

The Celestine Prophecy: An Adventure Study Guide

**The Celestine Prophecy: An Adventure by James
Redfield**

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Plot Summary

The Celestine Prophecy by James Redfield consists of a story that follows an unnamed middle-aged man as he travels through the Peruvian jungles in pursuit of a mysterious manuscript, slowly learning each of the manuscript's main points, or insights, from strangers he meets along the way. This is a unique novel about life and living life to its fullest.

The narrator arrives at a restaurant to have dinner with a woman he has not seen or heard from in six years, only to have her contact him that day. The woman, Charlene, is speaking to police officers as the narrator arrives because her briefcase has been stolen. Dismissing the incident, Charlene is excited to catch up with her old friend and to tell him her real reason for calling. While in Peru on business, Charlene hears of a manuscript that predicts a transformation in human society. Charlene tells the narrator that she meets a priest who tells her about the manuscript, which is divided into different insights. Charlene says that the First Insight is about how a large number of people at the turn of the century will suddenly become aware of meaningful coincidences and a larger purpose to life.

The narrator is fascinated by the idea behind this manuscript and decides to go to Peru to investigate. On the plane he meets another man, Dobson, who has also decided to go to Peru to investigate the manuscript. Dobson, who is in Peru a few weeks before and sees copies of the first two insights, explains the Second Insight to the narrator, which consists of a new awareness and perspective of history. Dobson and the narrator decide to do their investigation together, so they decide to meet at Dobson's hotel later; however, the narrator goes straight to his new acquaintance's hotel when he realizes he is being followed. The narrator arrives at Dobson's hotel just as gunfire rings out, and Dobson runs off through the streets. The narrator runs, also, unsure if Dobson is shot or arrested.

While fleeing the danger outside the hotel, the narrator meets a man named Wil, who wants to help him. Wil tells the narrator that he, too, is a follower of the manuscript, and that he knows the priest who introduced both Dobson and Charlene to the manuscript. At this very moment Wil is preparing to leave on an excursion to search for the Ninth Insight. Wil invites the narrator to accompany him, promising to help the narrator find a way home if that is what the narrator later wants to do. The narrator decides to join Wil on his search for the Ninth Insight.

The first stop on Wil's journey is a place called Vicente Lodge, where the narrator meets a scientist, Sarah, who teaches him the Third Insight, which has to do with visualizing the energy field which exists around all living things. The narrator also briefly meets two people he will meet again, Phil and Marjorie and witnesses a fight between Sarah and a German scientist, in which each person is stealing energy from the other, a glimpse into the Fourth Insight.



When on the road again, the narrator sees a man on the side of the road, who reminds him of an old friend. Wil decides to camp behind the gas station where this man is broken down so the narrator can talk to this man. The man, Reneau, is a psychologist whose main interest is interpersonal relationships. Reneau teaches the narrator about the Fourth Insight, the stealing of energy from other people, and the narrator tells Reneau about Vicente Lodge and the fight he sees between Sarah and the German.

Wil and the narrator continue their journey to a little village called Cula. The narrator meets up with Marjorie again and finds himself attempting to save her when a group of military men invade the town. However, Marjorie and the narrator are separated later, and Marjorie is arrested by the military. The narrator continues to hide on a mountain ridge and has a vision of evolution. Later, he meets a priest on the road who takes him to his mission, where the narrator learns the Fifth Insight.

Afraid of trouble from the military, the priest, Father Sanchez, takes the narrator to Machu Picchu and the home of a friend. This friend, Father Carl, teaches the narrator about the Sixth Insight, that of looking into the past and clearing control dramas. When word gets to Father Sanchez that his mission is about to be overrun by the military, Father Sanchez and Father Carl return while the narrator continues his journey, hoping to find Wil. On the road once more, the narrator is arrested and put into jail for possessing copies of the manuscript.

In jail, the narrator meets Pablo, a man who teaches him about the Seventh Insight, using his intuition to get the answers he needs. By employing this insight, the narrator foresees his escape from jail with Marjorie, who is being held in the same jail. When the two escape, they come into contact with another believer, who takes them to the home of a friend. Here the narrator meets up with a woman he met on the road, Julia. Julia teaches the narrator the Eighth Insight, relating to other people and encourages him not to become too close to Marjorie because it may impede his ability to use the insights. Marjorie returns to America.

While traveling with Julia to Iquitos, a village where they believe they will find Wil, the two meet up with Father Sanchez once more. Father Sanchez and the narrator try to reason with Cardinal Sebastian, the church official behind the government's suppression of the manuscript, while Julia goes off on her own to try search for the Ninth Insight. Although Father Sanchez and the narrator fail to persuade Cardinal Sebastian, Father Sanchez is able to see a copy of the Ninth Insight and teach it to the narrator. At the same time, Wil and Julia steal the Ninth Insight and use it to elude the military. The narrator is not so lucky, however, and is placed in jail. Shortly before his release, are destroyed and it is now his responsibility to spread the word of what he has learned in America.



Chapter 1, A Critical Mass

Chapter 1, A Critical Mass Summary

The Celestine Prophecy, by James Redfield records the journey of an unnamed, middle-aged man, the narrator, as he travels through the Peruvian jungles in pursuit of a mysterious manuscript. The narrator slowly learns each of the manuscript's main points, or insights, from strangers he meets along the way. This is a unique novel about life and living life to its fullest.

The narrator arrives at a restaurant to meet with an old friend, who has a short layover in the area. The two friends have not spoken in more than six years; therefore, the narrator is curious why this friend, Charlene, wants to see him now. When the narrator arrives at the restaurant, he finds Charlene talking with two police officers. Apparently, while Charlene is in the restroom, her briefcase is stolen.

Charlene shrugs off the theft and the two order dinner. The two friends catch up on each others' their lives, then Charlene tells the narrator about a manuscript she has heard about while in Peru on business. This manuscript is in the Peruvian jungle, yet the government will not acknowledge its existence. While asking questions whenever and wherever she can, Charlene meets a priest who tells her all he knows about the manuscript. The manuscript was written about 600 B.C. and predicts a massive transformation in human society starting in the last decades of the twentieth century.

This transformation will begin with a great restlessness as people become aware of a deeper meaning to life. This restlessness will grow, spreading from person to person, as individuals become more aware of their lives and experiences. The moment Charlene begins to explain this phenomenon, a woman in the restaurant becomes irrate at her date, and Charlene points out that the woman's anger is another example of this restlessness. Charlene continues to explain that as this transformation continues, people will find it harder and harder to continue relationships. The restlessness of this change causes people to demand too much from each other and to struggle with the power each holds in relation to the other. The narrator thinks of his last two relationships and has to agree with Charlene's description of the power struggles.

The priest also tells Charlene that when people become more conscious of the meaning of their experiences, the restlessness will cease, and they will have attained the First Insight. When the narrator questions Charlene about this Insight, she explains that there are many coincidences in life, and when people become aware of each coincidence, they will see a deeper meaning to them. The First Insight is the acknowledgement that there is another side to life, another process operating, that people are just now beginning to observe. Charlene says she has to tell the narrator about this because in all the years she has known him, he has always been fascinated by the concept of coincidences.



Charlene continues saying that the manuscript predicts that a large number of people will begin to become more aware, until a critical mass will create a major shift in human society. Also included in the manuscript are eight more insights, each one propelling an aware individual to a higher plan of understanding in relation to the awareness they gain with the First Insight. This manuscript is in danger of disappearing, however, because of the Peruvian government's efforts to suppress it, and the church fighting against it. The church is afraid of the manuscript because it undermines key points of their religion. The priest who tells Charlene about the First Insight disappears later that day before she can meet with him again to discuss the manuscript in more detail.

Confused by what Charlene tells him, the narrator walks into the garden beside the restaurant to clear his head. Charlene follows and the two wonder aloud why they never stayed in touch over the years. While they talk, Charlene becomes aware of a man watching them from the parking lot. Afraid the man may mean Charlene harm, the narrator calls the police and insists that they check out the passengers on her plane before she makes her connection. All appears well at the airport and Charlene leaves, assured by the narrator's promise to check deeper into the manuscript.

After Charlene leaves, the narrator goes back to his lake home, where he had gone for some solitude a few weeks before Charlene's surprise call. The next morning, the narrator wakes with a dream still fresh in his mind, in which he is looking for something he cannot name. The narrator goes outside and jumps into the lake for a quick swim, thinking about his grandfather and how his grandfather found this place. The narrator feels connected with this place in a way no one else in the family understands. The narrator returns to the house having decided to fly to Peru to see if he can learn anything about this manuscript. Due to a cancellation, the narrator gets a flight to Peru, with a hotel included, at a discount. The flight is due to leave in three hours.

Chapter 1, A Critical Mass Analysis

This chapter introduces two important elements to the novel, the narrator and the manuscript. First, the narrator is a middle-aged man, who is not named throughout the novel, leaving the reader with the impression that the narrator is the author of the novel. Not naming the narrator may also give the impression that the novel is factual, a tool the author uses to give his story more possibility. The narrator is a lost soul at the beginning of the novel. He is a man who has little direction in his life at the time he becomes reacquainted with a woman he lost contact with, though they had been good friends. This insight into the narrator leaves the reader aware that the narrator may be ripe for an adventure.

The second important element introduced in this chapter is the ancient manuscript discovered in Peru. This manuscript will be the driving force through the rest of the novel, propelling the characters through the events that tie the entire plot together. In this way, the manuscript is a character itself. The manuscript consists of many insights, or spiritual guides, which are intended to teach humanity how to experience a higher plane of existence.



This chapter introduces the point of view of the novel, which is first person, and the ideas of the First Insight. This insight says that more and more people will become aware of some reason for life, and the more people who become aware, the more society will shift towards a transformation of some sort. This insight is important because it is the one that initiates the narrator's adventure, which is chronicled in the rest of the novel. The first insight foreshadows the other eight insights. More foreshadowing occurs as Charlene becomes convinced someone means her harm. Charlene's fear foreshadows the fact that the narrator's adventure may become dangerous.



Chapter 2, The Longer Now

Chapter 2, The Longer Now Summary

The narrator boards the plane for Peru, very tired from his frenzied packing. However, he cannot relax because he keeps hashing over his rash actions and questioning his decision to fly to Peru. When the plane is in the air, the narrator goes to the restroom. On the way, he sees a man he thinks he recognizes and overhears this man the stewardess about the manuscript. At first unsure what to do, the narrator asks the man about his connection to the manuscript. It turns out that the man is Wayne Dobson, an assistant professor of history from New York University.

Dobson asks the narrator how he learned of the First Insight and what he understands of it. This sets off a discussion about history and how men have studied it incorrectly for many decades. Dobson says that instead of studying the actions of people in the past, historians should concentrate more on the thoughts and feelings of these people. History is an evolution of thought Dobson says. When asked how he learns of the manuscript, Dobson says he heard rumors about it and went to Peru a few weeks ago to verify the rumors. Once there, Dobson meets a priest who promises to tell him about the manuscript and set up a meeting at his home. However, the priest never shows up. While waiting, Dobson finds copies of the First and Second Insights in a storage building.

The narrator asks about the Second Insight. Dobson explains it as a new way of looking at our history, to being able to recognize a preoccupation society has that makes it impossible to move beyond society's awareness of our spiritual selves. Dobson goes on to explain that in the Middle Ages society is defined by the Christian Church. When society begins to question the church and the power of the church wanes, society turns from the spiritual to the scientific, sending scientists out to define humanity and the reasons for life itself. While society waits for answers, it turned its attention to survival, to making the planet comfortable and secure. This need for security is the preoccupation that has kept society from recognizing the awareness that the First Insight speaks of, but that preoccupation is lessening.

An hour passes while the narrator mulls over this information. Dobson breaks into the narrator's reverie to ask if he understands this Insight. When the narrator says that he does, Dobson tells him that he is returning to Peru to find out what the other Insights say, and to learn if these Insights answer the ultimate question, the purpose of life. Dobson says that he has sent a letter to the Peruvian government to alert them that he is coming and to suggest they cooperate, since it is well known that the government is attempting to squash all rumors of the manuscript.

When the plane lands in Peru, Dobson and the narrator share their hotel information and agree to meet later, so that the narrator can accompany Dobson on the search for the manuscript. The narrator hires a taxi to take the narrator to his hotel, but the narrator



realizes another taxi is following him. At his hotel, the narrator decides not to get out of the taxi, and, instead, tells the driver to take him to Dobson's hotel. When the narrator realizes that the taxi is still following him, he tells the driver to let him out some distance from Dobson's hotel. The narrator walks toward the entrance to the hotel and sees Dobson. Suddenly gunfire breaks out. Dobson yells to the narrator to run and they both run toward an alley. The narrator sees Dobson fall as he continues to run. A man a few blocks away stops him and takes him into a building, explaining that he will be safe there.

The man tells the narrator that his name is Wilson James and that he had seen what was happening from a window. Wilson has a feeling this has something to do with the manuscript and feels he needs to help. The narrator tells Wilson who he is and about Dobson, explaining their connection to the manuscript. When the narrator speaks of the priest, Wilson says that the priest is a friend of his and was murdered a few weeks before. The priest, Jose, found the manuscript three years ago in the possession of some Indians and was the one who first translated it. Wilson says there are eight Insights among the copies that still exist, but there are a few who believe there is a Ninth Insight. Wilson, is about to set out to look for the Ninth Insight. Wilson says he will take the narrator to a friend, who will give him a safe place to hide while they wait for the danger to lessen, and then the narrator can return to the states. However, once they reach this friend's house, the narrator decides he wants to go with Wilson on his search for the Ninth Insight.

Chapter 2, The Longer Now Analysis

This chapter introduces another important element to the novel, the theme of coincidences. When the narrator boards the plane to Peru, he meets a man who not only knows of the manuscript, but who has seen the Second Insight, the one the narrator is ready to learn. This coincidence not only introduces the narrator to the next insight, but it also gives him a more structured plan for his time in Peru. The narrator now has a plan to follow, a friend to investigate with aid the narrator's investigation and a means of investigating.

The taxi following the narrator and the chase outside of Dobson's hotel introduces more tension to the plot. Although the reader is aware that the government denies the manuscript's existence, the reader is now aware of how far the government may go to stop the narrator from finding out the truth about the manuscript. This foreshadows more tension later in the novel when the narrator finds himself in trouble with the government of Peru because of the search.

This chapter also introduces a new, important character, Wilson James. Wilson is clearly a man who has seen many of the insights and desires to expose the truth in the manuscript. This character becomes the narrator's guide, agreeing to let the narrator accompany him on his journey to find the ninth insight.

Also introduced in this chapter is the Second Insight. The Second Insight suggests that people take a closer look at the emotional and mental aspects of their history, rather than focus on the mechanical aspects of history. This suggestion is made in order to help society move beyond the preoccupation it has had with security in their lives and to focus more on the purpose of life. This Insight is important to the novel because it is a building block on which the plot development for the rest of the novel is based.



Chapter 3, A Matter of Energy

Chapter 3, A Matter of Energy Summary

Wilson and the narrator leave in Wil's jeep first thing the next morning and make their way through the Andes to a place called Vicente Lodge, a resort whose guests are mostly those attending scientific conferences and where the manuscript is studied. The Lodge is a beautiful place with a virgin forest just behind the main building. When they arrive Wil suggests that the narrator take a walk while he arranges rooms for them. The narrator strolls along a path behind the building and meets a woman named Sarah Lerner.

Sarah is a physics professor, who is at Vicente to study the effects of energy on plant life. Sarah tells the narrator that energy is an important aspect of the Third Insight. The Third Insight suggests that everything on earth consists of energy and that it is malleable to human intention and expectation, i.e., what we expect to happen will flow out and affect the things around us. Sarah is interrupted by others and hands the narrator a copy of the Third Insight to read for himself. The narrator reads the copy in a quiet place among the trees until Sarah rejoins him.

Sarah tells the narrator that it is possible to see the energy of the world and other people around them, but a person first has to develop a deeper appreciation of beauty, since the energy is on the same continuum as beauty. While discussing this aspect of the Third Insight, Sarah is once more interrupted by a small group of German scientists looking for the research gardens. Sarah lies to them about the location of the gardens because she knows they are not supporters of the manuscript. Sarah leads the narrator there instead, explaining on the way that the research gardens are a place where scientists have used the Third Insight to affect the way plants grow. In this research garden, the scientists think of the plants, their soil and food source, as one energy base. By using their own energy to add to the energy around the plants, and showing concern for the plants, the scientists affect the way the plants grow. The plants tend to grow much larger and contain more nutrients for the body to absorb when they are eaten.

The narrator meets another scientist, a microbiologist, who is studying the effects these plants have on the people who eat them. It appears that these plants provide nutrients that cannot be explained by what is known about nutrients today. This appears to be a part of the Third Insight as well. The people give their energy to the plants and the plants return this energy when they are eaten. During this time, the narrator meets a young woman, Marjorie, to whom he is attracted. Marjorie sees this attraction in the narrator's energy and leaves the group. Sarah leads the narrator to a group of students who sit and stare at the plants, sharing their energy with the plants. The narrator finds the whole thing fascinating. Sarah wants to know if the narrator can see the energy moving between the students and the plants. When he says he cannot, Sarah suggests they meet again at sunrise, since it seems to be easier to see the energy at sunrise and sunset.



The narrator returns to the main building and finds Wil. Wil and the narrator have dinner with another scientist, the microbiologist, the narrator had met before. The narrator is careful to eat nothing but vegetables, since he has been told that this increases the ability to see the energy of the people and plants around him. The narrator goes to bed for the night, rising early the next morning to meet Sarah. When the narrator arrives at their rendezvous point, Sarah is not there, but a man named Phil Stone is. The narrator tells Phil why he is there, and Phil teaches the narrator how to stare at his fingers in order to see his own energy. Phil is Sarah's friend and greets her warmly when she finally arrives. Sarah tells the narrator to study a tree and appreciate its beauty. When the narrator does so, he sees a line of energy around the trees and bushes. Sarah moves up and concentrates on a bush, feeding it her energy in a way that the narrator can see it. The narrator wants to do this, too, but fails to make it happen after Sarah tells him how. Phil cannot do it either.

Angry voices come toward them, and the narrator loses his ability to see the energy fields. Sarah, Phil, and the narrator decide to return to the lodge, since the narrator is due to leave with Wil soon. On their way, the narrator is able to focus and see the energy fields again. Sarah tells the narrator how this place has a strong energy field and how the simple act of being there makes her feel better. Sarah also talks of her research and how important it is to the future of physics. They encounter one of the German scientists from the day before, and he attacks Sarah about their research. While they argue, the narrator watches their energy fields and observes how each one steals from the other during the argument. When he asks about this phenomenon, neither Phil nor Sarah understands of what he is talking.

Back at the main building, the narrator finds Wil waiting for him. After saying goodbye, Wil and the narrator drive away. Wil is concerned because there have been rumors that the government wants to shut Vicente down. Wil does not believe this will happen, but the rumors are disturbing just the same. Wil asks the narrator if he learned about the Third Insight. The narrator tells him that Sarah gave him a copy to keep and that he saw some energy that morning. The narrator believes he understands the main points of the insight. Wil questions him more intensely on the insight, questioning the narrator's decisions throughout the experience, especially when the narrator refuses to share information with the people at Vicente. When the narrator tells Wil about the argument he saw between Sarah and the other scientist, Wil explains that humans compete for energy, and that during the argument, Sarah and the scientist are stealing energy from each other depending upon who was winning the argument at any given moment.

Chapter 3, A Matter of Energy Analysis

Again the theme of coincidence appears in this chapter. When the narrator arrives at Vicente, he is ready to learn about the next insight, the Third Insight. Within moments of arriving, the narrator meets the physicist, Sarah. Sarah is studying the third insight and immediately begins to teach the narrator about this insight. The Third Insight is the revelation that all matter consists a field of energy that can be seen. This is important to



the novel because the rest of the insights build on the ones before them, therefore this insight foreshadows the next one to follow.

The plot continues to build in this chapter, not only because of the introduction of another insight, but because the reader is introduced to both the knowledge that has already been established about the manuscript and to the people who are working to get that knowledge into the world. This foreshadows the actions behind the attempts to get the information into the world and the actions of the church and the government as they attempt to stop this release of information. Wil informs the narrator that the government is close to closing down the resort, foreshadowing events later in the novel.

Another piece of foreshadowing in this chapter takes place when the narrator meets Marjorie, a woman he is deeply attracted to. This first meeting foreshadows a future meeting between the narrator and Marjorie. This relationship will have a great impact on the narrator's ability to achieve the rest of the insights listed within the manuscript.

Wil's questions to the narrator when they leave Vicente foreshadows a time when the narrator comes to an insight that forces him to look at his personal behavior and his openness toward other people. Wil is not pleased that the narrator does not share his thoughts and questions with Sarah and Phil openly.



Chapter 4, The Struggle for Power

Chapter 4, The Struggle for Power Summary

The next day, while Wil and the narrator are traveling, the narrator is sore and tired and ready to complain. Wil asks the narrator if he remembers being told that each insight comes to every person when they are ready. Wil says he wants to go to a village called Cula, but that he wants the narrator to be alert to coincidences that may alert him that he is ready to learn another insight. The narrator agrees and, moments later, sees a man parked on the side of the road who reminds him of someone he once worked with. When he tells Wil this, Wil turns the jeep around and decides they must talk to this man.

The man, Chris Reneau, is a French psychology professor teaching in Brazil. Reneau's truck has broken down and he cannot get a replacement part until the next day. Wil goes inside the little store and gas station where Reneau's truck is parked and gets permission to camp behind the business. The station owner will feed them a hot meal. After setting up their camp, Reneau tells Wil and the narrator that he is also researching the manuscript. The narrator talks to Reneau about the three insights he has already learned and discovers that Reneau's special interest is the Fourth Insight because it concerns conflict between people.

At dinner the narrator receives a perfectly-timed example of the Fourth Insight at work. Reneau later explains to him that people need to draw extra energy from any possible source in order to keep their own energy levels high. To do this, people have learned to draw energy from each other through conflict. At dinner, the young daughter of the couple who own the gas station is bullied and berated by her parents when the child does not move fast enough or causes a glass of water to spill. The girl finally reacts with anger by throwing a pie at the mother and storming from the room. Reneau explains that the parents are taking energy from the girl with the bullying and that the girl is attempting to take back some of the energy by responding with anger.

Wil later tells the narrator that the narrator has not been actively participating in the conversation between Wil and Reneau. Wil warns him that when a coincidence such as meeting up with Reneau happens, it is usually because both parties have information to share. Wil is sure that the narrator has information to share with Reneau; he simply has to participate more in the conversation to figure out what that information may be. The narrator attempts to participate more and finds an opportunity to tell Reneau about Vicente Lodge. Reneau becomes very excited about this information, especially the ability to see energy fields and the phenomenon that the narrator saw when Sarah argued with the German scientist. Reneau decides to go there to observe the research. Reneau also borrows the copy of the Third Insight that Sarah gave to the narrator.

When the narrator wakes the next morning, Wil and Reneau are already up. Reneau is so excited to get to Vicente, he is at his truck preparing to put in the replacement part as soon as it arrives. Reneau rejoins Wil and the narrator a few minutes later to say his



goodbyes. Later, Wil and the narrator leave. Wil is very quiet this morning, and the narrator becomes frustrated by this and asks him why. Wil explains that he has a reason for being secretive because he does not want to reveal too much about the insights before the narrator is ready.

Later that afternoon, Wil and the narrator reach Cula, which contains a bigger virgin forest than Vicente. Cula is also a hot bed of people who want to find the Ninth Insight for their own purposes. Wil warns the narrator to be cautious of the people in Cula. At the store, Wil goes inside for supplies. The narrator is waiting in the car when he sees Marjorie get out of a truck with several people. The narrator is happy to see her and runs over, only to be blocked by a man who does not want her to talk to anyone. Marjorie assures the man it is okay and seems happy to see the narrator.

When Wil returns, he suggests they all go to a diner for some lunch. Wil has to excuse himself to meet some people but tells Marjorie and the narrator to relax. Marjorie tells the narrator that she has come here to join an expedition led by Professor Robert Jensen, who is searching for the Ninth Insight. Marjorie and the narrator discuss the insights and their first meeting. Marjorie reveals that she saw the narrator's attraction in his energy field and it scared her at first. When lunch is over, Marjorie talks the narrator into meeting Robert Jensen. They go to the compound in Wil's jeep. Jensen is very polite and sincere, discussing the manuscript with deep. When Wil arrives at the compound, the narrator is briefly confused and unable to comply when Wil tells him to leave immediately. Wil later explains that it is Jensen's energy field that made the narrator so confused because Jensen was unconsciously drawing the narrator's energy to himself to control him. The narrator wants to go back and get Marjorie, afraid that Jensen is doing the same to her, but Wil will not allow him.

Wil gives the narrator a copy of the Fourth Insight to explain why Jensen pulled the narrator's energy and why at lunch Marjorie was feeding the narrator her energy in a way that did not harm either of them. The first is stealing energy--similar to when the narrator witnessed at dinner with the gas station owner and his family. The second is a voluntary offer of energy, as tends to happen between two people who feel affection for one another. The narrator learns from this copy that there is also another source from which people can gain energy, but Wil refuses to tell him that source now.

Chapter 4, The Struggle for Power Analysis

The Fourth Insight is introduced in this chapter and defined as competition for energy. The narrator learns that this competition results in the stealing of energy during times of stress and a offer of energy during times of shared affection. The narrator also learns that there is another source for energy, but Wil refuses to tell him what this other source is, which foreshadows that this source will be revealed later in the novel.

The theme of coincidences enters the novel again in this chapter. Wil explains to the narrator that everything happens for a reason when a person is ready for it to happen. In this chapter, two coincidences happen in order to further the narrator's education. The



first is when the narrator sees a man who reminds him of a friend he once worked with. This leads Wil and the narrator to meet Reneau, a psychology professor, who teaches the narrator about the Fourth Insight. The second coincidence is when the narrator meets Marjorie for a second time, again setting him up to learn about the Fourth Insight. This meeting also introduces the narrator to Jensen, a professor who can manipulate people with his energy without the person being aware of it, further teaching the narrator about the Fourth Insight.

There are various incidents in the chapter, which foreshadow future events in the novel. The first is when the narrator meets with Marjorie again. This coincidence is sure to take place once more as the reader becomes aware of the narrator's deep feelings for this woman. Also foreshadowed here is trouble with Jensen and his group. The narrator has discovered that Jensen is an accomplished manipulator of the Fourth Insight. The narrator is also told that Jensen is set to find the Ninth Insight, something the government does not want to happen. All the information about Jensen should lead the reader to believe something dangerous might happen to Jensen. Finally, foreshadowing appears in Wil's suggestion that the narrator save some of his questions for later insights. This should notify the reader that the other insights will be revealed and that many questions will be answered by other insights.



Chapter 5, The Message of the Mystics

Chapter 5, The Message of the Mystics Summary

The next morning the narrator wakes early to find Wil already dressed and packing. When Wil and the narrator step out of the house, they see truck lights coming in to town. Wil suggests they go see what is happening. The narrator sees Marjorie and Wil tells him to ask her to go with them. Halfway across the road, the narrator realizes that Jensen's men have automatic rifles; suddenly gunfire fills the air.

The narrator grabs Marjorie and runs towards Wil's jeep. However, some military vehicles approach Wil's jeep and Wil jumps in and drives away. The narrator takes Marjorie and runs for the hills that surround the village. Marjorie and the narrator stay in the rocky mountain ridges most of the day, sneaking around, attempting to hide from the large number of military vehicles that cruise the streets below. Finally the narrator sees Wil's jeep and approaches it while Marjorie waits beside the road. However, before the narrator can make it to the jeep, a military vehicle approaches and Wil drives away. Before the narrator can return to Marjorie, another military vehicle comes upon her and she is arrested.

The narrator continues through the mountain ridge on his own, coming upon a man he recognizes from Jensen's camp. Before they can talk for more than a second, a soldier comes up behind them. They both run, but the soldier catches up with Jensen's man and shoots him. The narrator is shocked by the sight and finds a hiding place, afraid the soldier will find him. However, the soldier walks past him without seeing him and leaves. The narrator is so elated by this, that he has an out-of-body experience. The narrator finds himself becoming one with the nature around him and imagines he sees the beginning of the universe. The narrator sees elements forming for the first time, water forming and life beginning. The experience leaves the narrator feeling exhilarated.

The narrator climbs to a road and walks toward civilization. Suddenly he becomes afraid again at the sound of approaching vehicles, losing the exhilaration the vision left him with. The narrator goes back the way he came and takes another road, where he comes upon a priest. The priest takes him to a mission a little further down the road and gives him a place to eat and sleep. The next morning, the narrator, wearing clean clothes that were set out for him by the priests of the mission, goes out to the courtyard and is joined by the priest who helped him. The narrator tells Father Sanchez about his experiences in Peru, including his vision on the mountain ridge. Father Sanchez gives the narrator a copy of the Fifth Insight before he leaves him alone.

Later Father Sanchez comes back and takes the narrator on a tour of the grounds. In the gardens, Sanchez asks again about the narrator's experiences on the ridge. Father Sanchez is called away and must leave the mission to go to a meeting. The narrator is alone again. The narrator asks one of the priests he saw meditating in the garden to teach him what the priest was doing. The priest tells the narrator to stare at a tree and



to feel love for the tree. The priest tells the narrator that when he feels connected to the tree, when he feels love for the tree, that he is sharing his energy with the tree and the tree is giving it back.

The next morning Father Sanchez returns. Sanchez tells the narrator that he has gone to a meeting about the manuscript and has learned that Cardinal Sebastian, an opponent of the manuscript, is the one behind the attack on Cula the day before. Sebastian learned of Jensen's plans and convinced the government to stop him. The narrator tells Sanchez about his experience the day before with the other priest and they discuss the Fifth Insight in more detail, which is drawing energy from plants from eating them and feeling love for them.

Later that morning, Father Sanchez tells the narrator that there are military men in the village asking about the mission, and Sanchez is afraid they are looking for the narrator. Sanchez tells the narrator that they will go to Machu Picchu to the home of a friend. On the way, Father Sanchez tells the narrator about the insights and how people evolve. Sanchez says that people take in knowledge, grow from this knowledge, and then take in more, continuing the process over and over. Sanchez adds that people manipulate others for energy using what he calls a "control drama, which is better explained in the next insight. Sanchez points out that the narrator is using his drama at that moment by being suspicious of him and not volunteering information.

Chapter 5, The Message of the Mystics Analysis

The reader is reminded of the possible danger that being connected with the manuscript offers when the military invades the little village where Wil and the narrator have spent the night. This not only fulfills past foreshadowing, but it adds a certain amount of tension to the plot as the narrator and Marjorie run into the hills, attempting to avoid unknown consequences of being caught by the military.

The vision the narrator has on the mountain ridge is important for two reasons. The first is the fact that this vision is a product of his discovery of the manuscript and its insights. This shows the reader how powerful these insights can be and how complete the narrator's transformation to accept a better understanding of his spiritual side has become. The second reason this is important is because it introduces the idea of evolution to the story. During the vision the narrator is aware of how the world evolves from simple elements to the complicated organisms that humans are. The narrator's experience on the mountain also foreshadows a later insight that revolves around the idea of evolution and its impact on the future of human society.

As one character departs, another important character is introduced in this chapter. The new character, Father Sanchez, is important because the danger associated with the manuscript has become more intense and the driving power behind this danger is the Catholic Church, specifically a Cardinal, who is a personal mentor to Father Sanchez. The introduction of this character begins a downward slide to the climactic end.



Finally, the Fifth Insight is introduced in this chapter. The Fifth Insight introduces an alternative source of energy for people, rather than being forced to steal from other people. During this chapter the narrator is taught how to draw energy from plant life and to return energy as well, simply by admiring the beauty of the plant. This admiration or love the person feels for the plant will later be compared to the love one feels when drawing energy from God himself.



Chapter 6, Clearing the Past

Chapter 6, Clearing the Past Summary

On the road to Machu Picchu, Father Sanchez and the narrator see a man and a woman pulled over on the side of the road. Father Sanchez recognizes the woman and stops. The woman is Julia, another manuscript pilgrim. While Father Sanchez speaks with Julia, the narrator is left alone with Julia's companion, Rolando. The narrator feels threatened and refuses to speak with the man except for simple responses to Rolando's questions. Finally, Julia and Rolando must leave. Julia assures the narrator they will meet again.

Back on their own journey, Father Sanchez wants to know if the narrator spoke to Rolando about Wil. When the narrator says he did not, Father Sanchez chastises him for a missed opportunity. Julia and Rolando see Wil at another village and are told he had become separated from the narrator. Father Sanchez tells the narrator that it is his control drama that kept him from speaking with Rolando. Father Sanchez then explains that each person must go back into his past and figure out what control drama their parents used in order to create a control drama in their children. The narrator thinks about his own parents and decides they both asked him lots of questions and then criticized his answers, forcing him to be less willing to offer information. Father Sanchez calls the narrator's parents "interrogators" and calls the narrator's control drama "aloof."

Father Sanchez says that the manuscript describes four basic control dramas, which can be placed in two categories, aggressive or passive. The four control dramas are "interrogators, intimidators, aloof, and poor me." Father Sanchez also says that people can use more than one control drama in response to a situation, but that most people have one dominant drama. The goal as described in the Sixth Insight is to learn one's control drama and overcome it.

When Father Sanchez and the narrator arrive at Father Carl's home, Father Carl is not there. Father Sanchez is tired and wants to meditate to raise his energy level, so the narrator takes the truck to the ruins. There, the narrator meets Father Carl, who promises to help him learn to overcome his control drama before returning to the house to speak with Father Sanchez. The narrator stays at the ruins, amazed by their energy. When the narrator returns to the house, Father Sanchez and Father Carl are preparing dinner. Conversation has turned to the manuscript. Wil had been to the house a few days before and tells Father Carl that he believes Cardinal Sebastian is behind the government action against the manuscript. Cardinal Sebastian is a mentor of Father Sanchez. Wil also told Father Carl that Vicente has been closed.

The narrator is upset by the apparent calmness of his companions. The priests explain they are calm only because they are connected to the energy. Father Carl begins to work with the narrator on the narrator's attempts to discover who he is and what is behind his control drama. They discuss the narrator's parents in depth, dissecting each



person's outlook on life and how to combine the two until the narrator can find a path he was meant to follow in life. This combination is meant to be the narrator's personal evolution from these two parents.

The next morning, the narrator wakes with Wil on his mind. Father Carl tells him that Wil is going to a village on the border of Guatemala in search of the Ninth Insight. Wil feels his time is running out. Wil thinks that the person who finds the Ninth Insight first will be the person to decide if the manuscript is very widely distributed. Father Carl also shares with the narrator his own control drama, which is interrogator, and that Wil is aloof because his parents had strong opinions on what Wil should do with his life.

Father Carl continues to help the narrator work his way through the Sixth Insight by asking questions about his past, including why he chose the career he did. The narrator explains he chose to work with children because of a professor he met, but had started to feel unfulfilled with his work shortly before learning of the manuscript. Father Carl speaks of coincidences again, explaining to the narrator that everything in the narrator's life led him to this moment, to his experiences with the manuscript and its insights.

Father Sanchez returns from making phone calls in town. Cardinal Sebastian is at his mission and Sanchez must return immediately. Father Carl decides to go with him. The narrator does not know what to do. Father Carl and Father Sanchez tell him to build his energy and to think about his options. The narrator has trouble doing this, so Father Carl returns and helps him try a new way of concentrating on the beauty. Soon the narrator begins to draw more energy from his surroundings.

Chapter 6, Clearing the Past Analysis

The idea of control dramas is introduced in the previous chapter and is now explored in detail in this chapter. This idea is another building block on which the entire novel is based. Control dramas are a part of the Sixth Insight, which states that a person must investigate his own past in order to learn what is his/her control drama and how to stop using it. This is also part of the theme of self discovery in which the narrator is forced to look at his past in order to continue on his journey of learning all the insights mentioned in the manuscript. This chapter is also important because it is one of only a very few chapters that introduces character elements to the narrator, that mentions he has a past and that there are things in his past that have made him the man he is today.

There is foreshadowing in this chapter that has to do with Wil and his search for the Ninth Insight. Wil has discovered that Cardinal Sebastian is behind the government's crusade against the manuscript. This is important information because it puts a face to the antagonist of the novel and makes concrete the fight the narrator and his new friends have become involved in. The trip back to the mission the two priests are about to undertake is also foreshadowing as the reader is forced to wonder what will happen to these two people when they confront their arch enemy.



Chapter 7, Engaging the Flow

Chapter 7, Engaging the Flow Summary

The narrator continues to draw energy into himself and has thoughts of Wil running through the jungle with the Ninth Insight in his hand and the military close behind. The narrator also thinks of Marjorie and whether or not he will see her again. The narrator thinks of Sebastian and whether or not he can be convinced that the manuscript is not a bad thing. When Father Sanchez rejoins him, the narrator tells him about these visions. Father Sanchez tells him that thoughts are not random and that he should follow what he sees.

The Seventh Insight, as Father Sanchez now explains, is learning to use intuition. The narrator has questions that must be answered and needs to tap into the energy and allow it to lead him to the answers. The narrator thinks about the jungle where he sees Wil and decides he must go to Iquitos, a small village near the border of Guatemala where Wil said he was going. Father Carl allows the narrator to borrow his truck.

The narrator travels for several hours before he comes to a fork in the road. Father Sanchez and Carl told him to trust his intuition that it would tell him where to go. The narrator looks at both roads and chooses the one that looks the brightest to him. A while after turning, the narrator comes across some cars, which appear to be abandoned on the side of the road. Soon after, the narrator sees a roadblock up ahead. Before he can decide what to do, the narrator is approached by Phil, the scientist he met at Viciente.

Phil has been trying to get to Iquitos also, with three other people, but was afraid to attempt to pass through the road block. Phil and the narrator discuss their options, but before they can do anything, a military vehicle pulls up. The soldiers search the three vehicles and find the narrator's copy of the manuscript. The narrator is arrested. After a long trip in a military vehicle, the narrator is placed in a cell at a prison with a young Peruvian man. The narrator attempts to avoid falling back into his control drama and talks to the boy, learning that the boy is there because he taught children about the manuscript at an orphanage.

That night the narrator has a vivid dream of running through a jungle searching for the key to something. When he wakes, his cell mate, Pablo, asks about the dream. Pablo patiently explains that the dream is an important message the narrator should pay attention to. This is part of the Seventh Insight, Pablo says. There is a purpose to everything, Pablo tells him, and a person must discover that purpose and fulfill it. A person must also trust in his intuition to find the answers to his questions.

Later when the narrator and Pablo are taken to breakfast, the narrator sees Marjorie. The narrator is able speak to Marjorie only long enough to learn that she has been here since the day they were separated on the mountainside. During exercise after breakfast, Pablo tries to explain more about the Seventh Insight, saying that the insight suggests a



person should control his own thoughts by refusing to have fear-filled thoughts in order to concentrate on the thoughts that have something to tell the person.

After exercise, the narrator is taken for a meeting with the head priest, Father Costous. The priest wants to know where the narrator got his copies of the manuscript and why he was driving Father Carl's truck. The narrator begins a debate over the manuscript, attempting to learn why the church is afraid of it, but only manages to make the priest angry. The narrator takes a nap afterward and dreams that he and Marjorie escape. Marjorie is not in the dining room at lunch. After lunch the narrator's energy is low and Pablo chastises him, telling him he will only make himself ill if he allows his energy to fall too low.

Father Costous comes to their cell later and the narrator attempts again to find out why the church is against the manuscript. This time Father Costous tells him that the church does not like the idea of personal evolution because it goes against core values that the church teaches. Father Costous tells the narrator the narrator will be leaving to have a meeting with Cardinal Sebastian very soon. Before the narrator leaves, Pablo warns the narrator not to become too addicted to another person, and that it will be explained further in the Eighth Insight.

Chapter 7, Engaging the Flow Analysis

In this chapter the narrator is learning how to use his intuition to get the answers he needs, which is the essence of the Seventh Insight. This also touches on the theme of self discovery as the narrator is forced to trust his own thoughts and dreams in order to understand what answers he must look for and where to look for them. The narrator has reached a higher plane of spirituality in this chapter as he continues to embrace the insights of this mysterious manuscript.

The narrator's arrest appears to be a twist in a plot full of tension, but it turns out to be a fortuitous event. The narrator's arrest not only leads him to someone who can more fully teach him the Seventh Insight, but it also answers two of the questions the narrator has had since the beginning of his travels. Now the narrator has found Marjorie, which is foreshadowed in the beginning of this novel and has learned why the church is so afraid of the manuscript. This new knowledge foreshadows the narrator's attempt to convince the Cardinal that it is not necessary to be afraid of the manuscript.

Also foreshadowed in this chapter is the escape attempt that the narrator has seen in his dreams with him and Marjorie. The reader must wonder if this escape will really happen or if it is simply a dream. Also foreshadowed throughout this chapter is the fact that the narrator will encounter Wil once more. The reader reads throughout the chapter that the narrator is convinced Wil will find a copy of the Ninth Insight and will run with it through the jungle with military in pursuit. So far the narrator's thoughts have come true, so the reader must wonder if this one will as well.



Chapter 8, The Interpersonal Ethic

Chapter 8, The Interpersonal Ethic Summary

The narrator is led to a jeep and finds Marjorie waiting in the backseat. The narrator is careful not to show too much emotion in fear that the soldiers will separate them if they learn that they know each other. A few hours into their trip, the jeep comes upon a large truck parked across the road. The soldiers get out to ascertain what is going on, and, while they are distracted, the narrator takes Marjorie and makes a run for it. They run through the streets of a small village, finally entering into a home. A woman and her young child are there, and the woman immediately agrees to help them, saying she knew they would be coming because of a dream she had.

Once on the road, the woman explains parts of the Eighth Insight when Marjorie asks her child's age. The woman, Karla, says that people should not talk about the child as though she is not there. The manuscript says that children should be treated just like adults and that people should not have more children than they can pay attention to because it is very important to give each child a great deal of attention.

Karla takes them to the home of a friend, Juan Hinton. When they arrive the narrator discovers that Julia is also staying with Juan. The narrator tells Julia about his vision of Wil and the jungle and his intention of going to Iquitos. While they talk, Marjorie stands in the hall talking to Karla, but Julia can see that Marjorie's energy is tightly connected with the narrator's. Julia suggests that Marjorie go with Rolando the next day when he goes to Guatemala, so that he can get her on a flight back to the States. When the narrator tells Marjorie this, Marjorie is not happy because she is just finally feeling some intimacy build between the narrator and her and does not want to lose that.

After Marjorie goes to bed, still angry over the Julia's desire to send her home, the narrator has a talk with Julia. Julia tells him another part of the Eighth Insight is a warning not to become addicted to another person. Julia tells the narrator that she can see that he and Marjorie are stealing energy from each other, and, although it probably feels very good at the moment, it could not continue. Eventually they will begin a power struggle between each other to gain more and more energy, and it will cause the relationship to sour. Julia said that relationships can be maintained without this dangerous power struggle, but that both partners have to be advanced in their studies of the insights to learn how to avoid an addiction.

The next morning Julia and the narrator decide to continue their journey to Iquitos together. The narrator says his goodbyes to Marjorie, promising to call her once he returns to the States, and continues his journey with Julia. While they travel, Julia continues her lecture on the Eighth Insight, explaining that people must learn how to deal with other people and their control dramas. To give an example, Julia pulls the car over at a gas station. At the gas station is a man whose control drama is intimidator. Julia allows the narrator to deal with him first, but the narrator is not successful and falls



back on his own control drama. Julia returns and disarms the man by announcing the name of his drama in words he can understand, which causes the man to respond without using a drama.

Outside of Iquitos, Julia decides to stop at a hotel where she hopes they can get a lead on Wil. In the dining room of the hotel, Julia encourages the narrator to use his intuition to discover any news available. The narrator sees a man sitting alone and their eyes meet, suggesting to the narrator that they should talk. Bravely, the narrator joins this man at his table and asks him what he is doing there. It turns out the man is there to meet Wayne Dobson. The narrator tells him what happened to Dobson when the two of them first arrived in Peru and that Dobson might not show up. Then Father Sanchez walks into the dining room and tells them that the troops are headed in this direction. Dobson's friend decides to catch a ride back to Lima.

Later the narrator has a talk with both Julia and Father Sanchez about their next step. It is an unusual conversation for the narrator because both Julia and Father Sanchez use energy to decide who is going to talk next. They discuss information Father Sanchez has heard that the Ninth Insight will be found at the Celestine ruins. Father Sanchez also tells the narrator that Father Costous has changed his view of the manuscript and that he and Father Carl have gone to Lima to talk to church leaders about Cardinal Sebastian's plans.

Father Sanchez and the narrator decide they will go to Cardinal Sebastian and try to convince him that he is wrong to suppress the manuscript, while Julia will go to the Celestine ruins to search for the Ninth Insight.

Chapter 8, The Interpersonal Ethic Analysis

The Eighth Insight is introduced in this chapter. This insight, dealing with how people interact, is important not only as another building block on which the plot continues to evolve, but because it deals with the relationship that the narrator has been building with Marjorie. From the beginning, the narrator has been strongly attracted to Marjorie and has finally convinced her to give in to her feelings for him. Ironically, however, this insight also warns about addictions to other people and forces the narrator to back away from his relationship with Marjorie just as it is beginning to deepen.

Tension builds in this chapter as first the narrator escapes from jail and then finds himself in the middle of a plot to change the mind of a high church official. It has been foreshadowed throughout the novel that the narrator would be involved in the freeing of the manuscript and finally this plot comes to fruition. The foreshadowing now leaves the reader wondering if this plot will be successful and whether or not the manuscript will be made free for public viewing. The plot seems optimistic at this point, but the reader is still left wondering.

Also interesting in this chapter is the introduction of a new character who is connected with an earlier character. This may foreshadow the reintroduction of the earlier



character, Wayne Dobson. This chapter also touches on the theme of coincidences because it can only be a coincidence that brings Dobson's friend and the narrator to the same place at the same time.

Finally, the two themes of spiritual enlightenment and self discovery are also touched upon in this chapter. First, the narrator's spiritual development seems to be successful in his trusting of a chance eye contact to introduce him to a man who is there to meet a man he knew briefly. Most people would likely have overlooked this chance encounter. Second, the narrator's self discovery leads him to continue his search for the manuscript rather than give it all up for the intense sexual tension between him and a woman. It is clear to the reader that this choice is difficult, but the reader finally chooses the manuscript, which is a sign of some character growth.



Chapter 9, The Emerging Culture

Chapter 9, The Emerging Culture Summary

The narrator and Father Sanchez journey toward Cardinal Sebastian's mission but decide to make a detour to San Luis, since this is where Dobson's friend says he will be coming from. Just outside San Luis a truck comes up behind them and begins blowing its horn. Inside is Phil. Phil wants them to come back with him to hide from a group of soldiers headed their way. When they get to Phil's hiding place, the narrator finds Dobson there.

Dobson says that he was arrested that day on the streets of Lima, but a kind soldier lets him go. While in jail, however, he meets Father Carl and Costous. Dobson tells them that Phil has found a copy of the Ninth Insight. The copy is not complete, but the two men explain what they know. The Ninth Insight says that people will evolve into a higher spiritual state and will learn to live by their intuition, taking better care of the earth and reducing its population. People will begin to experience intuition on a global level and money will become unimportant as traditional work places will cease to exist. People will be given what they need based on their intuitions and insights.

Father Sanchez and the narrator leave Dobson and Phil, who plan to go on to the Celestine ruins, and continue their journey. Father Sanchez and the narrator arrive at the mission and are greeted by soldiers. They are allowed inside, but Cardinal Sebastian proves to be difficult to talk with. Sebastian is set in his opinions and nothing Father Sanchez says to him changes the Cardinal's mind. While they are talking, a soldier comes to inform Sebastian that someone has broken into the mission. Gunfire breaks out and Father Sanchez and the narrator are left alone with a soldier. The soldier agrees to take them to Sebastian's office to continue their argument, but the narrator is separated from Sanchez.

The narrator hides for a few minutes and then goes in search of Sanchez when he feels the coast is clear. The narrator finds Sanchez arguing with Sebastian once more, using the argument that evolution goes with the values of the Catholic Church because Jesus himself used the principles of the manuscript while living among his followers. Sebastian refuses to listen and becomes angry when Sanchez confesses that he saw part of the Ninth Insight when the soldier escorted him through the building.

A soldier comes into the room and tells Sebastian that two people have stolen the Ninth Insight. The narrator can see that Wil and Julia have stolen it, and the soldier wants to know if he should order his men to fire. Sebastian, after some hesitation, refuses to make the order. Sebastian allows Sanchez and the narrator to go, although he refuses to change his mind about the manuscript. Sanchez and the narrator drive to the Celestine ruins, hoping Wil and Julia are going there.



On the way, Sanchez tells the narrator about the Ninth Insight. The copy he saw said that one person would learn to connect directly with God's energy and would be a lasting example to this connection. Sanchez believes this person is Jesus. At the ruins, Sanchez and the narrator find Julia and Wil. Julia explains that the Ninth Insight is an explanation of evolution from a human form to a more spiritual one. Julia says that this evolution will allow certain people to reach such a high level of energy that they will become invisible to others, feeling lighter than ever. These people will reach a plane between this world and the one we came from, as Jesus did, connecting with the ultimate source, God. Julia also says that the Ninth Insight mentions a tenth.

Soldiers come upon them just as Sanchez, Wil, Julia, and the narrator manage to reach this plane. However, the narrator is afraid of the soldiers and his energy begins to fall. The narrator is arrested. After several weeks in jail, the narrator finds Father Carl sitting in the courtyard during his exercise period. Father Carl tells him that Sebastian has succeeded in having all copies of the manuscript destroyed and the only way to spread the word now is from their own experiences. Father Carl tells the narrator just before the narrator is released from prison that it is the narrator's responsibility to spread the word in America.

Chapter 9, The Emerging Culture Analysis

The Ninth Insight, the core of the church's fear of the manuscript, is revealed in this chapter. It essentially predicts an evolution of society in which every person will reach a higher plane of understanding and spirituality. This has been foreshadowed throughout the novel and has satisfied many references to evolution.

In this chapter Father Sanchez and the narrator come face to face with the antagonist of the story, Cardinal Sebastian. This climactic scene has been foreshadowed through several chapters as the two men attempt to stop Sebastian from destroying the manuscript and keeping it from being distributed. They fail. However, there is a beacon of hope when the narrator learns that it is now his duty to spread the word in America about this manuscript and its teachings.

For the first time in this chapter, there is a connection between this manuscript and religion. The life of Jesus Christ is compared to the Ninth Insight in that this insight suggests that Jesus performed many of his miracles because he had achieved the Ninth Insight and had evolved far enough that he could tap into God's energy. This satisfies foreshadowing spread throughout the novel, especially the frequent appearance of members of the Catholic Church and the antagonist, who happens to be a Catholic Cardinal. This seems to parallel other stories, which are popular right now, and which question the power of the Catholic Church.



Characters

The Narrator

The narrator is a middle-aged man, who is no longer satisfied with his life. The narrator, a character who is not named throughout the novel, is an educated man who has spent his adult life working with emotionally-damaged teens. However, when the narrator becomes aware that he is not helping these children the way he wants to, he quits and goes to live at his lake home. The home was built by his grandfather and was a special retreat for the grandfather.

Shortly after moving to the lake, the narrator receives a call from a female friend he has not seen or heard from in over six years. This woman tells him about a manuscript in Peru that is about a path to spiritual enlightenment, which the narrator has not encountered before. The Peruvian government refuses to acknowledge this manuscript, making the search for the manuscript a romantic thought. The narrator decides to go to Peru to find the manuscript, meets a man on the plane who is also searching for the manuscript, who is able to tell the narrator about the Second Insight.

When the professor on the plane is shot or imprisoned, the narrator does not know which, the narrator meets a man named Wil who knows of the manuscript and is willing to take the narrator along on the search for a Ninth Insight. During this search, the narrator learns about the other insights and is separated from Wil. However, this separation leads the narrator to more people who teach him the insights in their own unique ways and who help him as he attempts to stop the Peruvian government's suppression of the manuscript. However, this fight fails and the narrator is left with only his memories of the manuscript, which he decides to disseminate in the United States.

Marjorie

Marjorie is a scientist whom the narrator meets at Vicente Lodge. Marjorie is a beautiful woman to whom the narrator is deeply attracted. At their first meeting, Marjorie is aware of the narrator's attraction to her through his energy field and walks away, scared by the strength of the attraction. Later the narrator runs into Marjorie again in Cula, where she is staying with a group of people led by a man named Jensen. They are gathered in Cula in order to begin a search for the Ninth Insight. The next morning, the military invade the town and the narrator narrowly escapes with Marjorie. However, Marjorie is later caught on the side of the road after she and the narrator become separated for a brief time.

The narrator later finds Marjorie in a prison where he has been taken after his capture on a road, which leads to the Peruvian border. Marjorie and the narrator escape together and discover that their attraction to each other is mutual and stronger than ever.



However, the narrator agrees to have Marjorie sent away because his attraction to her is a danger to his ability to achieve the final insights.

Wilson 'Wil' James

Wil is a believer of the manuscript who happens to see the narrator running for his life on the streets of Lima the same day he plans to leave the area in search of the Ninth Insight. Wil is a friend of the priest who originally translates the manuscript. Wil has a full understanding of the eight known insights when the narrator first meets him.

Wil is a quiet man with many friends among the believers of the manuscript. Wil refuses to speak much to the narrator throughout their journey because he does not want to reveal too much of the insights before the narrator is prepared to learn them. When Wil and the narrator are separated, Wil continues his quest for the Ninth Insight, eventually meeting up with the narrator again in the last chapter. At this meeting, Wil has found the Ninth Insight and employs to aid the manuscript seekers in hiding from the soldiers. The narrator is not able to maintain the Ninth Insight, however, and is arrested.

Wayne Dobson

Dobson is a history professor from New York University, who learns of the manuscript and the first two insights while on a trip in Peru. Dobson decides to return to Peru to search for more of the insights. Dobson informs the Peruvian government of his desire to see the manuscript, which proves to be a fatal mistake. Dobson spends the majority of the novel in prison with the narrator believing Dobson is dead.

The narrator meets Dobson on the plane to Peru when he overhears Dobson speaking of the manuscript to a stewardess on the plane. Dobson, at the request of the narrator, teaches the narrator about the Second Insight, knowledge he gained from copies he found at the home of a Peruvian priest on a previous trip to Peru. Upon landing, the narrator and Dobson agree to perform their quest for the manuscript together and meet again later that day. When the narrator discovers he is being followed on the way to his hotel, he heads to Dobson's hotel only to find him already under attack by gun-slinging military officials.

Father Sanchez

Father Sanchez is a priest the narrator meets at a point when he desperately needs help. The narrator is separated from Will and has been on the run for the better part of a day. The narrator is afraid the military is after him because of his connection to the manuscript and turns to this priest when the narrator finds the priest alone on a deserted mountain road. Father Sanchez takes the narrator to his mission where the narrator is taught the Fifth Insight by one of the other priests at the mission.



When word gets to the mission that the military is asking questions about Sanchez, Sanchez decides to take the narrator to his friend in Machu Picchu for sanctuary. Once there, however, Sanchez must return to his mission in order to protect his people from a crusading Cardinal. The narrator meets up with Sanchez later when he escapes from prison and is traveling with Julia to Iquitos. Sanchez and the narrator decide to go to the Cardinal to try to convince the Cardinal that the manuscript is not something to fear, but they fail to persuade the Cardinal.

Cardinal Sebastian

Cardinal Sebastian is the church official who wants the manuscript destroyed and all who have seen it imprisoned. Cardinal Sebastian is against the manuscript because he thinks it undermines some of the most important elements of the Catholic religion. Cardinal Sebastian is afraid that the ninth insight, which teaches of internal evolution, undermines the church doctrine. The narrator feels it is his responsibility to change the cardinal's mind, but finds it impossible even with Sanchez's help. Cardinal Sebastian has everyone arrested, including the narrator, and destroys all copies of the manuscript.

Julia

Julia is another believer of the manuscript. The narrator runs into Julia twice, the first time while the narrator is on the road with Father Sanchez. Julia has information about Wil at this time, but the narrator hides behind his control drama and fails to ask about him. The second time the narrator meets with Julia is at the home of a friend of the woman who helped him and Marjorie escape from prison. Julia teaches the narrator about the Eighth Insight at this time, especially how it relates to personal relationships such as the one growing between the narrator and Marjorie. Later, Julia is with Wil when he steals the Ninth Insight.

Phil

Phil is Sarah's friend, the woman who teaches the narrator about the Third Insight, which shows the narrator how to see his own energy field and those surrounding the plants and trees in the virgin forest at Vicente Lodge. Phil does not know the insights past the third and does not see the energy exchange that the narrator sees when Sarah argues with a German scientist. Later, the narrator encounters Phil again on the side of a road outside a little village past Machu Picchu. It is while hiding from the military with Phil that the narrator is arrested the first time.

Reneau

Reneau is a psychology professor, who is French, but teaches at a university in Brazil. Reneau stop the car to speak with Reneau. Wil and the narrator stay the night behind the small gas station where they meet Reneau in order for the narrator to discover what



it is he is supposed to learn from Reneau. Reneau teaches the narrator about the Fourth Insight and the narrator tells Reneau about Vicente Lodge and the work being done there on the Third Insight. The narrator also tells Reneau about the energy play he saw between Sarah and the German scientist when they fought, something which deeply interests Reneau because of his area of expertise, which is human interaction.

Pablo

Pablo is a prisoner who the narrator meets while in jail the first time. Pablo is an Indian who aids in teaching the manuscript to people within his village. Pablo is unclear why he has been arrested and why he continues to stay in the jail. Pablo knows it is his destiny to teach the Eighth Insight to someone who desperately needs to learn it, but does not know how he would do that while stuck in jail. When the narrator is placed in Pablo's cell, Pablo knows his time to teach has finally come. Pablo teaches the narrator about the Eighth Insight and helps the narrator continue overcoming the narrator's control drama.



Objects/Places

The Manuscript

The manuscript is an ancient document discovered by Indians in Peru and translated by a priest. The manuscript outlines many insights that will transform society if followed by a majority of people in society.

The Insights

There are nine known insights discussed in this novel. These insights are explanations of human behavior and ways to reach a higher plane of understanding of the spiritual side of humanity.

The Vision

The narrator has a vision in which he sees the creation of the earth and all life form which inhabits the earth.

Control Drama

Control drama is an unconscious method people employ in order to control a situation, especially when applied to personal interaction.

Peru

Peru is a South American country in which the manuscript is found.

Viciente Lodge

Viciente Lodge is a resort that hosts many scientific conferences in Peru. It is at Viciente Lodge that the narrator learns of the Third Insight and begins to learn to see the energy fields described within the insight.

Gas Station/Small Store

Wil and the narrator meet Reneau outside a small gas station and store. Reneau uses the interaction between the store owner and his family in order to illustrate the principles of the Fourth Insight to the narrator.



Cula

Cula is a small village where the narrator runs into Marjorie for a second time and where he meets Robert Jensen and learns the Fourth Insight.

The Mission

The narrator meets Father Sanchez and is taken to his mission where one of the priests teaches the narrator the Fifth Insight.

Cardinal Sebastian's Mission

Cardinal Sebastian is the church official who is leading the fight against the distribution of the manuscript. It is at Cardinal Sebastian's mission where Father Sanchez sees a copy of the Ninth Insight, and from where Julia and Will steal the Ninth Insight.

Michu Picchu

Michu Picchu is the site of some old ruins in Peru and also where the narrator meets Father Carl.

The Celestine Ruins

The Celestine ruins are the ruins of some pyramids. This is where the narrator, Father Sanchez, and Julia agree to rendezvous after Sanchez and the narrator meet with Cardinal Sebastian. This is also where the narrator learns of the Ninth Insight and is arrested for the final time.



Themes

Coincidences

Coincidences are very important to the First Insight in the fictional manuscript the narrator is searching for in Peru. The First Insight states that more and more people will become aware of meaningful coincidences around them and therefore will become more aware of a deeper meaning to existence. When the narrator learns of this First Insight, he quickly becomes aware of coincidences around him that lead him to people and episodes that help him learn more about the manuscript and its other insights.

The first coincidence that affects the narrator is his meeting with Dobson on the plane. This fateful meeting is the beginning of all the narrator's adventures in Peru. If the narrator had not met Dobson, he would not have met Wil, nor would he have traveled through Peru with Wil to meet many other people who teach him about the various insights in the manuscript. After Wil, the narrator meets Sarah, who tells him about the Third Insight. The narrator meets Marjorie through Sarah as well, and Marjorie becomes a major conflict for the narrator later in the novel.

After Sarah, the narrator sees a man on the side of the road who happens to look like someone he once knew. This leads him to meet Reneau and learn about the Fourth Insight. From Reneau, the narrator encounters a priest, who saves the narrator from soldiers and teaches him the Fifth Insight. From here, the narrator meets many other people who teach him the remaining four insights.

Coincidence is an important theme to this novel because it is the building block on which all the other insights are built. If the narrator had not become aware of and acted on the coincidences in his life, he may never have learned about the insights, no matter how deep his interest in this fabled manuscript.

Spiritual Enlightenment

The entire basis of the manuscript and its insights is spiritual enlightenment. The manuscript suggests ways for a people to become more aware of their surroundings and their non-human forms as they existed before birth. There are few religious connotations to the manuscript, though there are some within the novel itself. The idea behind the insights is that all humans are originally spirit beings, who lose their knowledge of this state of being. In order to regain this knowledge, people must follow the insights as they are laid out in the manuscript. If people do this, they will achieve a spiritual level that is beyond everyday comprehension.

In many religions and scientific fields of study, there has always been acknowledgement of a spiritual side of human nature, whether in a literal or figurative sense. This novel suggests that not only is there a true spiritual side of humans, but that there is a spiritual side of all living matter on earth. Physical matter contains an energy field, which other



people and plant life can draw from. This novel is a guideline on how to connect to this energy field and to return to a more spiritual form while still a living being on earth.

Traditionally, spiritual enlightenment means attending church services and offering one's soul to the higher power of one's choice. This novel takes this idea a step further. The premise in this novel is that everyone begins life in spirit form and by following the guidelines in an ancient manuscript, it is possible to reconnect with the spirit form while still a living body on earth. This reconnection, or enlightenment goes beyond anything a person can achieve while attending Sunday church services.

Self Discovery

The Sixth Insight, concerns discovering events from one's past that causes one to react a certain way in social situations. This insight forces people to look back on their lives and dissect their personal interactions in order to understand why they behave the way they do. This is a form of self discovery. This insight also teaches that people can change their way of reacting to others in order to stop stealing energy from other people and, instead, offering them energy in a more positive way instead.

It is extremely important when following the steps of the insights that a person be aware of the way they interact with other people because people have been creating conflict for hundreds of years in order to draw energy from each other. The insights suggest that this way of gaining energy must change and that people must start interacting with each other in a new way. However, in order to change the way a person interacts with others, that person must first understand how it is he/she came to react to people the way he/she does. This requires self discovery in which the person looks on the relationships with one's parents to see what drama their parents enact with the person and what drama he/she develops from this interaction. This must be understood before the person may go on to the next insight. This is why self discovery is an important theme to this novel.

Style

Point of View

The point of view of this novel is first person. The narrator is a middle-aged man who has become unsatisfied with his life. This narrator is never named throughout the novel. This refusal to name the main character and narrator of the novel by the writer creates a situation which can be wrought both with deeper meaning and confusion for the reader.

By naming giving a name to the main character, who is also the narrator, the writer suggests that this person can be anyone, thus implying that the narrator's experiences are universal. This man can be anyone, since he has no name, place of residence, or ethnic background. The only thing the reader ever learns about this character is that both his parents tended to be heavy handed in their relationship with him and that he lives somewhere in the South. These generic characteristics allow the readers to identify themselves with this character, which is possibly intentional by the author.

However, this refusal to build a strong main character also creates a flat character. Therefore, in the same way that it perhaps helps the reader to identify with the character, the lack of a developed protagonist can make the reader fail to care about what happens to the character. When reading a novel, the reader usually cares about what happens to the main character, especially when this character is in danger. Many fictional plots depend on the reader's emotional attachment to well-drawn characters; this novel is missing this essential element.

Setting

The setting of this novel moves from an anonymous town in the American south to Peru. The main character begins his journey at the lake property developed by his grandfather. The narrator feels a great emotional attachment to this property, as the reader discovers when the narrator takes a swim in the lake and thinks about his grandfather. However, the narrator is quick to abandon this abode of safety when he receives the opportunity to leave immediately for Peru to investigate a mysterious manuscript.

The narrator arrives in Lima, Peru, but is run out of town by gun men, who seem to want to either kill or arrest him; the purpose of this mayhem is, at first, unclear. The narrator then begins a journey across the Peruvian countryside, which is the setting for the rest of the novel. First the narrator stays at a lodge where there is a beautiful, virgin forest and then moves deeper into jungle terrain until at one point, he is taken from these natural surroundings and placed in the custody of the Peruvian government and church leaders.

One of the most important settings to the plot of this novel is nature. The novel is primarily about a set of insights that help people get in touch with their spiritual sides. An



aid to this enlightenment is to stare at nature and appreciate its beauty. This contemplation of nature is very important to the novel because it aids the narrator to learn to perform the various insights. The narrator must use this appreciation of beauty to not only see and understand the energy spoken of in the insights, but to also build his own energy in order to continue working to spread knowledge of the insights.

In contrast to the natural settings is the jail where the narrator resides upon his capture by the Peruvian government and the church. The first time the narrator is arrested, he is placed in a dark jail cell with a fellow believer. The jail is void of all nature and beauty, in direct contrast to the natural surroundings in which the narrator drew strength to continue his fight. However, the narrator continues to find ways to draw strength, thanks, in part, to his cell mate. The second time the narrator is arrested, there is not much description of his cell, however the narrator confesses that he has lost faith in the manuscript and its insights while confined in this jail. It is only a chance encounter with a priest who has helped the narrator in the past does the narrator begin to believe again and use the natural surroundings of a courtyard to help him strengthen his personal energy field.

Language and Meaning

The majority of the language within this novel is simple, concise English. However, there are times when educated people explain the difficult aspects of the various insights when the language becomes complicated. Many of the people the narrator meets on his journey are highly educated, the majority professors of one discipline or another. Their backgrounds cause many of these people to explain various aspects of the insights in educated language. However, these episodes are brief and the characters almost always repeat the same information in a simpler language.

The writer tells the majority of his story in dialogue. Since most of the novel is about the insights and explaining what they mean to the narrator, much of this information comes out in dialogue between the narrator and the various characters he meets on his journey. This use of dialogue is non-traditional and bulky, often filling page after page with nothing but dialogue. The writer also uses exposition when the narrator is alone and as the narrator thinks over what he has been taught. However, this exposition also tends to be bulky and repetitive, reexamining information already learned in the dialogue.

The writer's main goal is to get information across to the reader with a thin disguise of fiction filling the scenes, and this goal is often painfully clear to the reader. The writer does not spend much time on fiction techniques, such as plot development or character building. However, the writer does get across the information he wishes to offer, and therefore his novel works.

Structure

The novel is divided into nine chapters, each chapter bearing a name that has some relation to the insight intended to be revealed within its pages. The chapters tend to be long, covering many major scenes within one chapter. Each chapter usually takes no more than a day or two of the overall timeline. The entire novel takes place in less than a week, except for the last chapter in which the narrator is held in a Peruvian prison for several weeks.

The plot is linear, following the drama of one man's life from in a week's time, ending with a quick overview of the several weeks the narrator spends in prison. There is only one plot line, the education of the narrator about a mysterious manuscript and its nine insights, including the perils the narrator faces as the government and the church attempt to stop the distribution of this manuscript.

The novel's pace tends to be slow because of the quantity of the information contained regarding the manuscript and its insights. The novel tends to be repetitious because the writer uses various methods to make the major points of each insight clear to the reader. This pace makes the novel slightly more difficult to read than it should be.



Quotes

"I walked up the steps and became aware of a crowd of people surrounding one of the tables. The crowd included two policemen." Chapter 1, A Critical Mass, pg. 2

"The First Insight is a reconsideration of the inherent mystery that surrounds our individual lives on this planet." Chapter 1, A Critical Mass, pg. 7

"The confidence I had experienced at the lake was quickly fading back into skepticism. Both the First Insight and the idea of cultural transformation again seemed fanciful and unrealistic." Chapter 2, The Longer Now, pg. 17

"'The Second Insight,' he said, 'puts our current awareness into a longer historical perspective.'" Chapter 2, The Longer Now, pg. 21

"As I considered my options, I realized that in reality I had no choice. The Second Insight had ended any possibility of going back to my old preoccupations. If I was going to stay aware, I had to go forward." Chapter 2, The Longer Now, pg. 37

"In face of this deficit, we humans have always sought to increase our personal energy in the only manner we have known: by seeking to psychologically steal it from others-- an unconscious competition that underlies all human conflict in the world."

Chapter 3, A Matter of Energy, pgs. 65-66

"We would begin to break free from the competition over mere human energy...because we would finally be able to receive our energy from another source." Chapter 4, The Struggle for Power, pgs. 89-90

"'We must face up to our particular way of controlling others.'"

Chapter 5, The Message of the Mystics, pg. 121

"'Don't confuse calmness with carelessness.'" Chapter 6, Clearing the Past, pg. 135

"Pablo told me that dreams come to tell us something about our lives that we are missing."

Chapter 7, Engaging the Flow, pg. 166

"When I pulled back to look at her face, she looked different, stronger somehow, and I thought back to the day we had met at Vicente and to the conversation in the restaurant at Cula. I couldn't believe the amount of energy I felt in her presence and when she touched me."

Chapter 8, The Interpersonal Ethic, pg. 189

"His smile faded as he handed me a passport and a ticket for a flight to the United States...then told me in a heavy Peruvian accent to never, never return."

Chapter 9, The Emerging Culture, pg. 246



Topics for Discussion

Discuss the nine insights. What are they? What is their purpose? How do they change religion or our belief of religion? Is it possible something like this exists?

Discuss Cardinal Sebastian. Why did the cardinal want to suppress the manuscript? Was he right in his fears? Do the insights undermine the teachings of the Catholic Church? If so, does this give the Peruvian government the right to suppress the manuscript?

Is this novel religious in nature? Why or why not? Do you believe in evolution? Can evolution and religion co-exist? Why did the narrator have a vision of evolution? What is evolution and what does it have to do with the Ninth Insight?

Why does the writer not name his main character? Does this add to or distract from the novel? In your opinion, is the main character flat due to this failure to give him a name and therefore a human face? Why is name important to characters in novels? How can a name affect the way a reader feels about a character? What is in a name?

Discuss the structure of this novel. How do you feel about the overall balance of exposition and dialogue in this novel? Does the overabundance of dialogue change the pace of the novel? Does it make it faster or slower? If you were the author, what would you do differently with the structure of this novel?

Discuss the theme of coincidences. Do you believe in coincidences? What are coincidences? What are meaningful coincidences? Will this book make you pay more attention to coincidences? Why or why not?

Discuss spirituality. Do you believe all people were formerly in spirit form? How does this change your opinion of such things as abortion or death? Do you believe in the Ninth Insight and the ability to move into a fully spiritual form? Do you believe there will some day be a time when all people live in peace and make money from their insights?