

## Metaphors of Flight: A Study of Spiritual Growth in Jonathan Livingston Seagull

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction:** Jonathan Livingston Seagull has often been read as a spiritual allegory, yet few studies examine it through an integrated Hindu philosophical lens that combines dharma, karma, moksha, and the guru–shishya tradition. **Methodology:** This paper analyzes Richard Bach’s novella using a qualitative interpretive textual method, relating key symbols such as flight, exile, and mentorship to core Hindu concepts as articulated in scriptural and philosophical writings. **Results:** The study finds that Jonathan’s disciplined pursuit of flight parallels the pursuit of dharma; his exilic trials metaphorically enact karmic testing and purification; and his final transcendence resonates with moksha, as liberation from ignorance and limitation. It also shows that the relationships between Jonathan and the elder gulls reflect a guru–shishya pedagogy of staged spiritual training and the transmission of wisdom within a Hindu philosophical framework. **Conclusion:** Within this symbolic framework, the paper argues that the novella offers a narrative model of spiritual self-cultivation that bridges Eastern metaphysical ideas and Western literary form, thereby contributing to ongoing discussions on spiritual allegory and cross-cultural religious imagination in modern literature.

**Keywords:** *Guru-shishya, Hindu philosophy, Metaphor, Spiritual, Enlightenment*

### INTRODUCTION

[Jonathan Livingston Seagull \(1970\)](#) by Richard Bach is widely recognized as a spiritual narrative that uses the story of a seagull’s passion for flight to explore questions of self-discovery and personal transformation. At the surface level, the novella follows Jonathan, a gull who wishes to fly higher, faster, and more precisely than his flock, refusing to limit flight to mere survival. His refusal to conform leads to exile, yet this marginalization becomes the condition for his further growth, as he eventually returns as a teacher who helps other gulls realize their latent potential. Critics note that themes such as individualism, perseverance, and the desire for freedom give the text a broad appeal beyond its simple plot structure ([Bhattacharya, 2019](#)).

Hindu philosophical concepts provide a productive lens for interpreting this trajectory. In particular, Jonathan’s commitment to perfecting flight can be read in relation to dharma, understood as acting in

accordance with one's deepest responsibility or calling; karma, the principle that actions have consequences that refine the individual; and moksha, liberation from limiting attachments and repetitive cycles of existence ([Bhagavad Gita, 1972](#)). His disciplined practice and willingness to accept hardship resemble a form of dharmic commitment, his experiences of exclusion and testing parallel karmic processes of learning, and his later transcendence suggests an ideal of freedom from constraint rather than a purely physical achievement.

The mentoring Jonathan receives from older, more accomplished gulls can also be understood through the guru–shishya relationship, in which a teacher guides a disciple through graded instruction, example, and disciplined practice toward self-realization (Mercanti, 2002). The novella thus offers not only a narrative of individual striving but also a model of pedagogical transmission, where spiritual insight is communicated through lived practice rather than abstract doctrine. Bach's narrative style, while accessible, allows these layers of meaning to emerge through symbols of flight, exile, and return ([Fotaki et al., 2020](#)).

This paper examines Jonathan Livingston Seagull through this integrated Hindu philosophical framework, focusing on how the motifs of flight, discipline, and mentorship can be read alongside dharma, karma, moksha, and the guru–shishya tradition. Rather than treating these concepts separately or assuming a devotional stance, the analysis adopts an interpretive literary approach that relates textual details to philosophical ideas critically and systematically. In doing so, the study aims to clarify how Bach's novella can be understood as a narrative of spiritual self-cultivation that brings elements of Hindu thought into dialogue with a modern Western literary form.

### Objectives of Study

This paper has three main objectives: to interpret the novella's central symbols of flight, exile, and mentorship through the integrated Hindu framework of dharma, karma, moksha, and guru-shishya tradition; to demonstrate how Bach's narrative structure makes these philosophical concepts accessible to modern readers; and to situate the text within cross-cultural literary discourses on spirituality.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

Jonathan Livingston Seagull has attracted significant academic interest since its publication due to its philosophical and spiritual symbolism. Early scholarship treats the novella as a modern allegory of the soul's journey to enlightenment and self-realization, often noting echoes of major Hindu ideas ([Parashar, 2023](#)). For instance, [Qadamova \(2024\)](#) interprets the protagonist's symbolic separation from the flock as representing the karmic concerns and attachments that spiritual seekers must navigate and shed. [Bevilacqua \(2025\)](#) extends this analysis by connecting exile narratives in spiritual literature to the Vedantic concepts of *tapas* (austerity through disciplined practice) and *tyaga* (renunciation of worldly pleasures), both of which parallel Jonathan's experience of social exclusion as a necessary step toward attaining higher truth. These readings establish a foundation for understanding the novella's spiritual dimensions but tend to focus on individual motifs rather than their systematic integration.

Jonathan's trajectory also invites comparison to the guru–shishya system central to Hindu pedagogy, where elder gulls serve as mentors requiring disciplined practice and devotion from their disciples ([Diwakar, 2025](#)). Bach portrays a spirituality reminiscent of the Upanishads, in which knowledge transmission involves not only instruction but the integration of the teacher's lived example with the disciple's practical engagement. This model maps directly onto Jonathan's progression: his initial awakening through solitary practice, instruction from various elder gulls, and eventual empowerment to teach others. While other studies explore theological parallels from diverse traditions, the novella's strong affinities with Hindu philosophy distinguish it as particularly illuminating for analyzing spiritual apprenticeship (Mercanti,

2002). [Pallathadka and Deb Roy \(2022\)](#), in their study "Bach, Literary Non-Dualism and All That," further demonstrate how the novella's climax embodies Advaita Vedanta principles. They argue that Jonathan actualizes unitary consciousness, beholding the divine within himself in alignment with the Upanishadic mahavakya *Tat Tvam Asi* ("Thou art That"), thus realizing his true self through non-dual awareness.

The novella's themes of self-realization and enlightenment resonate with Eastern traditions that emphasize transcending ego and recognizing inner fulfillment ([Sudhakar, 2025](#)). Its narrative arc mirrors the classic progression from *avidya* (ignorance) to *vidya* (knowledge) found in texts like the Bhagavad Gita and Upanishads, contributing to its appeal among readers familiar with such frameworks. [Padhi et al. \(2024\)](#) observe that blending Eastern mythological elements with Western literary forms reveals universal spiritual truths, as seen in the novella's depiction of *sadhana* (spiritual practice), *abhyasa* (persistent repetition), and *vairagya* (detachment). This fusion translates abstract philosophy into concrete narrative, making complex ideas accessible across cultural boundaries.

The text's appeal extends beyond specific religious or racial groups, resonating with diverse audiences through its universal message. Literary critics acknowledge that while Bach's style and narration may appear basic, this simplicity amplifies the symbolic power of flight, exile, and mentorship as vehicles for philosophical exploration ([Fotaki et al., 2020](#)). [Bhattacharya \(2019\)](#) underscores Vedanta's outreach to Western audiences through narratives of self-realization (*atma-sakshatkara*), positioning the novella as a key example of this cross-cultural phenomenon. Recent scholarship confirms its continued relevance in contemporary spiritual discourse.

[Vivekananda \(2021\)](#) complements these interpretations by advocating the practical application of Vedanta in everyday life, emphasizing principles that foster decision-making, personal growth, and ethical conduct beyond ritual or abstraction. This practical orientation aligns with the novella's focus on experiential transformation over doctrinal exposition.

Existing studies provide valuable insights into isolated Hindu concepts within Jonathan Livingston Seagull such as flight as moksha ([Sudhakar, 2025](#)), exile as karmic testing ([Qadamova, 2024](#)), or mentoring as guru-shishya dynamics ([Diwakar, 2025](#)), but rarely synthesize dharma, karma, moksha, and guru-shishya into a comprehensive framework mapping the novella's full narrative arc from individual striving to communal teaching. Although many scholars explore its spiritual symbolism, few examine it through this specific integrated lens. This paper addresses that gap with a systematic literary analysis that traces these interconnected elements, demonstrating how Bach adapts Hindu metaphysics for modern Western readers and advancing cross-cultural scholarship beyond descriptive parallels.

## METHODOLOGY

This study employs a qualitative interpretive textual analysis within the tradition of comparative hermeneutics, drawing on principles outlined by [Creswell \(2013\)](#) for literary and philosophical interpretation. The primary method involves close reading of the novella's text to identify recurring motifs (flight, exile, mentorship) and trace their symbolic development across narrative stages, systematically mapping these to Hindu philosophical concepts (dharma, karma, moksha, guru-shishya) as articulated in primary sources like the Upanishads and Bhagavad Gita, and secondary philosophical commentaries ([Radhakrishnan, 1953](#)). Unlike prior analyses that apply these concepts descriptively, this approach uses iterative thematic coding, initial open coding of textual symbols, followed by axial coding to link them to philosophical categories, and selective coding to synthesize an integrated interpretive framework.

The primary data source is Bach's Jonathan Livingston Seagull (1970) in its complete narrative form. Analysis focuses on specific textual elements: dialogue patterns revealing mentor-disciple dynamics, symbolic placement of flight sequences, character arcs from conformity to transcendence, event structures

(exile, return, teaching), and overall narrative progression. These were examined through hermeneutic circling, moving between parts (individual scenes) and whole (narrative structure) to uncover layered meanings, with Hindu philosophy serving as the interpretive lens rather than evaluative criterion.

Secondary sources were selected purposively from academic databases (Google Scholar, JSTOR, Scopus) using keywords such as "Jonathan Livingston Seagull Hindu," "spiritual allegory dharma karma," and "guru-shishya literature." Inclusion criteria: peer-reviewed articles/books (2019-2025 preferred for recency), explicit engagement with the novella or comparable spiritual allegories, and discussion of Hindu concepts. Approximately 25 sources were screened; 15 met criteria for relevance and rigor (e.g., [Bhattacharya, 2019](#); [Pallathadka & Deb Roy, 2022](#); [Fotaki et al., 2020](#)). Sources were organized thematically (symbolism, cross-cultural philosophy, pedagogy) to validate interpretations dialogically, agreeing where alignments exist, challenging where gaps appear, and extending prior work through systematic synthesis.

Theoretical justification: Hindu philosophy is prioritized as the framework because the novella's 1970s context coincides with Western reception of Eastern metaphysics, and preliminary textual analysis revealed structural parallels (e.g., staged transcendence mirroring moksha progression) stronger than alternatives like Christian mysticism or secular humanism. Interpretations are validated through triangulation (multiple textual passages per theme, cross-referencing with philosophical texts, scholarly corroboration) and reflexivity (acknowledging the researcher's background in ELT/TESOL while maintaining analytical distance). The study deliberately scopes to philosophical-literary interpretation, bracketing sociological or psychological dimensions for future research. This rigorous design ensures replicable, defensible claims about the novella's symbolic depth.

## RESULTS

This section discusses the central metaphors and themes in Jonathan Livingston. Particularly, it examines how the concepts of flight, individualism, and the guru-shishya relationship reflect Hindu ideas such as dharma, karma, and moksha. The study demonstrates how Bach's novella conveys a universal message of spiritual freedom, growth, and self-realization, which are the primary themes of this research, systematically analyzed through the methodology's coding, connecting literature gaps to textual evidence.

### Symbolism and Allegory as Vehicles of Spiritual Meaning

Richard Bach masterfully conveys profound philosophical insights through accessible symbols and narrative structures, a technique particularly evident in this novella, alongside many others transmitting Hindu philosophical principles through allegorical form. The central protagonist, Jonathan the seagull, undertakes a transformative journey, mastering flight and ultimately transcending physical existential restrictions to discover authentic selfhood, responsibility fulfillment, and liberation from material soul constraints. Simple character structures and plot developments encode layered meaning: flight constitutes an underlying theme symbolizing transcendence beyond material limitations, embodying the spiritual essence of ascending above earthly boundaries. Flock dynamics represent pervasive societal conformity pressures paralleling Hinduism's maya, defined as worldly attachments, illusions anchoring souls within samsara's birth-rebirth cycle while fostering rampant psychological ignorance ([Debbarma, 2024](#)). Jonathan's relentless aspiration to achieve higher, faster velocities metaphorically depicts the soul's decisive break from samsara, lower consciousness ignorance toward dharma realization, righteous cosmic duty ([Radhakrishnan, 1953](#)).

Jonathan's persistent journey systematically challenges flock complacency, awakening latent inner potential analogous to spiritual aspirants confronting existential exile. Among ordinary uninitiated members, his isolation underscores universal spiritual journey realities requiring endurance amid apparent adversity.

Hindu philosophy positions worldly relinquishment as the journey's pivotal transformative element, demanding utmost courage from spiritually oriented individuals to abandon familiar comforts. This progression culminates in moksha attainment, complete liberation, transcending reincarnation cycles. Jonathan emerges archetypal hero, purposefully constructing character, leveraging banishment circumstances, and elevating consciousness to superior realms.

Flight metaphor fulfills a multifaceted structural purpose, signifying transcendence beyond mechanical worldly boundaries constraining existence. Spiritually conceptualized, flight constitutes the primary vehicle for attaining moksha, the spirit's emancipation from egoistic worldly aspirations binding the soul within the material realm. Jonathan realizes this ascent, experiencing superior velocities and altitudes surpassing peers, symbolizing progressive mystical experience elevation wherein the individual soul achieves Brahman consciousness, liberated from dualistic perceptions. Paralleling yoga discipline, technical mastery akin to asana proficiency enables divine union realization (Fotaki et al., 2020). Seagull (2025) mentors mirror Hindu gurus shepherding spiritual seekers, disseminating ancient eastern wisdom across refinement tiers embodying Indian traditions' core discipline devotion, and compassion (Mercanti, 2022). Compassionate guidance directs disciples toward encompassing inner wisdom cultivation through sustained spiritual refinement, yielding permanent transformation. Ultimate teaching-based empowerment generates disciples' self-sufficient inner metamorphosis.

### Themes of Individualism and Nonconformity

The novella prominently explores self-discovery through individualism and nonconformity, depicting Jonathan's personal journey against multifaceted opposition, including familial disapproval, peer mockery, and societal demands for conformity to mundane routines and homogeneous behaviors. This narrative pattern is interpreted as *svadharma* within Hindu philosophy, defined as each soul's unique spiritual responsibility guiding self-realization and authentic expression, requiring courage to resist conformity pressures, prescribed social roles, and belonging imperatives (Bhagavad Gita, 1972). Jonathan embodies this principle distinctively, deriving intrinsic joy from flight practice rather than viewing it as activism or rebellion, unlike flock members engaged in socially meaningless routines.

Flock expectations constitute *maya*'s illusions - distractions from existence's higher purpose and the divine goal perpetually evading material consciousness. Jonathan's nonconformist choice concretely illustrates tension between temporal social stability and eternal inner calling, redefining rebellion as sacred fidelity to authentic selfhood. Worldly consciousness, though superficially alive through daily pleasures, routines, and status pursuits, fundamentally engages *atman*'s perpetual struggle against *maya*'s worldly deceptions and attachments. Fulfilling *dharma* demands rigorous self-discipline, sustained focus, and frequent social alienation, paralleling the repetitive failures and incremental refinements required for flight mastery. This structural analogy directly evokes the *Bhagavad Gita*'s *sadhana* principles, advocating action without attachment to results while maintaining engaged presence in the world (Bhagavad Gita, 1972). *Sankalpa*—resolute intention—cultivates comprehensive stamina across ceaseless hardship, developing emotional and mental resilience through isolation that purges ego attachments and illusory identifications.

Thematically, individualism aligned with cosmic order explicitly rejects selfishness, harmful to others; the capacity to teach and inspire emerges precisely from Jonathan's self-mastered discipline. Fotaki et al. (2020) analytically frame this progression as "unselfish altruism," characterized by service and assistance without expectation of reciprocation or reward.

Jonathan's arc resolves *svadharma*'s central paradox: enlightened transformation enables one individual to catalyze collective awakening. *Atman-Brahman* oneness realization liberates single consciousness while simultaneously establishing harmonious interconnections across inner and outer systems. Individual growth

and self-development become viable precisely when consciousness transcends self-interest to serve the greater communal good. Civilizational advancement emerges through this integrative fabric, systematically weaving personal spiritual development into collective evolutionary progress.

### **Integration of Eastern Philosophical Traditions**

Bach's Jonathan Livingston Seagull reveals major insights through a sophisticated fusion of Eastern thought and wisdom traditions, illuminating imperative self-consciousness expansion, attaining elevated awareness, and awakening states. Symbolism wisdom embedded in Bach's works resonates universally, transcending specific traditions, beliefs, and boundaries ([Radhakrishnan, 1953](#)), transforming conventional fable into a powerful instrument for inner metamorphosis, harmonizing individual aspirations with universal knowledge frameworks of many spiritual systems. This distinctive Eastern orientation elevates narrative beyond entertainment, serving practical tool for personal transformation and collective enlightenment processes.

Dharma fundamentally constitutes following the highest spiritual calling, structuring a purposeful, authentic existence framework. Jonathan's life journey exemplifies paradigmatic purposeful living commitment; various Eastern philosophies assert spiritual growth attainable solely through complete dedication to spiritual duty, transcending societal norms, judgment, and superficial participatory gestures entirely. Jonathan derives profound joy from flying mastery while resolutely detesting assimilation of conventional avian behavioral patterns.

Jonathan's resolute viewpoint embodies the quintessential courage manifesto "do whatever you want to do with your life," systematically challenging and dismantling predominant compliance cultures prioritizing monetary ease, illusory unbreakable social approval, safety mechanisms, and fundamentally misaligned soul, authentic purpose realization. Flock maya manifests false, distracted survival preoccupations constituting soul-enslaving boredom-inducing endless existence cycles repetition; [Debbarma \(2024\)](#) identifies complacency as the primary causation mechanism, social conformity as a multilayered structure systematically distracting, placating soul perpetual aspirations vitality. Consciousness remains perpetually ensnared until non-contributory social structures are pierced decisively, an authentic quest ignites, emboldening the seeker to resolute pursuit of higher purpose realization.

Jonathan's plight in exile testifies to karma governing spiritual progression laws, manifesting consequences in experiential reflection learning cycles. Rigorous tests crucially prepare the soul's forthcoming journey, systematically strengthening character fortitude, advanced realization, humility, and victory maintenance essential. Recent transcendence realizes moksha, liberating samsara, reincarnation, suffering cycles, undeveloped consciousness; moksha constitutes eastern philosophies' paramount objective, freeing soul attachments entirely, Atman attaining Cosmic Spirit Brahman oneness, silencing reality infinite peace consciousness ([Fotaki et al., 2020](#)). Older gulls compassionately illuminate seeker pathways' guidance.

Broader teachings systematically establish self-control, self-discipline, self-awareness foundational ethos, exhorting individuals to exert rigorous control, distraction avoidance, undivided, sustained focus, and purposeful action and trajectories. Interdependence constitutes a sine qua non foundation; self-discipline catalyzes sustained growth trajectories. Eastern religions posit spiritual self-discipline patiently guiding the dormant seeker potential, nurturing steady progressive development (Mercanti, 2002). Mentorship model manifests a graduated unfolding mechanism, successive lesson layers building incrementally, enhancing capacity-wise free action benefiting others reciprocally.

## DISCUSSION

Bach employs symbolism in *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* to construct a spiritual narrative that resonates across cultural and philosophical traditions. Previous scholarship has highlighted themes of migration, exile, mentorship, and transcendence as universal spiritual motifs ([Nabiyeva & Abduramanova, 2025](#)). However, these elements are often discussed descriptively rather than examined as an integrated philosophical structure. This study argues that the novella presents a coherent progression that parallels key Hindu concepts, specifically dharma, karma, moksha, and the guru–shishya tradition, thereby framing flight as a structural metaphor for spiritual evolution rather than merely an inspirational symbol.

Jonathan's commitment to flying reflects the principle of dharma, understood as righteous duty and the higher calling of the soul (Stevenson, 2018). His devotion is not motivated by material gain or social approval but by an inner necessity aligned with self-realization. Eastern religious philosophy characterizes spiritual advancement as the disciplined pursuit of one's dharma while overcoming distractions and external validation (Stevenson, 2018). Luo and Qu (2023) similarly emphasize that spiritual fulfillment requires conquering lesser desires and societal expectations that obscure authentic purpose. Jonathan's refusal to conform to the flock's limitations thus represents fidelity to inner truth rather than rebellion for its own sake.

The flock, by contrast, symbolizes attachment to routine survival and collective conformity. [Debbarma \(2023\)](#) describes authentic life as one shaped by inquiry and transcendence of illusion. Within this framework, Jonathan's separation from the flock signifies the necessary detachment required for spiritual growth. Exile becomes not punishment but transformation.

Jonathan's challenges further illustrate the principle of karma as a process of causation and spiritual refinement. His repeated failures and struggles serve as formative experiences that deepen awareness rather than diminish resolve. These trials resemble stages of disciplined preparation that gradually purify consciousness. The culmination of this process parallels moksha, which Eastern philosophies define as liberation from ignorance, attachment, and the cycle of rebirth ([Fotaki et al., 2020](#)). Moksha entails dissolution of the illusion of separateness and realization of unity between Atman and Brahman ([Fotaki et al., 2020](#)). Jonathan's transcendence reflects this movement from limitation toward boundless awareness. The portrayal of older gulls as mentors further reinforces this philosophical progression. Their patience, wisdom, and disciplined instruction align with the guru–shishya tradition, in which knowledge is transmitted through guided practice and moral example. Spiritual development in this tradition requires perseverance through doubt, distraction, and uncertainty. The mentors in the novella emphasize self-control and reflection, reinforcing the idea that growth is achieved through sustained effort rather than passive belief. Taken together, these stages demonstrate a structured spiritual trajectory: dedication to dharma, refinement through karma, guidance through mentorship, and culmination in moksha. Rather than presenting isolated parallels to Eastern philosophy, the novella reflects a systematic pattern of spiritual ascent. The metaphor of flight, therefore, functions as the organizing principle that unifies these stages into a coherent narrative of liberation.

By situating Jonathan's journey within this integrated framework, this study moves beyond generalized claims of spiritual symbolism and demonstrates that the novella mirrors a recognizable Hindu soteriological progression. The text thus invites readers not only to admire individualism but to understand self-realization as a disciplined, transformative process grounded in philosophical depth.

## Limitation

This literary analysis has several limitations that affect its scope and generalizability. To begin with, the research is entirely based on Hindu philosophy. Second, it is based solely on a process of speculative textual critique, lacking empirical evidence or surveys, thereby restricting assertions about real reader interpretations. Third, the historical context analysis is based on the 1970s spiritual awakening in the West, underestimating non-Western patterns of readership. Lastly, the lack of quantitative content analysis or computation metaphor detection lowers objectivity in symbol identification. These methodological limitations imply that one should not generalize research results beyond the literature. These might be tackled in future studies through cross-cultural surveys of readers, comparisons in religious studies, and digital humanities.

## CONCLUSION

Jonathan Livingston Seagull is a narrative that explores the journey of self-discovery and spiritual growth. The themes of individuality, survival, and transcendence are the ones Richard Bach interwove into the metaphor of flight, and these are comparable to the Hindu principles of dharma, karma, and moksha. Just like the soul that wants to find peace and enlightenment within itself, the way that Jonathan follows is destined to enrich his soul and challenge his boundaries to the fullest. Finally, it is possible to define their direction and follow it consistently, without losing their spirits and souls to voices and distractions. The writing of Bach, as it appears in the creation of the intricate works, is outstanding and much appreciated by many, and enabled larger audiences to grasp the circuitous, intricate concepts in the works. *And The Journey is a Mentor* also speaks to the mentor-disciple relationship, akin to the guru-shishya tradition in Hinduism, and the value of a mentor in the process of spiritual development, when guidance, discipline, and devotion are prerequisites. Ultimately, the story encourages individuals to surpass their customary boundaries and strive for spiritual growth and liberation, regardless of the challenges they face.

## FUTURE SCOPE

To overcome the speculative analysis of texts in the current study, future research should examine the reception of texts through empirical studies, such as surveys and interviews across different populations and regions, to understand how the symbolism of spirituality can differ among people and locations. Digital humanities that entail computational text analysis and the use of algorithms to identify metaphors can measure the symbolic patterns of the novella and generalize the analysis to other literary works, enabling more detailed research. Besides, interdisciplinary studies involving the synthesis of psychology and pedagogy to discuss the practical implications of the novella and the lasting influence of spiritual literature on the changed self and broadened consciousness can be conducted in the future, as longitudinal research.

## Recommendations

It is proposed that teachers and spiritual practitioners perceive and apply Jonathan Livingston Seagull as a mechanism of self-discovery, strength, and spiritual fortification. The metaphors of flight, individuation, and mentorship should be used to internalize the lessons on self and career development, and put these lessons into practice by the readers. Furthermore, the purpose of the work of literary scholars should be to merge Eastern philosophical perceptions with Western readings so that they can help to synthesize incomparable cultures and add extra analysis to the universal themes of spiritual matters.

## Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper. All research activities and findings have been conducted and presented with full objectivity and academic integrity.

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