

Novel

Religion



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Paper Due The Five People You Meet in Heaven In the dedication of his book, Alбом tells the readers, “ Everyone has an idea of heaven, as do most religions, and they should all be respected”. This theme regarding religious tolerance is not discussed again in the book directly, neither does Alбом clearly mentions and refers to a particular religious system. The lead character Eddie’s meeting with different people is a vehicle for the author’s primary message about the relational interconnectedness between all people, a theme that most Christians would adhere. Alбом has not made any attempt to present the coherent doctrine of the afterlife or salvation, and it is highly unlikely that he attempted to it the story.

The expression “ Kingdom of Heaven” (Alбом 111), is employed as the indistinct reference for the afterlife and its state with no clear relevance to the biblical utilization of the phrase as a reference to the ideological rule of God over humankind. The implied message of Alбом is that an assured afterlife exists, a just means to make amends, there is an eternal rationale in the minor actions, and that “ all lives intersect” (Alбом 48) echoes with the readers hungry for meaning, assurance and community.

In the afterlife, Alбом has masterfully woven the different scenes together of Eddie’s life experiences. Flashbacks to the mortal life of Eddie and a friend arranging his final affairs post death. He wakes up in the afterlife and learns that heaven is not what he thought; ‘ a lush Garden of Eden’, but rather the place where the earthly life is described to the dead by the five most important people for everyone. These people can be loved ones or strangers, the important aspect about all of them are that they have impacted the life of the dead and changed their course.

Works Cited

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Albom, Mitch. *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*. New York: Hyperion, 2003. Print.