was in the modernist era and far less dis-sociable from an 'outside' world. A consensual faith in the kind of differences - between say authentic and mass culture, literature and

criticism, tradition and fashion, truth and opinion - that sustained European intellectuals earlier this century no longer holds, so that the postmodernist intellectual is freer to indulge in a more heterogeneous mix of knowledge and interests in pursuit of a career. (Lucy 20)

But, this change in the literary scene is widely expected. In the context of American Literature, critics points out that the new writings of the 1960's cannot be categorized in terms of standard generic types. The generic boundaries blurred and so did the distinction between fiction and non-fiction (Lucy 84).

... hence the notion of literature expanded to become a kind of 'writing' in general (Lucy 85).

This idea of literature that incorporates both fiction and nonfiction to form a 'writing' in general has since become a norm of the postmodernist world. As the critic Bertens will say, the difference between literature and other forms of writing has arguably disappeared. All this has facilitated the growth of Travel Writing as a distinct literary genre. The recognition of Travel Writing as a genre has focused critical interest on the extent to which it is objective and nonfictional. Critics have sought to dispel the general notion that all travel narratives are objective, scientific and a faithful representation of geographical, historical and social reality (Bertens137).

Rolden-Santiago criticizes Travel Writing and says that this is a totally false notion because travel narratives are embedded with fictional element and figures; likewise fiction includes many travel constituents and styles, and both deal with representations that are many times exaggerated and inexact, sometimes slurred and grotesque (Rolden-Santiago 143).

Dissaynake and other writers in their book *Self and Colonial Desire : Travel Writing of V.S Naipaul* explain a similar point in the assertion that the distinction between fiction (created)

and travel writing(factual) is a false one, which means, in travel writing it is vague to notice fictional story from a real one besides, some writers tend to change some names of characters and places for the needs of individuals who do not accept to mention their names in the book, or for the secrecy of some places (Dissayanake et.al 2).

They also explain that the mixture of fiction and non-fiction that characterizes Travel narratives is possibly true of a variety of other written discourses such as historical writings, investigative journalism, political treaties, and natural history writings. These discourses can also share with travel writings the following three categories which characterizes the genres by Dissayanake and Wicramagamage, according to them writers in the past have made use of the following types of travel writing: Information Oriented, Experiential (sentimentalizing), Intellectual-Analytic (Dissayanake et.all 3)

In this context Dissayanake and Rolden-Santiago, argue that the objective of travel writing has been much like the objective of anthropological and ethnographic fieldwork and reporting the faithful portrayal of the other.

A way from critics, Travel Writing has become much of an internal journey to promote self development, discovery and spiritual improvement, more than a new genre of literature, however; some new writers shared their self discovery experience through their writings, and Travel Writing become instead of citing geographical discoveries like the first tendencies of Christopher Columbus to find America, and many others who did their trips for reasons like investigating journals, merchants, and historical recordings, also; as newly came across the age of enlightenment and self growth, which in older ages was intellectual needs, recently it is the transformation of the self through meeting the other, or in better terms transcending of dark to come up to the light.

#### **1.4. Transcendentalism**

There are many fields tackling Transcendence and transcendentalism, however; there is the meaning of the word, the spiritual perspective, the philosophical perspective and the literary one which is related to travel writing.

In Meriamm Webster online dictionary the verb to transcend means to rise above, to extend or to go beyond the limits of something, and it has another meaning similar to the first one, but somehow a bit spiritual which is to be prior to, beyond and above the universe or material existence (Transcend).

However, from a spiritual frame of reference the term transcendence is related to transcending the limited self and conditioned entity to the physical world to go beyond its conditions, above its physical needs of this, and to extend the existence to the spiritual one which is connected with the universe and the system of co-creation were all human beings are gathered by the existence of the spirit not the physical being of the body and the mind. Yet, this term is related to many religious views, either with Sufism in Islam where the whirl dancers, or Dervish Dancers turn in a one point with their hands wide open, while the palms are turned to different directions, the right palm is replaced downwards facing the earth, and the left one is replaced upwards in a matter that the Dervish can see the palm and the same time the palm is facing the sky. Through the whirling dance of the Sufi Dervish, they transcend beyond the existence of the body and the mind to connect to the higher existence of the one spirit of Allah, it has the same concept with Muslims during praying or the fasting during the holy month of Ramadhan, all to connect with the spiritual existence of Allah. Besides; there is another form of transcendence appeared during the 13<sup>th</sup> century with Jallalu ad-Din Muhammed Rumi, or as they call him in the contemporary world as Rumi, with his

spiritual teacher Shams Tabrizi, they were poets, travelers and research Islamists, Their poems and teachings were full of love and beauty for the human race through all time in a research by Kahteran Nevad from the university of Kyoto they discussed the philosophy of love in Rumi's poems:

Hazrat Mawlana, who is one of the greatest spiritual and literary figures of all time, who advocated unlimited tolerance, and for whom love is the most significant conceptual component in a manner transcending all national, cultural and civilizational boundaries ( Kahteran 51).

In the same research by Kahteran Nevad quotes from Mawlana's poems, those verses are shared during the 2007 UNISCO conference held as a tribute of Rumi's philosophy of love to be one of the objectives of the conference; in a world where death become something usual and wars are familiar to the human race, specially the religious conflicts between the western and Muslims after the raise of Islam-phobia in Europe and many other parts of the world :

O lovers! The religion of love is not found in Islam alone.

In the realm of love, there is neither belief, nor unbelief ( Kahteran 53)

Mawlana Rumi's poems were mentioned also in many contemporary novels by famous writers like Elif Shafak's "*The Forty Rules Of Love*", which consisted of the spiritual teachings of Shams Tabrizi and Mawlana Rumi, teachings towards the way of enlightenment an love, teachings of love rather than just religion; which show the leap of transcendence that exists since the 13<sup>th</sup> century, however; since then there was many Muslims against their spiritual teachings which was based on loving the creator instead of just worshiping blindly and going after the sheep flock.

Moreover; other religions believe in the same concept of Soul and transcending to it through prayers, even for Jewish, or Christians it is clearly noticed when they close their eyes



during their prayers, to stop seeing the existentialism world to connect with the higher world of heavens and god or God. Otherwise; for Buddhists, transcendence appears through their spiritual practices like meditation, they spend hours in nature, places in the mountains, near trees and rivers, because they believe that the higher self or the Soul is connected to the source nature or the vortex, where the soul is connected with its higher needs. In one of his shared online teachings, Eckhart Tolle writer of the best selling book "*The Power of Now*", and many other books. He explained the systematic procedures to transcend from the limited self which is related to the physical attachments and needs the self needs, to go beyond it to the higher self through finding stillness and living the present moment, not living in the past regretting its mistakes, controlled by its sadness or missing the happy moments in it, and not living the future hoping for things to come, or wishing for things the self doesn't have to be grabbed to this moment, but rather living the moment, appreciating the past with its lessons to bring the self here, and planing for the future by developing the self in the present moment to turn the dreams of the future to a present step by step goals, also he explains that transcendence of the self or the physical self to the self happens by finding stillness in the self that is the round where the conditioned mental emotional entity is transcended, adding that if the self doesn't find stillness; no matter it achieves in life it will turn into something frustrating, in other words; the whole life experience that the self have, even if the world tell you that you are phenomenally successful the whole life experience will be a very frustrating business, and what he calls frustrating, the Buddha called 'Dukkha Suffering', can also be translated as being miserable, or being unhappy, to explain this; Eckhart Tolle meant, success comes from within by loving the inside and by loving the self and being happy with it because if not; no matter what many successes the self have, it would never make it feel satisfied if it is not coming from the inside first ("Transcendence through Stillness - Eckhart Tolle author of THE POWER OF NOW," 00:00:48 - 00:03:30 ).

Transcendental and transcending are given words to many new philosophical, psychological, spiritual, scientific and literary approaches to show how they are making a leap of change from an era to another. However; Transcendentalism is an idealistic philosophical and social movement that started in New England around 1836 in response to rationalism. Affected by romanticism, Platonism, and Kantian philosophy, it explained that the divine holiness invades all nature and humankind, and its individuals held dynamic sees on feminism and communal living. Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau were central figures (Huaping 54).

In addition Transcendentalism as movement started in New England to later on influence researchers and philosophers in United States of America, in the Literary Dictionary of J.A. Cuddon they define it as a New England movement which flourished from c. 1835 to 1860. It had its roots in romanticism and in the post-Kantian idealism by which Coleridge was influenced. It had a considerable influence on American art and literature. Basically religious, it emphasized the role and importance of the individual conscience, and the value of intuition in matters of moral guidance and inspiration. The actual term was coined by opponents of the movement, but accepted by its members, Ralph Waldo in *Transgressio Emerson*, 1803–82, one of the leaders, published *The Transcendentalist* in 1841. The group were also social reformers. Some of the members, besides Emerson, were famous and included Bronson Alcott, Henry David Thoreau and Nathaniel Hawthorne (Cuddon 734-735).

In addition, Transcendentalism as literary and artistic movement it has many changes to the literary field, which give the following main characteristics of Transcendentalism as an American Literary Movement. The first thing, this movement has a lot of deep concepts out to the light, some of those concepts are indeed characteristics of this movement. Secondly; the essay form, profoundly this literary movement has essay writing because some of its important writings are written in essay form, mentioning from them the first fathers in the

American literary movement Ralph Waldo Emerson, Henry David Thoreau who conveyed some of the most important ideas of the movement. In essays like Emerson's "Nature" or "Self-Reliance,". Transcendentalist writers sought to convince their audiences of their perspective of philosophy and literature. The essay form fit this aim because essays could be published in periodicals or delivered as lectures that helped in reaching wide audiences. Also as one of the members of the movement David Thoreau's essay "Civil Disobedience" inspired civil rights activists from Martin Luther King, Jr. to Mahatma Gandhi. Which was so powerful and what he says about injustice and his own imprisonment. More than that; the other characteristics of the literary transcendentalism movement is Poetry A part of the Transcendentalist scholars composed poetry as well as essays. In the event that essays permitted them to display their Transcendentalist thoughts in a clear, coherent shape, poetry permitted them to specific the more mystical, more natural viewpoint of their ideology. Poetry, after all, is based on the systematic of symbolism and language. Poetry is suggestive, and it allows Transcendentalist writers to recommend the nature of the truths and experiences that they attempted to explain in their papers, but which went past the rational intellect (Cuddon 735).

Further more, Walt Whitman as one of the main transcendentalists who uses their ideas in his literary works. In his poem "Song of Myself," there is a lot of highlights on individualism, a common Transcendentalist theme. He mentions many terms and verses about self-celebration, whether that's an ego trip or some real artistic verse.

I Celebrate myself, and sing myself,

And what I assume you shall assume,

For every atom belonging to me as a good belongs to you.

I loafe and invite my soul,

I lean and loafe at my ease observing a spear of summer grass (Whitman 5).

this poem, from a thematic and stylistic perspective starts with celebrating the self, internally to explain the inner knowledge all humans have eternally when they are connected to their inner being which is the soul, however; the writer from stylistic perspective the use of metaphor in the phrase 'Every atom belonging to me as a good belongs to you', this verse give us a hint about a famous Arabic proverb by Imam Ali blessed in heavens by Allah, when he said: "أتحسب أنك جرم صغير و بك إنطوى الكون أجمع" (الشرنوبلي 11), which means do you think you are a little atom, while the whole universe lies within you. It is a coincidence to find an old Arabic saying by a Muslim, discussed in a different form by a Western writer, to confirm the idea of the power of inner being and the idea of Whitman that speaks about the relatedness of the self with the other, and by understanding the self and otherness, however; the self celebration is considered as a from of egoistic perspective. More than that, he finished that part externally with the verse about observing summer grass, this take us to another view about his poems, he started by observing the inner being of the self, in relation to the other, to go externally to observe nature and it's beauty.

In addition, the other characteristics of the literary transcendentalism movement are. Firstly; Intuition, as they believe that human has an inner power related to understand things instinctively without relating it to conscious reasoning. Secondly, Correspondence, they believe the universe contains all of us, and each of us has a whole universe inside itself which is the soul, and we are all related to each other in a certain way or another, much more like the ideology of destiny and the butterfly effect theory, which is about the connection of all circumstances happening in the universe. Besides this, Social Reform, transcendentalists weren't just literary people who believed in metaphorical and mythical concepts, they were rebellious people against many social form, considering being against religion, but respecting all religions, believing in woman empowerment and seeking changes in women treatment,

they were also political rebels searching for a retooling for the social. However; there two main needed characteristics related mainly to this study for travel writing, transcendentalists loved taking walks, hiking, travelling abroad and observing nature how it has another society within it that needed to be discovered, they also believed that industrialization is unhealthy for the human existence that it would damage the life of nature through time and years, when people are blind by materialistic concepts. The second main characteristics related to the is study is Individualism, which is an important idea and a way of life, and transcendentalists assume that most people feel unhappy because of their disconnectedness with their sense of individualism, or what they call the inner being, or the soul, most of people are dissatisfied with themselves trying too hard to confirm themselves in society to others. Yet; the sense of individualism is the main concept related to travel literature because most travel writers write about self discovery rather than just calibrating the self, they travel abroad to new cities and, cultures and natural places to discover themselves through the otherness (Cuddon 357).

### **1.5. Spiritual Awakening Through Epiphany:**

In the literary terms dictionary, it Epiphany mentions that Christian calendar is a feast celebrated the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, which is called ‘Three Kings day.’ or Little Christmas. It is related to the incarnation of God in Jesus Christ in his humanistic image on earth. Aside from that; James Joyce gave this term a literary connotation in his Novel “*Stephen Hero*.” part of this first draft “*The Artist as A Young Man*” which was firstly published in 1961 (Cuddon 244).

the passage associated with Epiphany is:

This triviality made him think of collecting many such moments together in a book of epiphanies. By an epiphany he meant a sudden spiritual manifestation [*my italics*], whether in the vulgarity of speech or of gesture or in a memorable phase

of the mind itself. He believed that it was for the man of letters to record these epiphanies with extreme care, seeing that they themselves are the most delicate and evanescent of moments. He told Cranly that the clock of the Ballast Office was capable of an epiphany (Cuddon 244).

A little further more he says:

Imagine my glimpses of that clock as the gropings of a spiritual eye which seeks to adjust its vision to an exact focus. The moment the focus is reached the object is epiphanized (Cuddon 244).

Also mentioned in the dictionary that Joyce explains this subject at significant length. The epiphany may be an image of a otherworldly state. This viewpoint of stylish hypothesis is cleared out out of A Representation, but a information of it is fundamental for an understanding of Joyce as an artist. *Dubliners*, *A Portrait*, *Ulysses* and *Finnegans Wake* are a arrangement of progressively complex and uncovering bits of knowledge of elegance as well as instincts of eternity. In any case, Joyce's portrayal of such an involvement does not infer a disclosure on his part, there are many other writers, mystics, and religious poets who experienced Epiphany in their works, in other words; Epiphany is moment of awakening a certain character face after being blind in sadness, grieve, weakness or threatened by certain circumstances in the story. From the writers who used this literary device:

Striking instances are to be found in the poems of George Herbert, Henry Vaughan and Gerard Manley Hopkins. And there are particularly fine passages in Wordsworth's *Prelude* (Book VIII, 539–59, and VII, 608–23) which describe epiphanies (the term he uses is 'spots of time'). Shelley calls these visionary occasions 'moments'; De Quincey, 'involutives' (Cuddon 245).

To amplify Epiphany to this study, In many travel writing transcendentalist works, there are moments of Epiphany where a character get enlightened suddenly in a scene to get awakened by a certain situation or a certain scene. As it is connected to individualism and the self development and inner work the individual have, Epiphany is also one of the main characteristics of both Travel Novel and the literary movement of transcendentalism, and that moment of recognition of ones' self and sense of connection, some of them may find how they were disconnectedness to many things and the first thing is the inner self, which is one of the four things the human being get alienated from in the corrupted society and the capitalist mode of production.

#### **1.6. The Types of Alienation Affecting Individual Growth:**

In an online journal for socialists' articles and discussions they deepened their writing to hint to many sociological problems, it is mentioned that most successful societies are materialistic ones, those who grow up on the ideology of making money, living a fully technological era, industrial movements against nature and the upraise of pollution, drugs dealing, child abuse, the raise of depression and many other psychological illnesses, daily stressful situations, children who are born and raised in unhealthy conditions, or unhealthy environment, even if the circumstance seems to be healthy all negative aspects in a toxic society is rising without us being conscious to it, we are much conscious about our life chain, which is repetitively consisting of growing up, get an educational degree, find job, get married, bringing children, repeat; yet, all the concerns are put to concentrate on making money in a capitalistic perspective which is explained by the socialist Karl Marx, the German Philosopher from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Marx explains the highly stressed environment on parents which affects the children, and as a result the circle goes back to affect society (Cox).

The negative aspects of a toxic culture affects society at the level of individuals deeply, which reflects the social condition of Alienation mentioned by Karl Marx in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as a criticism on the Capitalistic ideology, a world highlighting materialistic needs, industrial movements and technological improvements, getting away from the real humanistic individual needs. Marx explained Alienation as being separated or being stranger to something and being an alien to something, also he said there are four types of Alienation( Cox).

The first is being Alienated From Nature, in this part; human beings are not just getting separated from nature, the forest, the sea, the desert and the wild life of animals, we are not just getting alienated from nature we are literary destroying nature through our irrational behaviour out materialistic needs by polluting it or by ending the life of old forests and trees(Cox).

The second type is being Alienated From Other People; tat means we have less contact, less intimacy, less trust, we have less of sense of relationship; and that leads to increase the propensity to illness, physical and mental (Cox).

The third type is being Alienated From Work, most people no longer do work that has any meaning to them; and that means that, and since human beings are productive creatures we are really created in the image of God we meant to create, when we do work that's not creative, that doesn't reflect who we are, that imposes, depression, anxiety, a sense of meaninglessness, and we relate the feeling of meaninglessness to other external factors to emphasize on how we look, to engage on the market of clothing and makeup, as most of women sense the need to buy more of clothes, more of makeup and more of materialistic needs to replace the sense meaningfulness, not only for woman, but also for man, the market and the marketing strategies would target our subconscious behavior to make us feel less, and always in need for their products. When men lose the sense of meaningfulness, they will



focus on how others think about them, what they can obtain, or what they can possess, what successes they may achieve, in other words; all the false substitutes which cannot possibly compensate us for the lack of genuine meaning and of course what this society does it sells us a lot of products that substitute for that loss of meaning, in fact most of the economy is based on benefiting from the loss of meaning in human culture, either for western culture or for oriental one (Cox).

Finally and the most important we become Alienated From Ourselves; by that we can mention again one of the essential characteristics of Transcendentalism which is Intuition and being connected to the self as part of a whole, the whole as part of the self. Being alienated from ourselves make us neglect the gut feeling, the inner guiding voice of the spirit. However, away from the spiritual view about being separated from the self is the psychological concrete viewpoint which tells that in a certain point in the childhood some people get separated from themselves because no infant is born without gut feeling, they are totally connected to their gut feelings, intuition and instincts, any two days old infant can express their gut feelings through crying or through certain gestures, or mainly eye contact that shows the sense of gazing towards the unknown to discovery who are those people, mostly important in the early ages of the human growing and development, only a powerful experience can alienate them from their true self, and the world would not stand who they really are, and the parents were too stressed themselves to honor and recognize who they really were, just as most parents do to their kids without meaning to thought enforcing them to be an exact copy of who they are, or through making them follow a dream they ones had, couldn't fulfil, now they are stressing their children to be it, and then they become alienated from their selves, and shut their gut feelings, our gut feelings are not extra luxuries, they simply tell us what is right and what is wrong, and without experiencing being right and being wrong and just being ordered to be and to stop to be like other things parents don't accept,

children lose the sense of contentedness with themselves, through the lead of society, media, school and mostly parents, they tell them what is safe and what is dangerous, what is true and what is false us an order without explanation, vomiting inside the child's brain experiences an adult had to a child who still cannot use the fully brain potentials to understand time management, or the simplest thing as recognizing the clock and what time is it. Urgently important, is that human beings can gain the sense of connection back again, there are many solutions mentioned in travel books and in travel writing (Cox)

Hence, the first chapter provides a general overview about Travel Writing, by giving definitions and tackling the main psychological, sociological and philosophical theories related to this literary genre and its development; yet, the chapter concludes with alienation as being the first reason with its main four types for travel writers to go explore the unknown in order reconnect with themselves back again externally through the voyage and the trip, and internally through their artistic work that goes back to the external world as a consequence.



# Chapter

# II

## II. Chapter two: Introducing the case Studies: Cheryl Strayed' *"Wild"*, and Jon Krakauer's *"Into The Wild"*

There is a pleasure in the pathless woods, There is a rapture on the lonely shore,  
There is society, where none intrudes, By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:  
I love not Man the less, but Nature more, From these our interviews, in which I  
steal  
From all I may be, or have been before,  
To mingle with the Universe, and feel  
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal." ( Lord Byron , 45)

Transcendentalism's main feature which is Individualism, and the manner societies' structured religious and political groups and its system particularly dilute the purity of individuals, for this case; in this chapter we will shed light on real characters and the life of two people mentioned in the biography novel by the American writer Jon Krakauer, *"Into The Wild"* and in the memoir novel by Cheryl Strayed *"Wild"*. This Chapter studies two main sections which are devoted to other subtitle. The first one examines Jon Krakauer's *"Into The Wild"*, to give an introductory about the writer and his life, then to discuss an overview of the novel, besides that; pointing out the main philosophical figures who influenced Chris Jonson McCandless. The second title explores Cheryl Strayed' *"Wild"*, to give basic information about the writer and an overview of the her memoir novel.

### 2. 1. Jon Krakauer's *"Into The Wild"* :

#### 2. 1. 1. Jon Krakauer: American writer and hiker

Jon Krakauer born on April 12, 1954. In Brooklyn, Massachusetts. He received a degree in Environmental Studies in 1976 at Hampshire College in Massachusetts. However, he was introduced to hiking, and mountaineering at an early age by his father, later after how graduation worked with guiding team for hikers on Everest Mountain, where because of a sudden stop lost four of his friends and team mates, later; he wrote a novel about the incidence “Into Thin Air”. However, his first writings were in the field of journalism from 1983. Most of the stories in his novels and articles are true about mountaineering and rock-climbing, either out of his own experience or as a biography of others, which when he wrote “Into The Wild” which a biography of a young man’s is adventurous and deadly trip to Alaska, yet; the story was partly also about him as he described the young man, he also remembered himself. Moreover; most of his literary and journals were true and about travelling and hiking (Goodreads).

## **2. 1. 2. An Overview of Jon Krakauer's Into The Wild**

Jon Krakauer’s “*Into The Wild*” is a nonlinear and non-fictional novel, he chronicles the true story of Chris Jonson McCandless, with the help of his family who gave him the important needs like papers, photographs and letters (Krakauer140).

Chris Jonson McCandless; a young graduate man who worked hard during his years of high school to go out with high degree, without any signs, gave the law faculty’s fees as a charity, packed his hiking backpack, and took a long journey to Alaska. His journey was full of adventures, roads, trails, and stops into the wilderness, again without any sign, Chris just left and didn’t want to be found. What are the reasons of his leaving? How was his journey to Alaska? And how was the end of his journey? These are very important questions to ask, to go and find answers for from the nonfictional novel by Jon Krakauer; however; briefly, this is his story mentioned in eighteen chapters.

As described by Jon Krakauer, and his sister Carine McCandless through the pages of the novel, Chris' early childhood was full of parents fights and family struggles, and domestic violence. His younger sister was his only closer member to him and she is the one who told the story to Krakauer. His father had another family and and by that time Chris' mother wasn't his wife, for that they were the mistress' children, she was trapped by that relationship after knowing she is pregnant with Chris, in an early age, Chris heard that from his parent during another fight, lived with that burden as child and grew with it. Chris' life beside his materialistic family's chaos was successful from the educational level, and from the intellectual level, However; he was deeply and dangerously influenced by certain philosophers and ideas, from those philosophers some transcendental ones, he mentally lived in their ideology and in their perspective, from his point of view. Chris was a hiker and nature lover, and during summertime in high school he used to hike for long times as his father mentioned, he used to tell them before going to his trips:

I think I'm going to disappear for a while (18).

Chris' parents never said no to him as being the young boy who had high degrees in school, or even questioned what he always tell them before going to his summer hiking trips.

By August 1991, after Chris' graduation, he started planning for his trip to Alaska secretly even his sister Carine as being the closest one to him didn't doubt anything from him. He left and his family knew that only three months later. He packed the needed supplies in his car, cut his identity cards, and hit the road from Atlanta, Georgia to Alaska. His trip to Alaska took two years, and on his way there he met so many people who helped him whether by giving him, food, a place to stay, job to get many or more supplies for his trip, from those people mentioned in the novel, Wayne Westerberg, Ronald Franz, Jan Burrell and Jim Gallien.

I now walk into the wild.

ALEX (47).

After arriving to Alaska with his new, new personality and new experiences the name he gave himself firstly before arriving to Texas, Alex Supertramp, he had the potentials to survive one hundred days in the wild frozen Alaska, however; he wasn't prepared enough to survive it all, and instead of searching for himself in nature, he was stuck in it and hunted by the wild, the food started vanishing day after day, he started arriving to the beginning of the end searching for food and leaving notes in the bus track when he goes a bit far:

S. O.S. I NEED YOUR HELP. I AM INJURED, NEAR DEATH, AND TOO WEAK TO HIKE OUT OF HERE I AM ALL ALONE, THIS IS NO JOKE. IN THE NAME OF GOD, PLEASE REMAIN TO SAVE ME. I AM OUT COLLECTING BERRIES CLOSE BY AND SHALL RETURN THIS EVENING. THANK YOU, CHRIS MCCANDLESS. AUGUST? (11).

After days, all of his food finished, he tried to find some herbs or eatable plants, he found potato seeds, which were poisonous, whatever he tried to eat after them, he vomited because they affect the whole digestive system, and then his famine and starvation started and led to his final breath, his death, the death of a person who was blindly searching for the truth away from his eyes deep into the wild. After couple of other days, a group of hunters found his body; more than that, as mentioned by investigators, before his death the last thing he wrote was his final conclusion about living alone in the wild (130).

...And so it turned out that only a life similar to the life of those around us, merging with it without a ripple, is genuine life, and that an unshared happiness is not happiness.... And this was most vexing of all," he noted, "HAPPINESS ONLY REAL WHEN SHARED." (129).



This story is not a simple ordinary one, it is the biography of traveller written by travel writer, Chris McCandless, whom as mentioned in the novel visited more than Fifty place among his trip from Atlanta, Georgia to arrive to Alaska.

### **2. 1. 3. Who inspired Chris McCandless in his life?**

There are three main philosophers who influenced Chris McCandless' ideology of life, Henry David Thoreau, Jack London and Leo Tolstoy. Chris Jonson McCandless was a successful student with high grades, and athlete in the sport team, it was surprising what he did for his trip to Alaska, if he made out alive he would have been a hero, however; he is just a tragic hero. In one of the lessons of literature Class of second year, in Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" the death of the two lovers considered them as tragic heroes for the way they ended up in the story, in equivalence to that, the way Chris McCandless died, considers him as a Tragic Hero too, however; Emily Usinger confirm the fact that he is a tragic hero in one of her articles saying:

Christopher McCandless, the main character of the novel *Into The Wild* by Jon Krakauer, contains numerous flaws that eventually lead to his tragic downfall. A tragic hero is a literary character who makes an error of judgment or has a fatal flaw that, combined with fate and external forces, brings on tragedy (Usinger, No p).

Chris as a tragic hero, was highly affected by the Transcendentalism movement and its main figures.

The first main figure is Henry David Thoreau, poet, philosopher, writer, critic, yogi and one of the main figures of the American Transcendentalism movement (1817-1862), born in Concord, Massachusetts (Rocio 22)

His writings consists on nature most of the time when he stops writing about other political ideas and deep philosophical theories and ideas with a profound meaning, he is best

known as a man who leaves society and civilization to live solely in nature, this is the main point which influenced Chris to quest for his trip into the wilderness of Alaska, from the notes he left in his journals and used by Jon Krakauer in the novel we may mention the following quotes which made a huge affection through Chris' personalty:

McCandless could endeavor to explain that he answered to statutes of a higher order—that as a latter-day adherent of Henry David Thoreau, he took as gospel the essay “On the Duty of Civil Disobedience” and thus considered it his moral responsibility to flout the laws of the state(Krakauer 125).

In this quote it shows how much he was influenced by the words of Thoreau from a practical side that he has the responsibility to share it with the government to influence them back too.

Also another quote found highlighted in one of Chris' books of Thoreau saying:

Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. I sat at a table where were rich food and wine in abundance, an obsequious attendance, but sincerity and truth were not; and I went away hungry from the inhospitable board. The hospitality was as cold as the ices.

HENRY DAVID THOREAU, WALDEN, OR LIFE IN THE WOODS PASSAGE HIGHLIGHTED IN ONE OF THE BOOKS FOUND WITH CHRIS MCCANDLESS'S REMAINS. AT THE TOP OF THE PAGE, THE WORD “TRUTH” HAD BEEN WRITTEN IN LARGE BLOCK LETTERS IN MCCANDLESS'S HAND (Krakauer 81).

David Thoreau's written works and his life had a sensible impact on Chris, however; the second thinker and writer who had ascendancy over Chris is Jack London (1876-1916), Bookbrows mentions that he is novelist, social activist and a pioneer in the word of

commercial magazine fiction, he was an innovator in the genre that become later known as science fiction. His most famous works include “The Call of Nature”, “White Fang” and “To Build a Fire”. Those stories are mainly ones gave an impact over the philosophy of Chris McCandless. However, in the novel, there are quotes found in his journals and in the inner surface of the bus where he spent his last days:

The dominant primordial beast was strong in Buck, and under the fierce conditions of trail life it grew and grew. Yet it was a secret growth. His newborn cunning gave him poise and control. JACK LONDON, THE CALL OF THE WILD All Hail the Dominant Primordial Beast! And Captain Ahab Too! Alexander Supertramp - May 1992

GRAFFITO FOUND INSIDE THE ABANDONED BUS ON THE STAMPEDE TRAIL (Krakauer 27).

This quote is about the rebirth a character from Jack London’s “The Call of The Wild” (1930), after doing a trip into the wild too.

The other sign of the influence of Jack London was another graffito in the bus near the place is:

Jack London is King Alexander Supertramp  
May 1992 GRAFFITO CARVED INTO A PIECE OF WOOD DISCOVERED  
AT THE SITE OF CHRIS MCCANDLESS’S DEATH (Krakauer 9)

There are many other quotes Chris used in his journals or highlighted in his books, or left on his way. Yet; there was another philosopher, not the last, but the he is among the ones he gave Chris clearly appearing impact. Leo Tolstoy (1828-1910) , in Wikipedia, they states that he is Russian writer, he wrote novels, short stories, poems, plays and nonfiction works considered of his philosophical writings, pedagogical writings and articles. From the quotes found on the leftovers of Chris McCandless we may mention the following:

I wanted movement and not a calm course of existence. excitement and danger and the chance to sacrifice myself for my love. I felt in myself a superabundance of energy which found no outlet in our quiet life.

LEO TOLSTOY, "FAMILY HAPPINESS"

PASSAGE HIGHLIGHTED IN ONE OF THE BOOKS

FOUND WITH CHRIS MCCANDLESS'S REMAINS (Krakauer 13)

Some of those quotes only McCandless has its meaning, and his own interpretation according to his state of mind and the situation he was living in, however; the quite life he had with his materialistic parents, and the problems he faced since younger age, made him seek for a bigger adventure, and a vivid one to bring him back to life, but he had the that experience and it got him out of life; was he at ease back then!

## **2. Cheryl Strayed's "Wild":**

### **2. 2. 1. Cheryl Strayed: Novelist and A Hitchhiker**

It is mentioned in Bookbrows, Charyle Strayed, born in Spangler, Pennsylvania. She received a Bachelor of Arts degree from University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, then graduated from the latin honors magna cum laude with a double major degree in English and Women's Studies. In March 1991, when Strayed was a senior in college her mother died suddenly of lung cancer at the age of 45. She talked about her mother's death and the sorrow she has for that in all books she written, and manly in her book wild. She also worked as a waitress, youth advocate, political organizer, temporary office employee and emergency medical technician. During her 20s and early 30s while writing and often travelling around the United States, In 2002, she earned a Master of Fine Arts in fiction writing from Syracuse University. However, Her novel "Wild" depict her journey on the Pacific Crest Trail (BookBrows).

### 2. 2. 2. An overview of Cheryl Strayed's Wild

'Wild' is the best selling memoir novel written by Cheryl Strayed, Strayed as the main character of the story loses her mother at a young age, gets distance from her brother and two sisters; besides her stepfather, till she gets divorced from her husband, to find herself a new lover, in which she get down to heroin addiction with. the lose of her mother by cancer disease left a huge mark on Strayed's spirit that she lost herself completely in her life, starting getting herself into some troubles, till she figures out she needs change, and for that change she needed to find her lost self through a harder experience than her pain, than her lose, and then the addiction she drugged herself in. Harder and heavier than her pain was the backpack she prepared after four years of her mother's death, for her long solo hike up the Pacific Crest Trail, she went from the Mojave Desert, all the way up to the Canadian border, which is nearly eleven-hundred miles, again unprepared appropriately for her trip, or over prepared, her trail was long, as long as the trail of Chris McCandless from the other story, however; the ending was different, by the end of her trail by the Canadian border, Strayed felt the moment of connection that only who experienced such a road would understand.

The novel was written after Strayed's journey through the Pacific Crest Trail, from her language, you may sense from her words a sense of empowerment, confidence and self-connection as she says:

The trees were tall, but I was taller (Cheryl 09)

As a result for this chapter; old books, theories, and movements of the 80s and the aftermath of wars and world wars, are not reliable for new generations to rely on them without a professional consultant of experts in the field, that was the case for Chris McCandless' tragic end, however; for Strayed's end, it was quite different, she grew spiritually and got connected back to herself again. moreover; it is a not a clear assumption for the case of Chris

McCandless that since he didn't make his final announcement about his experience, for which it give more questions and eagerness for other researches, theoretical studies for the characters' personal experience and the final quotes and the journals he left.

Chapter

III

### **III. Chapter three, Case Studies: Comparison of Cheryl Strayed’s “Wild” , and Jon Krakauer’s ‘Into the Wild’**

Both characters of the case studies, Strayed from “*Wild*”, and Chris from “*Into The Wild*”, are spiritually lost with an ambiguous clarity. This chapter studies a comparison between the two characters in terms of psychology, philosophy and spirituality; it discusses four main titles, starting from their spiritual voyage to conquer their kingdom as a choice they made with the guide of books. The next section demonstrates Gender travel and hiking and what made deference between Strayed as a female traveler, and Chris as a male traveller, using a feminist and spiritual perspectives. There are certain reasons for the characters to travel in that way leaving everything behind them, this section is an answer for what are they running from into the wilderness and into the depth of travel, they left the ambiguous live they had, into the unknown of the wilderness. However because of the different endings of the characters in the stories and in real life; the last title tackles their final quest, and their moment of enlightenment, or in more literal words, their moment of epiphany and awakening.

#### **1.1. Spiritual Voyage: Lost and found in books**

Many researchers in psychology, spiritual healing, human development, motivational speakers and spiritual yogies, mention so many times in their researches the impact of signs, what we call destiny from a religious corner, and the butterfly effect from another view. Naming from them, Abraham Hicks (1984) American inspirational speaker and writer, Louis Hay (1926-2017) a motivational author and founder of Hay House of publication , Sadhguru (1957), and Indian Yogi, mystic, and author. Besides, Eckhart Tolle (1948), a German origin, resident in Canada, a spiritual teacher and an author of many best selling books. Those people are all gathered under the same concepts of teachings, spirituality and discussing the essence of human suffering, most people start looking externally for solutions for their problems, for validation, security or external love from other people or maybe the wrong ones, however,



they say everything we may need can be found within, inside our minds, and our souls because our thoughts are the ones causing our problems, they believe that suffering is a choice, and the most kind of sufferings a human may face are fear of the future and psychological pain, however, each one of them discusses self development from the perspective of their own spiritual journey, Dr. Wayne Dyer says:

We are teaching ourselves to accept only good. ... We are deliberately compelling ourselves to accept all love, all kindness, all hope, all joy, all expansion, all abundance, all health, all vigor. We are deliberately compelling ourselves to reject all suffering, all sorrow, all depression, all morbidity, all inferiority, all aches and pains. We are saying nothing is true but the great and the good and the beautiful, only these will we add unto ourselves (Dyer 24).

As it appears from this quote, Dr. Dyer shows part of his teachings as for people who have psychological problems or a negative self image, to start the change by controlling the way they think, to start focusing more on positive thoughts, instead of getting more momentum of negative ideas. However, to be in the correct life line of happiness and positivity or of depression and negativity is a choice to make.

In another book by Abraham Hicks, "*Ask and It is Given*", she says:

We write this book to reawaken within you your memory of the power of inevitable success that pulse through the core of that which you really are... To place optimism, positive expectation, and expending joy and to remind you that there is nothing you cannot be (Hicks 8).

In this part Hicks shares with her readers that success and positive life are also a choice for them to make, and that they have a real inner power that allows them enlarge the feeling of joy instead of just blindly in pain and depression.

The other quote by the Yogi Sudhguru:

When you exist here as a body, as a mind, your suffering is inevitable. If you are happy, it is an accident, because the process that you refer to as body or mind is not in your hands. It is always subject to the forces of duality in the Existence. So being happy or unhappy, peaceful or not peaceful, is no more your choice; it is just the situation which decides this (Sudhguru 34).

This is another aesthetic quote discusses the choice is in the hands of those who can use the power of their brain for their own benefit and positive thoughts. However, the previous quotes discuss the concept of freedom of choice.

However, for the characters of the two real stories, they both have had a hard decision to make the choice and go into the wild to re-find themselves. Firstly, with Strayed she explains the inner steps she took for hiking the 11000 miles of the Pacific Crest Trail, then to the external actions she did to go after her decision, she says:

My solo three-month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail had many beginnings. There was the first, flip decision to do it, followed by the second, more serious decision to actually do it, and then the long third beginning, composed of weeks of shopping and packing and preparing to do it. There was the quitting my job as a waitress and finalizing my divorce and selling almost everything I owned and saying goodbye to my friends and visiting my mother's grave one last time. There was the driving across the country from Minneapolis to Portland, Oregon, and, a few days later, catching a flight to Los Angeles and a ride to the town of Mojave and another ride to the place where the PCT crossed a highway (Cheryl 13).

Moreover, for Chris he also took a long time of preparation, he made his choice years ago, but his actions came after graduation as Jon Krakauer explains:

Chris had purchased the secondhand yellow Datsun when he was a senior in high school. In the years since, he'd been in the habit of taking it on extended solo road trips when classes weren't in session, and during that graduation weekend he casually mentioned to his parents that he intended to spend the upcoming summer on the road as well. His exact words were "I think I'm going to disappear for a while."(Krakauer 17)

Besides that, The two characters have to think about their choice to make change twice before actually making the action towards it, yet; that choice is exposed to them through the books they were reading, they were intellectual readers, both Chris and Strayed and both were influenced by a certain category of writers, and during their trips they were good readers.

As for Chris, his strong influence by Leo Tolstoy, Jack London, and Henry David Thoreau and many others, in which he reserved some of their books along his way to Alaska as Krakauer states:

#### PASSAGE HIGHLIGHTED IN ONE OF THE BOOKS

FOUND WITH CHRIS MCCANDLESS'S REMAINS (Krakauer 13).

In the Other hand for Strayed, she also had her books company along with the trail the next passage shows her obsession with books :

I turned the book over and gazed at its front cover—a boulder strewn lake surrounded by rocky crags against a blue sky—then placed it back on the shelf, paid for my shovel, and left. But later I returned and bought the book (Cheryl 11).

More comes with that when both characters brought books for nature assistance, as for Chris who bought a book for plants to know their names and types in the wild, and for

Strayed, she bought a book about the Pacific Crest Trail which has many information to help her along with the trail:

I picked up a book called *The Pacific Crest Trail, Volume 1: California* from a nearby shelf and read the back cover. The PCT, it said, was a continuous wilderness trail that went from the Mexican border in California to just beyond the Canadian border along the crest of nine mountain ranges—the Laguna, San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel, Liebre, Tehachapi, Sierra Nevada, Klamath, and Cascades. That distance was a thousand miles as the crow flies, but the trail was more than double that. Traversing the entire length of the states of California, Oregon, and Washington, the PCT passes through national parks and wilderness areas as well as federal, tribal, and privately held lands; through deserts and mountains and rain forests; across rivers and highways (Wild 10).

And for Chris:

He had a book about plants with him, and he was using it to pick berries, collecting them in a gallon milk jug with the top cut off (Krakauer 13).

Eventually, The path of spirituality for both characters was their own choice to change their lives, the tragedy was just for Chris, he have his tragic ending in the second chapter of the book, while for Strayed she had her beginning. Strayed wrote her book as a memoir to share it with people to show the enlightenment she came too through her travels, as for Chris, he died, but his story is also written in a book by a novelist who thought he was talking about his youth time when writing *Chris' Story*.

## **1.2. Gender travel and Hiking**

Both characters of the stories are having deep self work, they suffered from trauma in, paternal over empowerment, maternal leaving by death. This is a spiritual journey to reborn

themselves in the wild. However much adventure and nature uprisings within the individual journeys. Nevertheless; Their journey from a gender perspective is different.

In one hand, for *Strayed*, as being a woman in the story, her concerns are over self empowerment and resolving self struggle, she didn't seem to be that much impacted by a certain philosophy or a deep vision about political problems, however, the novel is female centred concerned with deep conflicts women have, yet; women empowering too; mentioning from the text some quotes that shows woman empowerment, and self growth away from any patriarchal boundaries or male control, her stepfather gone away after her mother's death, and she got divorced from her husband:

I knew that if I allowed fear to overtake me, my journey was doomed. Fear, to a great extent, is born of a story we tell ourselves, and so I chose to tell myself a different story from the one women are told. I decided I was safe. I was strong. I was brave. Nothing could vanquish me. Insisting on this story was a form of mind control (Cheryl 41).

In this part, there is a clear existence of woman empowerment shown in terms of thinking differently from what other women are told, supposedly; not being able to travel in the woods or nature, and being afraid of bugs and small insects, however; that idea she kept in her mind brainwashed her to get her fear out of her mind and to carry the journey she started without thinking of going back and giving up.

In the other hand for *McCandless* there is a burning desire for finding the truth of existence through his ideology of transcendentalism. Moreover from another perspective his journey consists on forgiving his father who is represented as a bourgeois man with two women, his current wife and his ex-wife, and has children from them. However; he gives him that forgiveness but before his death as it is mentioned in the novel:

Rather than love, than money, than fame, give me truth. I sat at a table where were rich food and wine in abundance, an obsequious attendance, but sincerity and truth were not; and I went away hungry from the inhospitable board. The hospitality was as cold as the ices (Krakauer 81).

In this part it appears clearly how McCandless is affected by things bigger than him and it doesn't only concerns his father and his family, but it goes beyond that to other deeper philosophical concepts, he was looking for the truth, and that quote was found highlighted in one of his books of Thoreau.

Concerning gender studies, there are other figures where there is male concepts and female concepts related to the two protagonists which are shown in the following quotes:

For McCandless' side:

Chris had purchased the secondhand yellow Datsun when he was a senior in high school. In the years since, he'd been in the habit of taking it on extended solo road trips when classes weren't in session, and during that graduation weekend he casually mentioned to his parents that he intended to spend the upcoming summer on the road as well. His exact words were "I think I'm going to disappear for a while."(Krakauer 17)

Chris only had an old backpack for his trip he had it from his high school time, as male perspective that he didn't have to do shopping, however; this also shows that Chris had the experience of hiking, but he couldn't make it eventually.

From Strayed's side she says:

My solo three-month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail had many beginnings. There was the first, flip decision to do it, followed by the second, more serious decision

to actually do it, and then the long third beginning, composed of weeks of shopping and packing and preparing to do it. There was the quitting my job as a waitress and finalizing my divorce and selling almost everything I owned and saying goodbye to my friends and visiting my mother's grave one last time. There was the driving across the country from Minneapolis to Portland, Oregon, and, a few days later, catching a flight to Los Angeles and a ride to the town of Mojave and another ride to the place where the PCT crossed a highway (Cheryl 13).

The two last quotes show the difference between male and female preparations before the spiritual journey, Strayed shows she had to make a lot of shopping, sold her house and stopped her work:

By the time I made the decision about which backpack to purchase—a top-of-the-line Gregory hybrid external frame that claimed to have the balance and agility of an internal—I felt as if I'd become a backpacking expert (Cheryl 35.)

In another quote about her backpack which is too heavy and not well prepared Strayed mentions:

No longer was it the absurd Volkswagen Beetle I'd painfully hoisted on in that motel room in Mojave a couple of weeks before. Now my backpack had a name: Monster (Cheryl 70).

And in another statement when she describes her over-prepared backpack :

I said, reddening with shame. Each of their packs was about half the size of mine (Cheryl 71)

A further quote for Strayed's female perspective:

As I looked on, Albert chucked aside the deodorant whose powers I'd overestimated and the disposable razor I'd brought with some vague notion about shaving my legs and under my arms and—much to my embarrassment—the fat roll of condoms I'd slipped into my first aid kit (Cheryl 80).

In addition, this quote explains a situation with an old man working in the grocery by the road of the Pacific Crest Trail wanted to help Strayed with her packing to release the weight of her pack, however; he found so many feminine materials in there, with other preparations strayed had to pack, the writer within this passage uses a free expression of her feminine tools and also details her active sexual life in other passages, which is a revolutionary movement for female travel writers to use in their literary works.

Hence; both protagonists are out there in the wild searching for the truth, for their inner being, although they have many differences as being male or female traveller, and the difficulties woman manly face when they travel alone, or hike alone, but they are both looking for the same inner enlightenment, but with different questions they are seeking for their answers.

### **1.3. The Spiritual Voyage, from the ambiguous society to the Unknown:**

The theory Alienation by Karl Marx, as it is explained in the first chapter has four parts, Alienation from nature, people, work and Alienation from self. However; in this part there are three types of Alienation used for the analysis. The first one is Alienation from people, and the absence of sense of synergy in most scenes of both stories:

Here's to a young girl all alone in the woods (Cheryl 205).

The other quote from the journals of McCandless Krakauer says:



I've spent a lot of time alone in the country over the course of my many visits  
(Krakauer 111)

Both characters, prefer walking their path alone to find deeper answer for their profound concerns, even though; they both met some good people along the trail.

Beside that, the second type Alienation affected the characters to start their journey is Alienation from work. For Strayed she worked as a waitress, despite the fact that she had a college degree in art and literature, but she was doing something she doesn't like for gaining money, where she finally made her decision to quit her job to go for her journey into the wild:

There was the quitting my job as a waitress (Cheryl 13)

In the other hand for McCandless, even though he got higher grades and the needed money to inter the best university of low, he just let go of that because deep inside even that was just an act for pleasing his materialistic bourgeois father, and before his trip, he gave away all the money of his college fees to charity:

what nobody knew—was that he would shortly donate all the money in his college fund to OXFAM America, a charity dedicated to fighting hunger  
(Krakauer 15).

Besides, the last genre of Alienation is used for this analysis is Alienation from the self, which is the hardest because when people get alienated from, nature, or their work, or from people they can gain back that connection by getting a new job, going for walk in nature or volunteering for associations helping nature, and reconnect with other people, but when people lose connection with their selves it is hard to gain it back. In both stories, both characters were lost and disconnected from their selves, that was the reason from them to quest for that trail to find themselves in the extraordinary and in the unfamiliar things in other cultures, with strange people and in the depth of the wilderness. Moreover, trauma and

psychological problems are part of self lose; as for Chris she had psychological problems and the trauma consisted on the lose of her mother, and for McCandless, his trauma lies in childhood fights he seen in his parents and the trauma he had when heard his parents talking about other children he have from his ex-wife, and that he is just a mistake

Many aspects of Chris's personality baffled his parents. He could be generous and caring to a fault, but he had a darker side as well, characterized by monomania, impatience, and unwavering self-absorption, qualities that seemed to intensify through his college years(Krakauer 83).

In this quote, Krakauer describes Chris' personality traits, as being generous and caring, however because of the information he had in an early age about his parents' fights and problems, he always keep such unconscious hate for them, which can be recognized clearly in his behavioral change during conversing with his parents.

The two characters where out in the wild searching for answers, for the truth and to find themselves as being lost in the woods of wilderness to be found. However; theory of alienation put a strong emphasis of individual struggles on Capitalism and the social boundaries people are making higher to build money (Cox).

#### **1.4. Spiritual Enlightenment and Moments of Epiphany**

In every story there is a moment of self realization for one of its characters, a moment of transcendence to the true self, or a moment of enlightenment to see the world from a different perspective. We dealt with the meaning of epiphany in the first chapter, as for now; there is a final analysis of the two characters concerning their moment of awakening. Both characters had two awakenings, one before starting on the trail and the second and the most powerful when arriving to their trail.

Starting with Chris McCandless, apparently his moment of awakening was when he finally made his decision to leave to his trip:

what nobody knew—was that he would shortly donate all the money in his college fund to OXFAM America, a charity dedicated to fighting hunger (Krakauer 15).

The moment Chris McCandless gave away the money of his college fees, that was his first moment of realization for him to make the decision to leave. However; his final moment was greater, was tragic and and with a stronger effect as if he didn't die as if he sent back through that moment:

Deliberate Living: Conscious attention to the basics of life, and a constant attention to your immediate environment and its concerns, examples A job, a task, a book; anything requiring efficient concentration (Circumstance has no value. It is how one relates to a situation that has value. All true meaning resides in the personal relationship to a phenomenon, what it means to you).

The Great Holiness of FOOD, the Vital Heat.

Positivism, the Insurpassable Joy of the Life Aesthetic.

Absolute Truth and Honesty.

Reality.

Independence.

Finality—Stability—Consistency (Krakauer 115) .

In this quote found in Chris' journals, he came to the high point of awareness with the present moment and the small tasks he have to do frequently, as cooking or reading a book, he doesn't have to think of tomorrow or of yesterday, he realized the power of the deliberate

moment, in this case Eckhart Tolle in his book *"The Power Of Now."* talking in it about the importance of the present moment and living in it say:

All you really need to do is accept this moment fully. You are then at ease in the here and now and at ease with yourself (Tolle 110).

Chris McCandless as he lives alone in wilderness just concentrating on surviving and taking care of himself, connected him with the present moment.

Beside that, Chris came to the moment of forgiveness, when he finally forgave his father, he attempted to leave Alaska, but the flowing river prevented him, however; his last words before his death, which was because of starvation after eating poisonous wild potato seeds, he started dying slowly

On August 12, he wrote what would prove to be the final words in his journal:

"Beautiful Blueberries." From August 13 through 18, his journal records nothing beyond a tally of the days. At some point during this week, he tore the final page from Louis L'Amour's memoir, *Education of a Wandering Man*. On one side of the page were some lines L'Amour had quoted from Robinson Jeffers's poem,

"Wise Men in Their Bad Hours": Death's a fierce meadowlark: but to die having made something more equal to the centuries than muscle and bone, is mostly to shed weakness. The mountains are dead stone, the people admire or hate their stature, their insolent quietness, The mountains are not softened or troubled

And a few dead men's thoughts have the same temper. On the other side of the

page, which was blank, McCandless penned a brief adios: "I HAVE HAD A HAPPY LIFE AND THANK THE LORD. GOODBYE AND MAY GOD BLESS ALL! (Krakauer 81).

For a dying man between the unmerciful hands of death and suffering of sickness and famine, those words are chosen by Chris to be his last, to give death a peaceful ingredient.

For the second character, Strayed had her first moment of epiphany the moment she made the decision to start her journey to find herself, to connect to it and to let go of her pain and grief:

My solo three-month hike on the Pacific Crest Trail had many beginnings. There was the first, flip decision to do it, followed by the second, more serious decision to actually do it, and then the long third beginning, composed of weeks of shopping and packing and preparing to do it. There was the quitting my job as a waitress and finalizing my divorce and selling almost everything I owned and saying goodbye to my friends and visiting my mother's grave one last time. There was the driving across the country from Minneapolis to Portland, Oregon, and, a few days later, catching a flight to Los Angeles and a ride to the town of Mojave and another ride to the place where the PCT crossed a highway (Cheryl 13).

The first steps are always the hardest to take, and for Strayed, she twice, but three times before she finally made her decisions to leave, however; her final moment of awakening was at the end of the trail to have an unexpected moment of epiphany and redemption, the hike is dirty, exhausting and hard, but the harder it is the much light gets in the final enlightenment.

Eventually, the third chapter includes a comparison of the two characters, Chris McCandless of "*Into The Wild*", Strayed of "*Wild*", both of them had an inner mission to satisfy their strong need for freedom from society, parents, pain, grief and the things they believe are holding them on from moving out of the comfort zone, even pain when they get used to it becomes a comfort zone, yet; they did it, unfortunately one could survive, and one made it out dead. It doesn't matter if one of them is a man and the other is a female, the goal

is one, the spirit is one, what matters how long the trail was, and how long it took them to find their moment of awakening.

## Conclusion

Travel is never a matter of money but of courage. I spent a large part of my youth traveling the world as a hippie, and what money did I have then? None. I barely had enough to pay for my fare, but I still consider those to have been the best years of my youth: eating badly, sleeping in train stations, unable to communicate because I didn't know the language, being forced to depend on others just for somewhere to spend the night. After weeks on the road, listening to a language you don't understand, using a currency whose value you don't comprehend, walking down streets you've never walked down before, you discover that your old "I," along with everything you ever learned, is absolutely no use at all in the face of those new challenges, and you begin to realize that buried deep in your unconscious mind there is someone much more interesting and adventurous and more open to the world and to new experiences. Then there comes a day when you say: "Enough!" "Enough!" I say. "Traveling, for me, has become just a monotonous routine." "No, it's not enough, it never will be," (Paulo 18)

Reaching out to the destination of the trail of voyage and exploration of the travel writing and transcending through Jon Krakauer and Cheryl Strayed, to answer the question raised within the General Introduction of the current thesis; However, by trying to answer them, many other questions awakened to be asked as a continuity in other researches. This thesis would not have a final answer, or a final result, for this is the field of research questions get answered and others appear from the fog. As a conclusion for this research we will share an experience about travels we did before starting the writing phase of this thesis.

Before starting exploring Travel Writing, we wanted to experience the journey those writers into nature and into unknown cities of different cultures and different languages. For that; we hiked through the mountains between the city of Guelma till near the City of Skikda's border lines, almost 100Km, of tiredness, fear at first, fear of the unknown, fear of the group we were with them, fear of nature, fear of what could be there in nature; later that fear get developed the first day to reach its peak, to explode into tears, pain and tiredness, to become more confident and more aware of the world outside. The trip wasn't just through that trail, also to other cities in the south, north and west of Algeria, places in this big country where we lose words, lose the old paradigms, old ropes holding the mind from moving places where there is different languages and accents, and different way of eating and culture, all in a one place, Algeria. Besides; the most astonishing experience was when we hiked and climbed the second highest mountain in Algeria Chilia , by the series mountains of the Aures which is 2822M from the level of the sea, and it took us more than 40k to reach the edge of the mountain. During that experience it was spring time, but we faced the three seasons, summer, down by the first kilometers, spring by the the second half, and the very outrageous winter by the latest half, it was full of snow, wind and shivering the bones. What could distract us from thinking about the pain and tiredness, was silence; staying silence and focused on nature and the external physical existence, the enjoyment and the sublimity we see in nature, in tall trees, in the snow, in the insects, in the animals we see coincidentally passing by, and for most, seeing the world at the top of the mountain. Yet we still have a second round back to go down the mountain after climbing it up, but the moment of realization, the moment of enlightenment, the moment of forgetting about the whole world, society, family, toxic politics news, and just focusing on the oneself inside being connected to the beauty it is seeing externally, only then we realized the beauty we have inside the physical appearance of the body to remain existing and to stay focused only on that moment on the top of the world. This



experience, gave an more creative view about the research, and writing, and mainly the experience the two protagonists of the story dealt with, which was the first guiding line to start this research.

We asked questions in the General Introduction of this thesis, mentioning them: what is Travel Writing? How it was raised? Who are the first writers in this field? What are literary theories that discussed this new form of writing? Those question obviously are not the only questions should be asked and dealt with, and the research face much more deeper other questions concerning philosophical, psychological and even sociological ones. However, as provided from the research.

Firstly, travel writing is a neglected genre of writing, which provides either a series of trips, or an exploration journey of the writers themselves, or a memoir of a person who traveled and the writer used their story, Travel writing started from the early ages of human being, when they were travelling for commercial, religious or personal needs and they ended up writing journals and memoirs about their journey, like the explorations of Christopher Columbus and the travels of Arabic Sufi Ibn Battutah and many others.

Secondly, we cannot point out in the researches we made the first writers of this field because simply any writer who travels and write about voyage is a travel writer, in our research we recommend writers to start using this genre in their literary works, and mostly to add this genre as a description of the literary works fitting with its description, criteria and characteristics.

Thirdly, from the theories and movements supporting this genre we mention Transcendentalism, when it started first in London, to influence later on writers and philosophers of the United States to start their movement from there too, this movement is the very supportive one to Travel Writing through its naturalistic perspectives and as it started by Naturalists like David Thoreau and others. Transcendentalism is about going beyond the thing,

beyond culture, beyond society, beyond politics, beyond differences and racism and all what we have been fed lies about in the media, in society and by parents to be controlled, to go beyond those to the eternal freedom of the soul, by connecting to the high self and doing the inner needed work to fix what they damaged by their ideologies, and toxicity they planted in the human brain to become a machine in the capitalistic and materialistic societies which were built over the death nature through pollution of nature and different other sections in life, from the educational system to the very little life basics, this what the two characters McCandless and Strayed faced to see the truth, however; some of us live long enough to see the truth and go beyond it to live in peace, some of others live and die blindly, and some of them like Chris McCandless they see things discover reality, but unfortunately they see the truth just before their death, and they wouldn't have a chance to live a period of time with their moment of realization and epiphany. The theory of Alienation by Karl Marx expressed the previous point clearly.

From the two case studies, we came to a conclusion that Travel Writing is not about, buying tickets and going to other countries and writing about them, or living an adventure and write about it in a story, no; travel writing is a much deeper genre that depicts philosophical concepts, sociological problems societies are dealing with, psychological troubles of individuals, political issues of different communities, and the struggle of surviving in toxic societies for those who have been awakened by nature. Travel writing transcend beyond countries and borders and to take us to a trip to the depth of human being's life.

Hence, this research didn't solve many problems and questions, though it faced other deep concerns to be solved in further researches as taking in consideration that travel writing should be added to curriculum for the sake of allowing students to learn how to discover themselves through theories and to arise their level of critical thinking to find solutions, however; this might be an opening for a new research ideas to be done in the future when

introducing this category in the curriculum, and even making exceeding to become a wider literary genre as travel short stories and travel poems, which will be appropriately defined in future research.

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## المخلص

تتناول هذه الأطروحة الرحلات الروحية المترسخة بعمق في أي بحث مادي خارجي، وتسعى إلى دراسة الملاحظة التأملية للعالم الخارجي فيما تعلق بالعالم الداخلي والموجودي في أدب السفر وهي مقسمة إلى ثلاثة فصول، الفصل الأول يتعلق بمناقشة تعريف بعض النظريات المتعلقة بكتابة السفر، أما الثاني والثالث فيتعلقان بتحليل دراسات الحالة. ومنه فإن هذه الورقة تكشف أولاً هذا النوع الأدبي من خلال السفر إلى كإشارة إلى علم النفس البيئي ووسيلة للمرونة المعرفية لزيادة الإبداع. كما تدرس السفر وكتابة سفرال، ليس فقط من منظور نفسي-اجتماعي، ولكن أيضاً من خلال التعمق في الحركة الفلسفية كطريقة لتجاوز المنظورات القديمة ونماذج الأدب والفلسفة والسياسة. فتقترح ضرورة التركيز على الفرد كجزء من كتابات السفر. كما تقترح أيضاً ضرورة وضع الروايات التي تدور حول الرحلات والتي تنتقل شخصياتها على نطاق واسع في سياق السرد، وكذا ضرورة إضافتها إلى مناهج الطلاب. ففي هذه الأطروحة، تشمل بالدراسة مجموعة واسعة من روايات السفر، بما في ذلك رواية "في البرية" ووشيريل سترايد "البرية"، حيث يتم اختيار الممثلين في هذا النوع من الأفلام بناءً على الإحساس بالفردية، والاعتماد على الذات والذهاب عبر العمل الداخلي للبحث عن الحقيقة. وتم اختيار القصتين لأنهما حقيقتان، وهما يصفان النضال الفردي من وجهة ري لكريس ماكاندلس، للتأكيد على ضرورة تعزيز نظركو أنثوية لـ "سترايد"، ومنظور المعرفة الخارجية والداخلية على حد سواء، من خلال التنفير من العيوب الخيالية الداخلية



## Résumé

Cette thèse explore les voyages intérieurs et spirituels profondément enracinés dans toute quête physique extérieure cherchant à examiner l'observation méditative du monde extérieur en relation avec le monde interne présent dans la littérature de voyage. Ce travail est divisé en trois chapitres, le premier porte sur la définition de certaines théories concernant l'écriture de voyage, le second et le troisième concernent l'analyse des études de cas. Il découvre tout d'abord ce genre littéraire à travers les voyages en tant que référence à la psychologie de l'environnement et moyen de flexibilité cognitive pour augmenter la créativité. Il étudie également le voyage et le récit de voyage non seulement dans une perspective psycho-sociologique, mais également sa profondeur à travers le mouvement philosophique du transcendantalisme en tant que moyen de dépasser les anciennes perspectives et paradigmes de la littérature, de la philosophie et de la politique. Elle propose également de classer dans cette catégorie les romans basés sur des voyages et dont les personnages voyagent au cours de la narration, ainsi que l'autre hypothèse selon laquelle il convient de l'ajouter au programme des élèves. Dans cette thèse, nous encerclons la vaste gamme de romans de voyage, dont les romans de randonnées de Jon Krakauer «Into The Wild» et de «Wild» de Cheryl Strayed. Ils sont respectivement choisis pour leur sens d'individualisme, pour compter sur eux-mêmes et passer au travail intérieur de recherche pour trouver la vérité. Les deux histoires ont été choisies parce qu'elles sont véridiques et décrivent les luttes individuelles de la version féminine de Strayed et celle de Chris McCandless afin de renforcer le savoir, à la fois pour améliorer la connaissance extérieure et la connaissance intérieure, par le biais de l'aliénation d'inaptitudes fictives internes.

