

THE ALCHEMIST
Screenplay Adaptation
Alchemist Character Introduction

by
Robb Edward Morris

Adapted from the book

by
Paulo Coelho

WGA#: 1885752

Robbedwardmorris@gmail.com
+1 (213) 810-4556

EXT. OASIS FOREST - NIGHT

A full moon illuminates the path in the forest.

Santiago saunters through the trees.

Suddenly, there is a TREMENDOUS THUNDERING SOUND.

Santiago is thrown to the ground by a forceful wind.

The area swirls with a blinding DUST CLOUD.

An ENORMOUS WHITE HORSE rears with a SCREAM.

Santiago stands as the dust dissolves. He trembles at what he sees.

Astride the animal is a HORSEMAN DRESSED IN BLACK with a FALCON perched on his shoulder.

He wears a TURBAN. A BLACK KERCHIEF covers his face.

Only his eyes are seen.

The Horseman draws an enormous SWORD from a SCABBARD mounted on his steed.

The steel blade glistens in the moonlight.

His voice RUMBLES vociferously.

HORSEMAN

Who dares to read the flight of the
hawks?

Santiago lowers his head.

SANTIAGO

It is I who dares. So that lives
may be saved.

The Horseman swings. It seems a fatal blow, but the swing is stopped as swiftly as it swung.

The point of the sword touches Santiago's forehead, drawing a single DROPLET OF BLOOD.

HORSEMAN

Why have you spoken this ominous
omen?

SANTIAGO

I told what the birds wanted me to tell.

HORSEMAN

Who are you to change what Allah has willed?

SANTIAGO

Allah created the armies. He also created the hawks. Allah taught me the languages of the birds. All things were written by the same hand.

The Horseman withdraws his sword.

HORSEMAN

When something is written, there's no way to change it.

SANTIAGO

All I saw was an army, I didn't see the outcome of the battle.

HORSEMAN

What is a stranger doing in this land?

SANTIAGO

Following my destiny.

The Horseman returns his sword to the scabbard.

HORSEMAN

I had to test your courage. Courage is the quality most essential to understanding the Language of the World.

Santiago raises his head.

HORSEMAN (CONT'D)

You must not let up, even after having come so far. If the warriors come here and your head is still on your shoulders at sunset, come find me.

The Horseman brandishes and CRACKS A WHIP.

The horse rears again, raising a cloud of dust and takes to the trees.

Santiago shouts after them.

SANTIAGO
Where do you live?

The hand with the whip points to the south before it disappears into THE MIST.

The Horseman is THE ALCHEMIST, (400 years old).