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The Life of Paulo Coelho

Paulo Coelho was born on August 24 1947, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. He was raised by his dedicated catholic parents, he attended Jesuit schools. Coelho wanted to be a writer, but his parents didn’t want him to because they saw no future in that profession in Brazil. Coelho was a very rebellious child. Because of his rebellion his parents committed him to a mental asylum three times, starting when he was 17 years old. He eventually got out of institutional care and enrolled in law school, but dropped out to indulge in the “sex, drugs and rock ‘n’ roll” of hippie life in the 1970s. He wrote song lyrics for Bazillion musicians protesting the country’s military rule. Which had him jailed three times for his political activism and was subjected to torture in prison. After doing several professions, Coelho changed his life’s course while he was on a visit to Spain in 1986. He walked more than 500 miles along the road to Santiago de Compostela, a site of catholic pilgrimage. Where he experiences a spiritual awakening which inspired him to write his first book “The Pilgrimage.” He then quit all his other jobs and devoted himself full-time to the craft of writing.

Coelho wrote the quote “The World is changed by Your Examples, Not by Your Opinion”. What this quote means is that your positive thoughts put into action is more effective to make a change to the world than just verbally giving your opinion.

The truth of this quote is reflected in the life of Coelho, because he had a troubled past. He was jailed and tortured by the Brazilian dictatorship for expressing his views. But he turn his life around by changing his action and his attitude. And now had made a positive impact on a lot of people’s lives. Some by reading his books and others who personally knew him.

From my observation of Coelho, he had a choice to remain the troubled person who he was where he used to be involved in drugs and sex. But he decided not to, by making a positive decision to go back to school and pursue his carrier and be a writer. As he wanted to be before he strayed away form, his dream. Coelho has given up drugs, and his promiscuous sex life, and all those other things that he used to do that was always getting him in trouble with the law. Now he is able to write about his personal struggles in his life. And what he did to make the changes so that his life is what it is today. In which others can learn from his examples if they chose to.

Work cited

"Paulo Coelho Biography." Biography.com. Web. 15 Mar. 2016. <http://www.biography.com/people/paulo-coelho-5524->.