

From Exterior Void to Affluent Interiority: Decoding the Journey in Jon Krakauer's Into the Wild

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McCandless plans for a purposeless wondering far away from regular civil society, yet there is a subtle design in Christopher McCandless' journey. There is a great undertone of spiritual quest, a kind of a thirst that cannot be quenched by material or worldly aspirations yet to conclude that his purpose has been spiritual would be partial and hasty. McCandless' journey becomes a journey of interiority. It is not only a journey of moving from one place to another but a journey gratifying the eternal thrust of the being, a symbolic journey not unlike that of wandering monks and renunciates. The basic requirement of a person seeking renunciation is that s\he should sever all ties from his world and society, and when he gets into a monk s\he is given a new identity by taking up a new name thought. The paper intends to study and decode the meaning and significance of journey in Krakauer's Into the Wild.

Keywords Renunciation, Spirituality, Journey, solitude and alienation

McCandless' journey into interiors of woods has not been an escape from regular civil society rather there has been a design in it; he donates all the money he possesses, 24000 dollars to Oxfam for charity towards fighting hunger. He destroys little cash and cards he has and also goes on to abandon his car to which he had previously been much attached. After this his position is that of status less and wealthless individual not unlike the monks. In his case it a degree too severe as monks too have a position of sorts in the society as their identity can be defined but McCandless' identity becomes indefinable in the regular categorical sense.

Chris was such a non materialist person with such high self-respect that he didn't accept the offer of a new car by his parents. His idea of living was absolutely Spartan as he loved his basic car and didn't go for the modern technology and amenities of new cars in the market. At the same time he is seen living a kind of a monkish lifestyle during the last year of his college. His room has a mattress, milk crates and