CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

This chapter presents the analysis of Strayed as the main character in the novel *Wild* deeper by using existentialism theory and new criticism theory. For answering the statement of problem, the researcher divides the discussion into two parts. The first part is done to discuss the character of Strayed through her direct characterization and indirect characterization. The second part is done to discuss how Strayed shows her existence in undertaking a journey. So, this part analyzes further about Strayed's self-discovery process as seen from Kierkegaard's existentialism.

3.1 Strayed's Characterization

Characterization is an important element in almost every work of fiction, whether it is a short story, a novel, or anywhere in between. Characterization is the way in which a character created. According to Gill, characterization used by an author in order to build a full and clear portrait of character becomes more alive (127). There are two approaches in characterization. The first is direct characterization. Direct characterization means the author makes direct statements about a character's personality and tells what the character is like. The second is indirect characterization. Indirect characterization means the author reveals information about a character and his personality through that character's thoughts, words, and actions, along with how other characters respond to that character, including what they think and say about him. So, if direct

characterization "tells" the reader whereas indirect characterization "shows" the reader.

1. Caring

Caring is the process of protecting someone or something and providing what that person or thing needs (Cambridge dictionary). Strayed is a person who cares and always gives the best thing for someone she loves, especially her mother. When Strayed learned that her mother had cancer, Strayed devoted all of her time to protect her mother and fulfill everything her mother needed even even willingly left her time for her husband in order for the sake of her mother. It can be seen in the quotation below:

After she got sick, I folded my life down. I told Paul not to count on me. I would have to come and go according to my mother's needs (Strayed 25)

When her mother was sick, Strayed always stands beside her mother and asked her husband not to depend on her. Thus, she could focus on taking care of her mother. Stayed is not only thinking about her mother's condition, but she is also thinking about how her other family members feel when they knows about her mother's condition. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I did not cry. I only breathed....I thought about my older sister, Karen, and my younger brother, Leif. About my husband, Paul, and about my mother's parents and sister, who lived a thousand miles away. What they would say when they knew. How they would cry (19)

In such a situation, Strayed strives to keep strong and firm in front of her family. For Strayed, the most important thing is her mother's recovery and how she will inform about the real condition of her mother to the other family members, so that they can be less worry.

Strayed awareness can also be seen through her speech. When her mother's condition is weakened, Strayed gives the attention to her mother by bringing her two brothers to come to visit the mother. It can be seen on the paragraph below:

Leif didn't come to visit her. Karen came once after I'd insisted she must. I was in heartbroken and enraged disbelief. "I don't like seeing her this way," my sister would offer weakly when we spoke, and then burst into tears (29)

Karen and Leif are Strayed's brothers. When their mother was in the hospital they never visited their mother because they cannot bear to see the mother like that. However, Strayed tries to convince her sister, Karen, that whatever will happen she has to meet her mother. Strayed also convinces her mother that she will look for Leif and promise to bring Leif to meet her. It can be seen in the quotation below:

"I'll be back in the morning," I said to my mother. I looked over at Eddie, half lying on the little vinyl couch. "I'll come back with Leif." (33)

Strayed realized that what her mother needed at that time was a whole togetherness in the family. Strayed promised the mother that they would gather together with her and no one would leave her against her illness alone. They will be stay with her mother. Finally, Strayed can find her brother's whereabouts and talk to him.

"I can't do this," he kept repeating through his tears. "I can't live without Mom. I can't. I can't. I can't." "We have to," I replied, though I couldn't believe it myself. We lay together in his single bed talking and crying into the wee hours until, side by side, we drifted off to sleep (34)

In that brief conversation, Strayed realized that her little brother is worse than her sister, Karen. Leif did not know what he should do to alleviate his mother's illness. Strayed only can hold back tears in front of her brother. Strayed convinces her brother that they can get through this and still be able to live without the mother at the end. Here, through Strayed's speech, it indicates that Strayed has a caring character.

2. Optimistic

Strayed is an optimistic young woman. Optimistic itself is the hoping and believing that good things will happen in the future (Cambridge dictionary). It is described in the novel since her mother's condition is getting worse but it did not make Strayed lose her hope. Altough her two siblings, Karen and Leif, were never coming to visit their mother. Strayed always stays with her mother all the time. Until one day, a doctor explained that her mother was actively dying.

One afternoon, a doctor I'd never seen came into the room and explained that my mother was actively dying. "But it's only been a month," I said indignantly. "The other doctor told us a year." (Strayed 28-29)

Strayed still optimist that her mother could survive for a year as another docter had already told Strayed before. However, destiny is another will. It means that her mother would die in a couple of weeks. Strayed realized that her mother's death is the best way for her mother. Strayed wants to heal her sadness in her own way as shown in the following quotation below:

It took me years to take my place among the ten thousand things again. To be the woman my mother raised. To remember how she said honey and picture her particular gaze. I would suffer. I would suffer. I would want things to be different than they were. The wanting was a wilderness and I had to find my own way out of the woods (36)

The quotation above shows that how Strayed wants to get out of her grief or her sadness when she remembered the shadows of her late mother. Strayed

heals her sadness and her downfall by finding another way which different with people in general, that is by doing a journey she had never done before. Strayed optimist that she can do it and it will be a good thing in the future for her. Those things have been mentioned indicates that Strayed is an optimistic person.

3 Brave

Brave is having or showing mental or moral strength to face danger, fear, or difficulty (Merriam webster). Strayed is the person who ready to face and endure danger or pain and show a courage. It is depicted in the novel when Strayed in undertaking her journey and she has to face many obstacles that she never faced before. It can be seen in the quotation below:

The staying and doing it, in spite of everything. In spite of the bears and the rattlesnakes and the scat of the mountain lions I never saw; the blisters and scabs and scrapes and lacerations. The exhaustion and the deprivation; the cold and the heat; the monotony and the pain; the thirst and the hunger; the glory and the ghosts that haunted me as I hiked eleven hundred miles from the Mojave Desert to the state of Washington by myself (Strayed 15)

Strayed realizes that by doing the journey that she has never been done

before is the same as going to face a terrible realization. Her decision in undertaking a journey as far as eleven hundred miles from the Mojave Desert to the state of Washington by her own self, a wilderness journey full of wild animals, fear, and so on. It is a big decision which the desire to stop also will always haunt her. However, Strayed keep doing what she has to be chosen and then there was the real live truly doing it.

The bravery of Strayed also can be seen through her action. During a journey, Strayed never met a single person. Strayed only talks to her own self on the sidelines of an exhausting journey. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I'd chosen to rest in this place because of the view. It was late afternoon in mid-July, and I was miles from civilization in every direction, days away from the lonely post office where I'd collect my next resupply box. There was a chance someone would come hiking down the trail, but only rarely did that happen. Usually I went days without seeing another person. It didn't matter whether someone came along anyway. I was in this alone (13)

The quotation above shows the bravery in Strayed-self. Although she was in a wilderness alone and without anyone was coming, but it did not become a big problem for her. Strayed can overcome her own difficulties and amuse herself in her own way. Strayed always hope that there is someone who will do a hike eventhough she never met anyone during her journey. It can be seen through Strayed's action that showed that Strayed is a brave young woman.

4. Strong

Strong is having or marked by great physical power (Merriam webster).

Strayed is a young woman with strong physical. Although Strayed may not have a big muscles like a man and she cannot show it at all, but Strayed has been able to exert all of her strength during the journey with a very heavy burden. It can be seen in the quotation below:

There was a sleeping bag and a camp chair that could be unclipped to use as a sleeping pad and a headlamp like the kind miners wear and five bungee cords. There was a water purifier and a tiny collapsible stove, a tall aluminum canister of gas, and a little pink lighter. There was a small cooking pot nested inside a larger cooking pot and utensils that folded in half and a cheap pair of sports sandals I intended to wear in camp at the

end of each day. There was a quickdry pack towel, a thermometer keychain, a tarp, and an insulated plastic mug with a handle. There were two 32-ounce plastic water bottles and a dromedary bag capable of holding 2.6 gallons of water and a nylon first that unfurled into a rain cover for my backpack and a Gore-Tex ball that opened up to become my raincoat. There were things I brought in case the other things I brought failed—extra batteries, a box of waterproof matches, a Mylar blanket, and a bottle of iodine pills...(Strayed 49-50)

Paragraph above shows that Strayed is a powerful woman. Although Strayed was a woman with an ordinary body, but she was able to carry the burden of goods as much as it was during the journey for her supply. It has never been done and as a beginner/ amateur, Strayed including a strong woman and even she is dubbed as a woman with a backpack/ carrier monster.

5. Intelligence

Strayed is an intelligence woman. It is depicted in the novel, when Strayed made her journey alone. Here, Strayed strives to be able to think and act for herself. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I worked my way through the mountain of things, wedging and cramming and forcing them into every available space of my pack until nothing more could possibly fit (Strayed 51)

Strayed tries to pack the stuff as much as she can carried on the journey without asking anyone for help. Although by forcing the remaining space in the backpack, Strayed has shown that she does not rely on the other people's help and do everything she can do.

Strayed also can be identified as someone who is intelligence through her thought. In her journey in the afternoon of the fifth day, as Strayed made her way along a narrow and steep stretch of trail, she looked up and see an enormous

brown horned animal charging at her. In a panic, she thinks that the animal is a deer. But the animal is a bunch of bulls that have lurked Strayed from a distance for long. Strayed scrambled into the manzanitas and scrub oaks that bordered the trail, pulling her own self into their sharp branches as best she could, but stymied by the weight of her pack. When the bulls saw Strayed wants to run away, without a second thought the bulls attacked Strayed directly. Strayed, who was pressed to close her eyes and try to blow the whistle she was carrying as fast as she could. Not long ago, a bunch of the bulls go away. Immediately, Strayed thought that she had to do things that might not she wants in order to survive in the wild with limited choices. It can be seen in the quotation below:

The thing about hiking the Pacific Crest Trail, the thing that was so profound to me that summer—and yet also, like most things, so very simple—was how few choices I had and how often I had to do the thing I least wanted to do. How there was no escape or denial. No numbing it down with a martini or covering it up with a roll in the hay. As I clung to the chaparral that day, attempting to patch up my bleeding finger, terrified by every sound that the bull was coming back, I considered my options. There were only two and they were essentially the same. I could go back in the direction I had come from, or I could go forward in the direction I intended to go. The bull, I acknowledged grimly, could be in either direction, since I hadn't seen where he'd run once I closed my eyes. I could only choose between the bull that would take me back and the bull that would take me forward. And so I walked on (84)

The explanation above shows that Strayed is an intelligence woman. Her intelligence of thinking helped her to find a solution or how to overcome a bunch of the bulls. Strayed also realizes that basically she has two the same choices only, that Strayed does not know where the direction of motion the bull's goes. The first Strayed's choice is back in the previous direction. The second Strayed's choice is keep going on. And Strayed chose to keep walking and fighting her fear.

3.2 Strayed's Existence which represented in undertaking her journey

Strayed has a good characteristic and always consider good and bad things in her life. Strayed changes her character after she is being lonely. The changing of Strayed's character describes how very loose she was in the world. Her father left her when she was six. Her mother died when she was twenty-two. In the wake of Strayed's mother death, her stepfather morphed from the person she considered her dad into a man who only occasionally recognized. Her two siblings scattered in their grief, in spite of her efforts to hold their together, until she gave up. And then, Strayed decided to do a journey alone.

Wild intertwines the stories of Strayed's life before and during the journey, describing her physical challenges and spiritual realizations, seeking self-discovery and resolution of her enduring grief and challenge. Strayed's self-discovery and precisely with the one that belong to the religious field itself has a strong relation with Kierkegaard's existentialism. Kierkegaard described existentialism as the development of existential human life that is called "Stages on Life's Way." The first is aesthetic stage, which give a way to the ethical stage, and then give a way to the religious stage. The three stages describe the movement of the self from one level of existence to another through an act of choice (Stumpf and Fieser 360).

3.2.1 Aesthetic Stage

Aesthetic stage is an attempt to define and live life without referring to good and bad, and fulfill all of the desirability was going to do (Hidaya 85-88).

The desire to enjoy sensual pleasures in variants is the biggest motivation for individuals who live in this stage. Human in the aesthetic stage usually controlled by sex's instinct, pleasure hedonism principle, and act based on their mood (Tjaya 148). Therefore, the main characteristic of this stage is the fulfillment of desire directly and spontaneously. In this case, life as aesthetic person appears in Strayed's life. It is started when Strayed's mother death changing everything of Strayed's life. Never mind by Strayed that her mother leaves her so quickly. Strayed does not know anymore what she has to do and what Strayed tought was the death of her mother only.

My mom was dead. My mom was dead. Everything I ever imagined about myself had disappeared into the crack of her last breath (44)

Strayed mother's death gives a deep hurt for Strayed. Strayed also do not know how she and her other family will continue their life without her mother by her side. But, in the wake of her mother's death, the condition is becoming worst and everything has changed. Strayed thinks that all people whom she loved had left her, particularly her brother, her sister, her stepfather, and her mother. It can be seen in the quotation below:

In the wake of her death, my stepfather morphed from the person I considered my dad into a man I only occasionally recognized. My two siblings scattered in their grief, in spite of my efforts to hold us together, until I gave up and scattered as well (10)

Strayed mother's death changes all the things that happened in Strayed's life. The changes is started from the closest people of Strayed who slowly moved away. Her stepfather turned into a stranger. Before Strayed's mother passing away, Strayed's stepfather really cares of her family even Strayed has considered

him as her real father. However, when Strayed's mother is passing away, her stepfather slowly acted like he was her friend instead of her father. Then Strayed and her two siblings, Karen and Leif, drifted into their own lives. Strayed feels lonely and lives in loneliness.

And then, Strayed's sadness and loneliness makes Strayed become a destructive one. Someone who only emphasizes what they had done is true without thinking the good and bad things. In this case, whatever that someone has done is a desire that must be fulfilled. This is the stage where the individual is in anxiety by sensory impulses and emotions (Hardiman 252). It can be seen in the quotation below:

An ambitious overachiever and aspiring writer who hopped from one meaningless job to the next while dabbling dangerously with drugs and sleeping with too many men (12)

In this case, there is no moral principles that consider good and bad things. Likewise, it has been done by Strayed. Strayed releases her sadness with things that were not morally good. By using heroin, sleep with many men who are not her husband, and so on. All that Strayed do is because the desire to be able to move on from her sadness over the death of her mother. Strayed did not think whether it was good or bad even for her life. Strayed only thinks how her desire can be fulfilled. The desire has dictated the life of an aesthetic human, such as Strayed.

Since every human being has a passion or desire in which human can vent their desires without thinking the existing rules. Desire always arises spontaneously as the human senses witness an object and gives rise to a desire.

The desire will disappear after human can fulfill his wishes. When human senses find something else it will give rise to a new desire, and will continue like that without any permanent point of satisfaction. In this phase, aesthetic people will experience a boring life, like what Strayed felt. She feels that her life which undergoes, it has been useless. It can be seen in the quotation below:

Nothing did. Nothing would. Nothing could ever bring my mother back or make it okay that she was gone. Nothing would put me beside her the moment she died. It broke me up. It cut me off. It tumbled me end over end.....I would suffer. I would suffer. I would want things to be different than they were. The wanting was a wilderness and I had to !nd my own way out of the woods. It took me four years, seven months, and three days to do it. I didn't know where I was going until I got there. It was a place called the Bridge of the Gods (36)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen that Strayed felt that she had undergone a monotonous life. Life without any permanent point of satisfaction. So it will make aesthetic people like Strayed experience a boring life. To avoid that boredom, human need to accomplishing life with over confidence and new experiences. Therefore, Strayed chooses to do a journey that will lead Strayed to search for the esixtence of life to reduce its boredom. And then, the individual within this phase will jump to the ethical stage.

3.2.2 Ethical Stage

Human in the ethical stage take a moral values as a guide of life, and then choose it as a way of life (Kaufman 263). It can be said that in this stage, human more understanding life in carrying out the daily actualization. The individual in the ethical stage sees a life in the past as a life experience and views the future as a expectations based on the commitment of his life (Kaufman 263). As seems with

Strayed. It begin when Strayed goes to a store to buy some of the equipment she needs and sees the book that catches her attention.

I'd been standing in line at an outdoor store waiting to purchase a foldable shovel when I picked up a book called The Pasific Crest Trail, Volume 1: California from a nearby shelf and read the back cover.....The PCT, it said, was a continuous wilderness trail that went from the Mexican border in California to just beyond the Canadian border along the crest of nine mountain ranges-the Laguna, San Jacinto, San Bernardino, San Gabriel, Liebre, Tehachapi, Sierra Nevada, Klamath, and Cascades. That distance was a thousand miles as the crow flies, but the trail was more than double that. Traversing the entire length of the states of California, Oregon, and Washington, the PCT passes through national parks and wilderness areas as well as federal, tribal, and privately held lands; through deserts and mountains and rain forests; across rivers and highways (Strayed 11)

The PCT is a guide book for a beginner who wants to do a journey by tracing along the crossing in the mountains and conquer the challenges that exist in the wild. The book illustrates that in making a journey; someone not only gets a satisfaction for succeeding in conquering thousands of miles. But more than that, a person will also get a valuable of life value along the way.

Strayed just scanned the book and did not intend to buy it. However, Strayed felt that the book can motivate her to find the meaning of life in a long journey, and it more seems as a sign for her. Not only of what Strayed could do, but of what Strayed had to do.

I turned the book over and gazed at its front cover—a boulder–strewn lake surrounded by rocky crags against a blue sky—then placed it back on the shelf, paid for my shovel, and left.....But later I returned and bought the book. The Pasific Crest Trail wasn't a world to me then. It was an idea, vague, and outlandish, full of promise and mystery. Something bloomed inside me as I traced its jagged line with my finger on a map (11).

Strayed decided to go back to the store and buy the book. Strayed hopes that she could change after doing the journey. Not into a different person, but back

to the person she used to be. And The PCT will make Strayed in that way. Strayed wanted to walk down the length of the crossing to The PCT and think about her entire life. Strayed hopes that she can find her strenght again and far from everything that had made her life ridiculous. For Strayed, by making a journey and doing it alone, it can be as a way to get rid of her sadness and a contemplation of the past.

In the first week of June, Strayed left Minnesota and she was going to hike the PCT. Strayed was confronted with the various obstacles that had been waiting for her in the wild and can be a challenge for Strayed itself. How Strayed adapt to nature, how Strayed will survive, and so on. Strayed began the journey to Portland by pick up truck loaded with a dozen boxes filled with dehydrated food and backpacking supplies. Before doing the journay in the next day, Strayed stayed at a hotel in the city and prepare all the things that will bring. Suddenly, Strayed remembers her mistake to her ex-husband, Paul.

A week after Strayed's mother passed away, Strayed had dated the other man without the privity of her husband. And then, Strayed decided to confess her fault to Paul. The confession brings Strayed and Paul marriages into a ruin.

My mom had been dead a week when I kissed another man. And another a week after that. I only made out with them and the others that followed – vowing not to cross a sexual line that held some meaning to me –but still I knew I was wrong to cheat and lie. I felt trapped by my own inability to either leave Paul or stay true, so I waited for him to leave me.....I couldn't bear myself any longer. I had to finally speak the words to Paul that would tear my life apart. Not that I didn't love him. But that I had to be alone, though I didn't know why (44-46).

Strayed realized that she had lied and cheated to her own husband.

Initially, Strayed chose to wait for Paul to leave her. But since Strayed had no power to hide her faults too long, Strayed decided to tell Paul about the truth. The decision of Strayed had made Paul leave Strayed. What Strayed has done not only leads Strayed's marriage into a divorce, but also guides Strayed in making journey alone which reflect on the mistakes that she has done.

On the way, Strayed met with a young man who indirectly would like to invite Strayed to have sex with him. But Strayed was reluctant to respond the man's request because Strayed did not want to repeat her mistake again as in the past. Although initially Strayed always vent her grief by doing sex with many man. It can be seen in the quotation below:

Do you happen to have a condom?"

"I don't have a condom," I said, which seemed the most ridiculous thing ever, since in fact I had carried a condom over scorching deserts and icy slopes and across forests, mountains, and rivers, and through the most agonizing, tedious, and exhilarating days only to arrive here....(298)

From the quotation above it can be seen that Strayed brought many supplies of condoms in her carrier during the journey actually. Strayed were deliberately lies to the man who wanted to have sex because Strayed realized that if she wanted to get a better life, then she had to live in a good way too. Strayed's action has made Strayed to no longer live as in the past.

Alone in a long journey as well as exhausted, Strayed also remembered her habitual which is addicted to heroin as a way to be able to forget all the problems she faced. Strayed spent most of her time having adventure some sex and doing heroin. When Strayed was taking heroin, Strayed feels like there is no burden borne in his life. It can be seen in the quotation below:

It was good. It was like something inordinately beautiful and out of this world. Like I'd found an actual planet that I didn't know had been there all along. Planet Heroin. The place where there was no pain, where it was unfortunate but essentially okay that my mother was dead and my biological father was not in my life and my family had collapsed and I couldn't manage to stay married to a man I loved. At least that's how it felt while I was high (64)

Strayed had never known heroin. Heroin is something new for Strayed.

Strayed just knows heroin after she met a someone named Joe in Portland. And it is the first time Strayed tried heroin. For Strayed, heroin has become the taste of her own medicine. Strayed felt no more pain in her life while consuming heroin.

But in Strayed's contemplation during the journey, Strayed realized that heroin had made Strayed becomes different. Strayed regretted what she had done. And then, Strayed remembered Paul's advice about how the dangerous of heroin for Strayed. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I remembered him lambasting me as we drove from Portland to Minneapolis, when he'd plucked me out of the grips of heroin and Joe the autumn before. "Do you know you could die?" he'd said with disgust, as if he half wished I had so he could prove his point. "Every time you do heroin it's like you're playing Russian roulette. You're putting a gun to your head and pulling the trigger. You don't know which time the bullet's going to be in the chamber." I'd had nothing to say in my defense. He was right, though it hadn't seemed that way at the time (166)

Strayed realizes that what she has done can turn out to be self-harmful. No one could have Strayed to do because what has been advised by Paul is right.

Strayed also felt like a pile of shit at the moment. Heroin had made Strayed dumb and distant from herself. Strayed realized that is not the way she is.

When Strayed got lost and no one encountered, Strayed felt the loneliness inside herself. Strayed wants to talk to someone even it was not just anyone she wanted to talk to. In her loneliness, Strayed also miss her family and her closest people. Strayed wants to bulid a new harmonious family which out of separation. Strayed hopes to live in Portland and start her new life as a normal person again after finishes the journey. It can be seen in the quotation below:

I'd be in Portland, living like a normal person again. I'd get job waiting tables in the evenings and I'd write during the day. Ever since the idea of living in Portland had settled in my mind, I'd spent hours imagining how it would be feel to be back in the world where food and music, wine and coffee could be had.....Of course, heroin could be had there too, I thought. But the thing was, I didn't want it. Maybe I never really had. I'd finally come to understand what it had been: a yearning for a way out, when actually what I had wanted to find was a way in. I was there now. Or close (339).

From the quotation above it can be seen that Strayed is trying to get back to her own self. Although she knew that heroin would always haunt her life, but Strayed does not want to fall into the same mistake again. At this stage there is a kind of repentance, in which an individual begins to accept moral virtue and chooses to engage in it. But Strayed has not arrived at a real stage of existence. Because Strayed only understands her rationality without understanding her existence which still limited. Therefore, people in this stage will move to the highest stage that is religious stage to be a better person.

3.2.3 Religious Stage

Religious stage is the highest stage of human existential. In everyday life, human will face kinds of choice and decision-making but God is the absolute decision. Here, human starting to get his conciousness over the existence of God.

In this stage, Kierkegaard emphasize that religious is not only as knowledge but it is also the guidance to live life. The religious phase in *Wild* begins when Strayed meets a small boy who is also on a journey with a woman. Through a small boy Strayed realized that the life she lived still has hope.

I chatted with Vera, she told me that Kyle and his mother had been in horrible situation.

"You promised not to tell people about my problems! I've got big problems" Kyle yelled.

"A lot of people have big problems. I've had big problems. Like problems with my dad. I didn't really have a dad." I explained.

"I don't have a dad either. Well, everybody has a dad, but I don't know mine anymore. I used to know him when I was a baby, but don't remember it." (Strayed 271)

From the conversations above God wants Strayed sees that Strayed is more fortunate than a small boy. The little boy named Kyle is never knew his father even when he was a baby. Kyle's mother entrusted Kyle with someone else while his mother tried to recover her life. Strayed feel grateful even though Strayed do not know for sure how the real of her father life, but Strayed still given the chance to get to know her father. And Strayed was lucky still have a great time to feel her mother's affection and still be able to accompany her mother until the end of her mother's life. While Kyle, he quite separated with his mother for the sake of his mother's healing.

When Strayed stop in a hostel, Strayed met a man about late forties. He lives in a mountain and only comes to town while feeling lonely. The man is having the same description as Strayed. He feels lonely and makes a journey to cure loneliness. He also reminded Strayed with the men who had been close to

Strayed's mother. But since Strayed's mother passed away, it felt as if Strayed never known them and could not know them again. It seemed that whatever had existed back in the place where Strayed had grown up was so far, and impossible to retrieve.

"Do you believe in reincarnation?" I asked as we looked together at the intricate drawings, reading bits about them in the paragraph of text on each page.

"I don't," he said. "I believe we're here once and what we do matters. What do you believe?"

"I'm still trying to figure out what I believe," I answered, taking the hot mug he held out to me (294)

Although Strayed is still trying to figure what she believes, but the man open Strayed's mind that in spite of all the things she had done wrong, in getting herself on the journey, she is done right. It is a God's way in order to Strayed could thought that she fell not because of a problem given by God. Instead, God wants Strayed to stand on her own capability and become a maturity for Strayed. Strayed realizes that there is no way to know what makes one thing happen and not another. What leads to what. What destroys what. What causes what to flourish or die or take another course.

When Strayed had arrived and had done it, there is such a small thing and such a tremendous thing that she is never felt before by Strayed. Deep within herself, Strayed feels more meaningful. It can be seen in the quotation below:

There were so many other amazing things in this world. They opened up inside of me like a river. Like I didn't know I could take a breath and then I breathed. I laughed with the joy of it, and the next moment I was crying my first tears on the PCT. I cried and I cried and I cried. I wasn't crying because I was happy. I wasn't crying because I was sad. I wasn't crying because of my mother or my father or Paul. I was crying because I was

full. I didn't feel like a big fat idiot anymore. And I didn't feel like a hardass motherfucking Amazonian queen. I felt fierce and humble and gathered up inside, like I was safe in this world too (275)

Here, Strayed already know about the ten thousand things in the world.

They are all the named and unamed things in the world for Strayed. Strayed thanks to God not only for the long journey, but for everything that she could feel gathered up inside of her and for everything the trail had taught to Strayed also. Strayed has get back her own self which lost and feels unlike the big fat idiot anymore. Strayed realized that she has not to know the truth about all the things in the world. It is enough to Strayed just to believe of what she has done is true and important for her life. It can be seen in the quotation below:

It was all unknown to me then, as I sat on that white bench on the day I finished my hike. Everything except the fact that I didn't have to know. That it was enough to trust that what I'd done was true. To understand its meaning without yet being able to say precisely what it was, like all those lines from The Dream of a Common Language that had run through my nights and days. To believe that I didn't need to reach with my bare hands anymore. To know that seeing the fish beneath the surface of the water was enough. That it was everything. It was my life—like all lives, mysterious and irrevocable and sacred. So very close, so very present, so very belonging to me (364)

From the quotation above, it shows Strayed's self-evaluation that she got after finished the journey. The long journey taught Strayed how she should be thankful for everything that is considered trivial in a life. For Strayed, hiking is a spiritual journey that leads Strayed to recognize herself and God. Strayed leads a better life and closer to God. Strayed built a new marriage with a man whom she loved and did not want to betray her husband again. Strayed wants to have a son named Carver and a year and a half after that, a daughter named Bobbi. Strayed wants to told them the story of the time when Strayed finished walking alone a

long way on The PCT. And how it would be only then that the meaning of Strayed hike would unfold inside of her. Finally, Strayed has reached the highest existence after confronting some processes she has going through. Strayed also be a person who close to God event hough she did not know what God was like.

