

Epiphany: The Power of Words in Christopher Paolini's

Inheritance Cycle

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Abstract

The manifestation of epiphany and its relationship with words in the fantasy series, *Inheritance Cycle*, written by Christopher Paolini is the focus of this paper. Throughout history, the idea of epiphany has been mentioned in various works, such as the *Nativity Story*, mythology, transcendentalism, works of linguists, fiction and non-fiction novels. Nevertheless, most of them pay more attention to the result and the conclusion instead of the rippling process of epiphany. By comparing the ideas mentioned in selected writings with the story in the *Inheritance Cycle*, this study suggests that the process of epiphany is similar to experiencing something which has come full circle. The first step is suffering; the second is receiving help from the experienced elders; the third is awareness of epiphany, and the last step is acceptance of the suffering. This annular pattern can be spotted throughout the series of *Inheritance Cycle*. Moreover, when the epiphany came to the protagonist, Eragon, Brisingr (the word representing fire in the novel) plays a key word in his journey: Fire represents birth and creativity in one's culture. Besides, it is the word Eragon inherited from the old record in the ancient language and the word he chose to name his sword. This paper concludes that Brisingr is an exemplary word symbolizing the manifestation of epiphany predominantly present in the *Inheritance Cycle* series.

"The structure of every sentence is a lesson in logic", said by John Stuart Mill.

(118) It is always fascinating process when people learn a language because as Gloria Naylor suggests in her article, "Mommy, What Does 'Nigger' Mean?", "Words themselves are innocuous; it is the consensus that gives them true power" (234).

Communication results from our brain to distinguish not only content words-words with clear and fixed meaning or actions like 'dog' or 'eat' and function words-words without obvious association with tangible concepts such as 'and' or 'for', but also an complex system of grammar, as Noam Chomsky writes in *Language and Mind*:

The theory of grammar is concerned with the question: What is the nature of a person's knowledge of his language, the knowledge that enables him to make use of language in the normal, creative fashion? A person who knows a language has mastered a system of rules that assigns sound and meaning in a definite way for an infinite class of possible sentences. (35)

If learning to communicate through speaking has been complicated enough, understanding the meanings of the written form and even putting languages into writing are without doubt tough, especially when it comes to the style of weaving an imaginative world and expressing it to others; that is writing a fantasy. Nevertheless, it seems apparent that most of the famous fantasy writers have been successful to communicate with their readers even by using a twist in grammatical style, and it seems interestingly when Reading Hypnosis (*The Neuroscience of "Harry Potter"*) occurs, readers immerse themselves into the words woven by authors and when they suddenly affected by spine-tingling thrill, they somehow understand some knowledge and see the world though different angles. Vladimir Nabokov in "Good Reader and Good" Writer writes:

That mist is a mountain- and that mountain must be conquered. Up a trackless slope climbs the master artist, and at the top, on windy ridge, whom do you think he meet? The panting and happy reader, and there they spontaneously embrace and are linked forever if the book lasts forever. (572)

Therefore, these kinds of people tend to stand out in a group. Although throughout human history people have strove to explain the moment of sudden pouring knowledge and also define it with precise terms, the connection between the specific words author would choose in the fantasy novel to arouse certain sense and feeling has not been precisely defined.

Interestingly, despite the lack of precision of that connection we found above, it is a technique preferred by numerous fantasy novel authors to give their main characters a way to break through the difficulty when they encountered a certain conflict in the story. In addition, they can also define words in their story as a magic power based on the certain folktale and history to create a sense of fantasy world close to our everyday life but far from our reality. Ludwig Wittgenstein states, "The limits of my language mean the limits of my world." Literally, it is undeniable that by writing fantasy the writer needs to have a sense of style and clarity. Besides, this kind of novel really makes a good sell on the market and people love them. Due to the frequency in fantasy novel and the popularity of this special type of genre, the paper attempts to re-define the phenomenon happening with the words and its influence on the main character, Eragon. The paper thus will focus on a fantasy series, *The Inheritance Cycle* by Christopher Paolini to find that the moment of epiphany to explain the importance and the power of the word in fantasy world.

World History, Influence, and Power of the Words with Epiphany

The main purpose of this paper is to provide a picture of precision to prove the power

of word in the world of Inheritance Cycle and how this serves as an epiphanic lesson for the protagonist, Eragon. The analysis deals with two major scenes and how words play the influential role in them. The relation between fantasy fiction and epiphany may be explained later. Before that, this section will first clarify the importance as well as the relationship between words and epiphany. Therefore, the etymology will be a basic base to start.

Epiphany, generally speaking, is considered as a striking point when people experience a sudden realization pouring through their mind. (567) Epiphany comes as quickly as it goes, but the aftermath will surely ripple through their whole life. Such manifestation has been expressed through the Greek word, *epiphaneia* which the Greek calls “manifestation” or “showing forth”. The most famous example in history is still first attributed to Archimedes when he was troubled about how to solve the challenge posed by Hiero of Syracuse. The challenge is to find out how to assess the purity of an irregular golden votive crown. An idea stroke him when Archimedes stepped his feet into a bathtub. It was at that point he understood how to measure the density of an object and exclaimed “Eureka”, which means “I found it” in English. (216)

This feat is a groundbreaking change in human society. This moment of revelation is so rare that the scarcity of this revelatory moment is also the reason that epiphany has been hypostatized as an insight through divine; as a result, epiphany has its origin link to religion. According to *Oxford Dictionary of Phrase and Fable*, the Epiphany is on January sixth when the three Kings¹ arrive at a stable in Bethlehem to witness the birth of baby Jesus who is the Messiah, the only savior of the Jewish people. In Old Testament, a script showed that a king will be born so as to give Jewish

¹ **Three Kings** is Melchior, Balthazar, and Gaspar in the story of the New Testament. They follow the stars to search for Messiah, the savior of the Jewish people. They brought three gift

people a hope and save them from hard times (Jeremiah 23:5-6). Despite this prophecy, Virgin Mary's sudden pregnancy is still an enigma, which can be also interpreted as a concept of the sudden-striking characteristics of epiphany. In addition, the concatenation of the epiphany would also flash from the moment when baby Jesus was born to the fate of not only the whole Jewish people but also the whole history.

Table 1: The Distinction of Epiphany in the Bible and the Common Usage

<u>Epiphany in the Bible</u>	<u>Epiphany in Modern Definition</u>
Virgin Mary's pregnancy.	A sudden idea comes to clear confusion.
The Birth of Baby Jesus.	The idea triggers other new ideas.

Speaking of the human history, it is common sense that the invention of the word system marked the beginning of a civilization. If we traced back, between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, the first civilization begins at the Fertile Crescent, known as the Cradle of Civilization which also give birth to cuneiform, a wedge-shaped writing on clay tablets. ("Ancient History Encyclopedia") People always create new things to facilitate their life. Those inventions assisted by a sudden idea include words. As a result, the relation between words and epiphany can be explained and can be found not only in the religion but also the great civilization. After a civilization thrives, people who search for entertainment or who have a sudden idea would create a story to tell and passed down from generation to generation, which emphasize the point that behind a great story there must be an epiphany. The story later because of its great influence like the epiphany will become the most important way to study human's life at that time and that is what we classified as literature. That is the explanation of the connection between epiphany and literature.

Interestingly, this connection, without doubt, has always indicated a fact that is epiphany not just manifests separately in each literature but it also trickles and permeates through every aspect in our life and imagination. The oldest surviving text in the world is the *Epic of Gilgamesh*, a record of the oral legend. Gilgamesh once voiced, "I must travel a road I have never travelled". (Kovacs, 12) This quote shows the core to the success for human civilization: curiosity. Edith Hamilton, in her famous work, *Mythology Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes*, emphasizes words can prove how people in a period of time think their surrounding through reason and provide a broad picture of how that society construct a way to live between reality and imagination. Thus, word is an symbol to mark "real" and "unreal" as well as a groundwork for epiphany and influence.(1) Furthermore, it also can be seen as a good standing point for each mythology as well as an expedition in the unknown map of human psychology because a great plot can echo and link through human beings.

Clearly, the function and connection between epiphany and words has been forged. Obviously, after a long period of development in history, the expansion of their golden age in the modern era would be more glorious than the past. The unbreakable spirit between words and epiphany has been proved success not only practicability but also spirituality. The word, practicability, means real and seeable object; that is convincible text, while the word, spirituality means the epiphanic influence. In terms of literature, the success here means how people organize the words in text form by their reason and later publish the text. If a recapitulation is made here, literature was born through the text and epiphany because human beings want to reason their surroundings, thrive, and have a better life. That is why from the earliest form of this literature, God inevitably appears in their idea. Besides, God will be also unquestionably linked to the omnipotence as well as nature elements so that humans will feel blessed and saved. As a result, through reason and epiphany which

God gifted human beings, people would use words to praise the gods and at the same time understand themselves better. In *Huswifery*, Edward Taylor penned, "...My words, and actions, that their shine may fill My ways with glory and Thee glorify...." (69) The poem serves as also a good example to use words, the lowest human power to explain the grace of god and further demonstrate the link between words and epiphany, the insight through divine.

In addition, to clarify this chain reaction through divine and mankind, *Nature*, by Ralph Waldo Emerson, is deemed as the gospel of Transcendentalism, whose focus is also on the relationship between god and human beings. As mentioned before, behind God's images, there is always an association of nature elements. That is why nature is in between human and God. Emerson in the fourth chapter, *Language* emphasizes the term, signification² and stressed that words symbolize natural facts which is the symbol of spirit. (118) Step by step, Emerson accumulates words by words to chain one fact after another like the emanating effect of epiphany. At the end, he proves the fact that words is "a new weapon in the magazine of power" as he becomes a "transparent eyeball." (1718) Therefore, this is a wonderful description to confirm that human can use words to connect divine and vice versa.

In the field of literature, another great example to demonstrate the epiphany through words is the writers who used a technique called the Stream of Consciousness. The stream of Consciousness, which is a term used by American psychologist, Henry James to explain human's thoughts as "the natural flow" like standing in a river, looking at the various reflections refracted under different radiation, which "take the form of an unorganized and seemingly unconnected series of insights, memories, and reflections" (Bluemner 707). As a result, their style is deemed as a writing to form a

² **Signification** is a term that means word is a kind of arbitrary sign or a set of symbol correspond to an idea.

period of human's psychological map. *Shakespeare's Sister* by Virginia Woolf also shows from the spark of epiphany at the beginning when the narrator suddenly "imagine" Shakespeare has a sister, named Judith who surprisingly committed suicide as the result of not being able to act as an actor in the man-dominated society. ("adelaide") As mentioned before, epiphany suddenly strikes Woolf so she writes this story. This short story, as a result, let the readers not only perceive the natural flow in the author's mind but also aroused the feminist movement, which inevitable changed the relationship between men and women.

The enunciation has been made clear that the effect concatenated by words and epiphany is very influential in the world of human beings, especially in literature. So far, an agreement can be made that from oral to the written, from ancient to modern the word, epiphany has not only made a great change on individual but also affected generation to generation. In other words, words are the grove engraved to mark each dominant culture while epiphany serves as an orbit for each dominant culture to be surrounded by residual as well as the emergent culture. In literary terms, each dominant culture features a major literary form to meet the horizon expectations at that generation. One of the most famous genre in this era is fantasy fiction. Since this paper focus on the connection between words and epiphany, *Inheritance Cycle*, an epic fantasy series containing words of power coined by the author, Christopher Paolini is the threshold to cross.

Epiphany and Paolini's World of Shur'tugal

Basically, learning a language is hard enough let alone created one and Paolini did a successful job since in this epic fantasy novel, the author, Christopher Paolini, himself invented an ancient language, which not only describes the true nature of everything or rather it is a language to represent an object's original form, but through the various weaving pattern of words, it has it power to use magic. In his world, Paolini embeds

the magical creature of elves who speak this language on daily bases but shows no sign of influence as a proof that the ancient language dominates the magic system in the world, Alagaësia. Without any intention the language will not wreak any havoc. As a result, readers can subconsciously and automatically have a link to the fact that power of words lies on the will of the one who speaks or weaves it, for to use it, the speaker must be cautious as the Paolini himself when he plots the story about Shur'tugal, or dragon riders. A misused word may cause confusion even death. In contrast, the right one can bring power and success, which result most from the moment of epiphany, as Christopher Paolini penned “Your deeds are limited by your strength, the ‘words’ you know, and your imagination” (205) . So to speak, one’s knowledge of language is pertinent to one’s consciousness of one’s power where epiphany will strike.

To end this section, a recap would be excellent to organize and summarize what have been mentioned above. From the beginning, etymology of epiphany is briefly introduced. Afterwards, a connection was made between epiphany and words by supporting the history and concept about the development of the words and the cooperation between the words and epiphany\ which was linked and expanded the spectrum of this concatenation through adding the transcendentalism to see the influence of epiphany through words toward human mind. Then an example of the idea of feminism’s spreading around the world is also given to fix the position and importance of epiphanic word in the real and literature world. All the ideas mentioned above inform the universality epiphany can create through words. Finally, a link was drawn toward the goal of our focus on the words’ power in the fantasy novel, the *Inheritance Cycle*. In this post-modern era, studying fiction is not only considered as a professional field to explore but also a way to reach a goal to grasp as well as enlarge the concept of universality by adding difference; that is cosmopolitanism. Michael Scott,

in his Fantasy series, *The Secret of Immortal Nicholas Flammel*, stated that “at the heart of every legend there is a grain of truth” (134). A creation of the story is based on human reason. That is why, to study fantasy, word, and epiphany, this paper inevitably takes reference to the field of psycholinguistic as well as other important literary terminology and concept in order to put the *Inheritance Cycle* as a specimen on exploration of human psychology.

Brisingr Fires up the *Brisingr*

Eragon is the first book of the *Inheritance Cycle* which debuted on February 26, 2004 having gotten its hold on the *New York bestseller* #3 and becomes #1 in the following 21 weeks. The author Christopher Paolini commences an adventure of the protagonist, Eragon in Alagaësia, the land tyrannized by an evil King, Galbatorix. Although Eragon is portrayed as an “[all-makings-classic] literary hero” in “a familiar plot”, but originality has never been one of the fantasy genre's strengths. As the result, the success of this Bildungsroman has never failed to catch readers’ eyes, as the epics come before it. (“The Egg and Him (The New York Times)”) To grab reader’s attention, Paolini must love his plot and sticks to them with precise words to “flip” the switch of mutual imagination in reader’s head, a representation similar to magic as Paolini confirm during his speech in the National Book Festival in 2012:

...when I started reading [children’s detective novel], for whatever reason, it as if a switch just got flip[ped] inside my head. And all of a sudden, instead of just seeing the words inside the pages, I could actually see the things they represented...to me, the ability of literature to take us to different places...and let us to get inside people’s head... that is the closest thing to true magic.... (05:10)

Significantly, Paolini’s passion for reading and writing was triggered by the magic of word and the epiphanic flipping inside his mind through other authors’ writing.

Following the epiphanic cycle he plots the *Inheritance Cycle*. This mutual concept formation, according to Lev Vygotsky, bears the concept: The process of attention association, imagination, “determining tendencies” cannot be conducted successfully “without the use of a sign or word.” (106) No matter words are in the life of writers or in the story, they help solve problem and retrospect past events and connect people to aid each other. Words matter no matter where they are.

Language is a powerful medium in human society. In Paolini’s *Inheritance Cycle*, the ancient language embodies “the true nature of things.” (205) Coincidentally, according to Michael Tomasello, at the early stage of the acquisition of human cognition, the capability of a spoken language comes first before the written symbol and notations. Tomasello also points out in his paper, *The Key Is Social Cognition*, due to the development of a civilization, the invention of words is necessary for the communication in conspecific, English-the-same-species relationship, back and forth problem solving, and navigation of education. (48) That is to say, we perceive things through our senses and reason first and to better the formation of society, words were introduced into the world of human beings. What this paper deals with now is to demonstrate a word-to-epiphany process or to speak correctly, conscious-to-word-to-epiphany process in the book analysis of the bildungsroman of *Inheritance Cycle*.

When it comes to epiphany, words categorize the events that have a big role to play as a trigger. From The Nativity Story of Jesus Christ mentioned above, to reach the epiphanic point, people inevitably face challenges in life and try to figure out a solution. Dealing with difficulties is an important part in one’s life, and it is a part of growing up. As a result, epiphany can happen in every corner of the world for human’s survival and improvement. Dedre Gentner in his paper, *Why We’re So Smart*, argued that the reason why human species becomes better than other animal is that we

possess a propensity of perceptual and conceptual way of reasoning to categorize the events that befall on people throughout history. (195) That is to say, people think and learn from the past. He also made an assumption that “it is participation in human language and culture that gives our edge [over other species].”(196) According to historical texts, people also find different civilization thrived after struggling with elements as well as we put into words *wyrd* or fate. To remember the feat they had done, epic would be sung by bards. Thus, stories became repetitive but innovative forms appeared and re-appear again. Most of them are bildungsroman for the purpose of learning and passing down through words, which may kindle epiphany. In the book analysis of *Inheritance Cycle*, the hottest word to fire up the epiphanic success is *Brisingr*.

“*Brisingr!*” yelled Eragon as a welt of raw vigilance triggered his instinct to counter-attack the Urgal, a monstrous warrior with horn, threatening to annihilate his being and release an arrow “hissing” and “crackling” with blue fire. The Urgal died immediately. (Paolini, 198) Powerful as the word is in the novel, the creation behind the word of ancient language roots from a very old language proved when Paolini said in his youtube video, *Christopher Discusses the Creation of the Ancient Language*, “I got started on the creation of the ancient language by burrowing through a book,... which is the *Dictionary of Word Origins*...I need a magical word for fire, and as I was going through the book, I ended finding a very obscure origin word for fire, which was ‘*brisingr*’”(0:05) . *Brisingr* is the strongest example to demonstrate the true nature of the imitation of word with surroundings when human strove to invent word to interpret his or her observation. It is the sparkle sound of *brisingr* mimics the dry twig burst asunder in fire is the attraction of the word that attract Paolini into this adaption in contrast to the smooth sound in other fantasy novels, like the Tolkien’s elven words (1:10) . From the interview, Paolini has demonstrated a struggle he had

been through to, as human being's nature of reasoning to better his predecessor by being innovative to choose a new style of creating words that is based on history and mythology. The effect of brisingr causing the death of the Urgal who almost kills Eragon bears the similar power of naming in the human language system, which coincide with the Sapir-Whorf Hypothesis. Specifically, the hypothesis implicated the fact that the mother tongue of different ethnics group will have an influence on the thought and perspectives of the people; as the result, will make us differ from other races. (Gentner and Goldin-Meadow 62) The strength of Brisingr and the ancient language in the following story of the *Inheritance Cycle* as this paper goes on. For now, the paper wants to focus how systems of words affect human beings and how this characteristic makes them different from the animals.

Human beings are creative. They interpret a nature element by refracting their function and particularity suited for their daily life into connection of symbol. Our understanding may vary from culture to culture. However, the feature of fire we categorize is not unimaginable. They included "energy", "power", "passion", "action", "sexuality", "creativity", "authority", "consumption", and "the untamed." ("Fire Symbols and Meanings") It is a suitable discovery for Eragon, to instinctly know the word of fire in ancient language. Fire is one of the important elements to mark the beginning of human civilization. It serves for the protection from wild animal and helps enjoy a hearty and healthy meal. Fire helps people to see more clearly during night. Most importantly, a destructive fire also heralds the new life sprouts to enter the cycle of nature. Naturally, they symbolize the fire, propagating more ideas as the result from a single word. As the story goes on, we can find more and more symbolization as well as the importance of fire used in the novel.

In the *Eldest*, the second book of the *Inheritance Cycle*, Paolini plots that Eragon comes to the elves capital, Ellesméra in the forest, Du Weldenvarden to attend the

training for the rites-of-passage of each past dragon riders' education; that is to learn magic, ancient language, and to know what required to be a true rider.

As in the Extract, the first step toward epiphany is suffering. In the first book, *Eragon*, Eragon was bothered by a scar, which frequently convulsed him. He got the scar during the battle under Farthen Dûr, the Dwarf city underground after the retaliation from the Shade Durza who slashed him when Eragon killed him with the word, *Brisingr*. The first commence of Eragon convulsion is when he and his guards camped for the night before Ceris, the post of elven city. When he sparred with his imaginative enemies for practice, the seizure assaulted him without warning. As a result, he fell into the victim of void and pain. Since then the spasm sent the shiver to Eragon, he asked, "How can I train...How can I fight or use magic?..." To comfort Eragon, Arya, the elven woman Eragon has crush on, replied, "You can sit and watch. You can listen. You can read. And you can learn." (227) Key to epiphany is, as Issac Newton said, Standing on the shoulders of giants; namely, learning from the past in order to deal with the present and create the future. ("The meaning and origin of the expression Standing on the shoulders of giants") The way to learn from past in order to deal with the problem from present is listen to the words from the experienced, which is the purpose for Eragon to go to Ellesméra.

Eragon was anxious about his scarred back even when he reached the Pinewood City, Ellesméra successfully. He still suspected if he could succeed in his training. The suffering combined with confusion before the epiphany strikes can be seen here. After Eragon greeted the elf Queen, *Islanzadí Dröttning*, the mother of Arya, he was lead to a red-clover-covered knoll where he met his and Sapphira's teachers, gigantic golden-scale dragon upon whose neck sat an elf cladded in dazzling armor of gold. The elf is called Oromis and his Dragon, *Glaedr* the last Rider pair survived after Galbatorix erased all Riders and their Dragon. This part matches with the part when

Virgin Mary was predicted a child by an angel, as an intermittent epiphany in the story of *the Eldest*.

The process of epiphany is a continuing flow of shining refraction that electrifies the switch in people's consciousness which triggers the action of one person who later stimulate the tinder potential for next epiphany. One of Eragon's training in Ellesméra is meditation in the clearing. Oromis assign him to feel the energy of every being in the wood. By extending his consciousness, Eragon after spent numerous months training, his sentient cognizance of life of every organism has increased. He suddenly understood and appreciated the whole strength of each being. "He allowed himself to become a nonentity, a void, a receptacle for the voices of the world. Nothing escaped his attention, for his attention was focus on nothing He was the forest and its inhabitants." Eragon at this epiphanic moment experiences Emerson's transcendentalism in *Nature* (805). A parallel can be draw to the stream of epiphany and the transcendental concept, for as epiphany glimmering on the stream of consciousness, the constellation of consciousness of each being, for Eragon, is as "bright" as each "stars" shimmering the "omnipresent glow" (804). A comparison can be made to the influence of epiphany and Emersonian thinking since epiphany can strike one person after another, which resemble his quotation, "'il piu nell' uno.' Nothing is quite beautiful alone; nothing but is beautiful in the whole." (41) One of Emerson's ideas is that humans are as pieces of organ of the nature. Like Butterfly effect, an action influences each other. As a result, the process of epiphany which causes the chain effect in the world can be interpreted to the concept of glowing point that connected the web of life toward the whole world. This thought, therefore, is proved that Inheritance Cycle contained the insinuation of the topic, how epiphany takes place.

However, Eragon was still troubled by his seizure caused by the scar on his back

which was the curse from the Shade Durza. As his training goes on, his body continuing broke down. Nonetheless, as epiphany catch people by surprise, Eragon is unexpectedly cured by a dragon specter summoned by two elves, Iduna and Nēya. “Our gift to you” is the sentence Eragon heard before his scar was burnt as if a pour of incandescent heat. (703) Amazingly, when Eragon woke up from the trance, he found not only the disappearance of his scar but also the acquisition of elven speed, strength, as well as sensibility. Perchance, Paolini provides another hint of what epiphany can influence a person even the whole world because at this point Eragon’s newly-gained ability had guarantee his success in overthrowing the monarch and saving the whole race in Alagaësia.

Notwithstanding the newly-found ability and the training, Eragon failed later on the Battle of Burning Plain to defeat a new Rider with the red dragon who turns out to be his best friend, Murtagh with his dragon, Thorn. Murtagh caught Eragon another suffering, as the suffering before next epiphany, by robbing him of his blade, Zar'roc. The situation was worsened as Murtagh claimed that Zar'roc is his Inheritance from Morzan, who added Galbatorix to extend his evil ambition to create his empire, and who is both Murtagh and Eragon’s father. After that Eragon’s psyche plunged into depth of agony of losing his sword and his integrity.

Due to the lack of a proper sword, Eragon could not be able to defeat his enemy as effectively as before. Because of the unfitted quality of each weapon he later picked, he realized he could not use an unappropriated weapon without putting his life in danger. By following his friend’s death, Eragon determined and voiced, “I need a sword I need a Rider’s sword.”(457) The sentence indicates the most important theme in the epiphany of the *Inheritance Cycle* because Eragon need a sword as a complete Rider. Therefore, he went back to Ellesméra to find an elf smith, Rhunön who had sworn an oath that she would not forge another tool of killing and told him a Rider’s

sword was made of a special ore called Brightsteel and she could not find one right now. Difficulties are always there before the biggest epiphany appears. Despite the fact, Eragon managed to discover there is still a Brightsteel under an ancient tree called Menoa Tree. However, the tree has been sleeping and paid no attention to Eragon's plead. Besides, Eragon dare not hurt the tree, for the tree may wreak havoc in the forest and kill him and Sapphira. Recklessly, still, Sapphira, out of her pride, burnt and ripped the tree that immediately awoke and attempted to kill them. Eragon managed to appease her and retrieve a metal for the Rider's sword.

To bypass her oath, Rhunön asked Eragon to let her consciousness guide his action. Here the final process of epiphany as mentioned in the Extract is before each epiphany stands an experienced person. In this case, Rhunön is called the best smith in the world of Alagaësia where she is the only one who can create the right sword for a Rider. The Instruction is complicated because one's body could not get used to being controlled by a stranger. As a result, the first they made was a disaster. This part indicated the less experienced must not only listen to the experienced but also digest the words into their own instinct, which coincides with the symbol in the sudden pregnancy of Virgin Mary before the Epiphany.

While Eragon pound the incandescent hot metal, Rhunön sang in ancient language whose power imbued the sword with strength and resilience. Fortunately, when Eragon and Rhunön finished their "strains of their extended duet", Rhunön praised with the sense of reverence the success of the sword and Eragon's capability by saying that is "the finest sword" she had "done the impossible." (676-678) Exhilarate as Rhunön was toward the sword, the final touch has to be left for Eragon to give the sword a name, which correspond with the concept that epiphany need to be acquired by digesting the experience in person. Stymied for a while, Eragon has difficulties in choosing a right name for

his sword. However, as soon as he traces the pattern and spots a flame-like form, he suddenly thought *Brisingr*, the fire in ancient language which is the first magic word he used when he killed the Urgal and Shade Durza. After Eragon said, “I am decided. Sword, I name thee *Brisingr*”, the sword burst into fire instantly. Rhunön answered Eragon’s confusion by replying,

One is that because you were involved with the forging, you imbued the blade with a portion of your personality... My other explanation is that you have discovered the true name of your sword. Perhaps both those things are what has happened...you have chosen well,... It is a good name for a [Rider’s] sword. (682-683)

It is after the naming that Eragon was a true Rider in full by the standard in the book of *Inheritance Cycle*. *Brisingr*, the sword which can breathe fire like a dragon, has not only become the qualified sword for a Rider and a Dragon, practically in story and symbolically in the representation of epiphany. *Brisingr*, the fire as mentioned above is a symbol of death and birth as well as the suitable choice of the burst of epiphanic power of creation. By wielding the sword and the new-found-elf power, Eragon later in the end of the *Inheritance Cycle* defeats the evil King Galbatorix and saves the whole *Alagaësia*. As an only Rider, who traverses the obstacles and reaches the epiphany glory, it is his responsibility to inspire the next generation of the Rider to keep guarding and protecting his homeland. The importance of *Brisingr* is not only affect Eragon but also the author Christopher Paolini himself, for he does name the third book, *Brisingr*. During one of his signing-book tour, a video, Christopher Paolini Unveil *Brisingr* “Why did I choose *Brisingr* as the title of the book?...it’s the first magical word that shows up in the series and it’s the first word of magic that Eragon uses....”(01:52) The relationship between words and epiphany from the story and the book title reveals that *Brisingr*, the magical word for fire really affect the author’s

life and the *Inheritance Cycle*.

Brisingr fires An Inheritance Cycle

To conclude this paper of the affirmed relationship and influence between words epiphany and in the fantasy *Inheritance Cycle*, it is appropriate to put the thought from Paolini and the thought from other people. In his interview, Christopher Paolini talks about Inheritance book 3 *Brisingr*, Paolini confessed

...when I returned from the book tour of the *Eldest*, I started working on the third book right away...when I looked at that thinking, ‘boy! There is a lot story here...at that point I begin to realize ...the Inheritance Trilogy should become the Inheritance Cycle...it was the big shift for me to make that decision.’” (01:05)

As being proved in the interview, Paolini gets the epiphany in his plots which lead to the creation of the *Inheritance Cycle*. The naming he chose for the title is perfect because as epiphany’s repetitive quality through the human history, the title implied that epiphany is a cycle process, which would be passed down and improved from generation to generation. The *Inheritance Cycle* which help the Christopher Paolini builds his writing career will undoubtedly influence people who read it and inspire more people in the future, which James A. Owen in the Introduction of *Secrets of the Dragon Riders* confirmed, “...Paolini has simply done what all the great author have done before him: retold the stories common to us all from a unique point of view.”(6) Through the *Inheritance*, *Brisingr* really fires people’s imagination in the fantasy world.

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