

## Aether's Hero's Journey in *Genshin Impact* (2020)

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### Abstrak

Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi penggambaran Perjalanan Pahlawan, sebagaimana diuraikan oleh Christopher Vogler, dalam gim populer *Genshin Impact* (2020), dengan fokus pada perjalanan protagonis Aether melalui wilayah Mondstadt. Menggunakan kerangka Perjalanan Pahlawan, penelitian ini menganalisis bagaimana setiap tahapan dari "Dunia Biasa" hingga "Kembali dengan Elixir" direpresentasikan dalam misi, cutscene, dan interaksi karakter dalam gim. Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa Aether digambarkan secara jelas dalam struktur naratif klasik, yaitu dua belas tahapan perjalanan sang pahlawan, dari "Dunia Biasa" hingga "Kembali dengan Elixir", membentuk perkembangan Aether melalui tahapan-tahapan ini, yang menggambarkan pertumbuhan dan transformasinya menjadi seorang pahlawan.

**Kata Kunci:** Perjalanan pahlawan; pertumbuhan; pahlawan; transformatif

### Abstract

This study explores the depiction of the Hero's Journey, as outlined by Christopher Vogler, in the popular game *Genshin Impact* (2020), focusing on protagonist Aether's journey through the Mondstadt region. Using the Hero's Journey framework, this research analyzes how each stage-from "Ordinary World" to "Return with the Elixir" is represent in the quest, cutscenes, and character interactions in the game. The result analysis that Aether is clearly depicted within the classical narrative structure twelve stages of the hero's journey which are "Ordinary World" to "Return with the Elixir" shape Aether's progression through these stages depicts his growth and transformation into a hero.

**Keyword:** Hero's journey; growth; hero; transformative

### INTRODUCTION

Similar to heroes found in many literary works such as movies, novels, comics, and video animation, heroes are not only in literary works, but are also in games, one of which is *Genshin Impact* (2020) game, where the main protagonist, a hero, embarks on a journey set in a world of fantasy and adventure. The game's narrative centers around the Aether, who embarks on a vast quest through the world of Teyvat, searching for his missing sibling while solving the problems he finds himself in. This journey, which mirrors the classic hero's story, is the core of the game, with the Aether overcoming challenges, forging new alliances, and uncovering the mysteries of the world. The game's plot aligns with the traditional elements of the hero's journey of growth, transformation, and triumph over obstacles (Buchanan-Oliver & Seo, 2012).

In addition, *Genshin Impact* (2020) is an open-world action role-playing game (ARPG) set in the expansive world of Teyvat, the game invites players to take on the role of the Traveler, a character separated from their sibling after a fateful encounter with an unknown god. Stranded in a strange world, the Aether embarks on a

quest to reunite with their sibling, uncovering the secrets of Teyvat and forging new relationships with allies along the way. Each region in the game is governed by a unique elemental Archon, whose power shapes the landscape and narrative, providing both thematic depth and engaging challenges. Since its release, in *Genshin Impact* (2020) game has achieved immense success, generating \$1 billion in revenue within six months and earning accolades such as *Best Mobile Game at The Game Awards 2021* and *the PlayStation Partner Awards Grand Award 2023*. Praised for balancing accessibility with depth, the game attracts both casual and dedicated players while drawing cultural inspiration from real-world locations and folklore, enriching its narrative and solidifying its status as a global phenomenon.

The Hero's Journey is widely used in the game *Genshin Impact* (2020) found in heroic tales throughout history and across cultures, where the main character evolves into a heroic figure by confronting and overcoming challenges (Williams, Clive. 2019). The Hero's Journey is a framework that trail a character's path from being called away from their ordinary life to undertake a specific mission and ultimately returning

home as a hero. This structure is present in nearly all forms of storytelling, ranging from ancient mythology and folklore to religious narratives, as well as modern fiction, particularly in the fantasy and science fiction genres (Noormansyah, R., & Arifianto, B. D. 2023). The Aether is a perfect example of this study, he's separated from his sibling and thrown into a strange world without a Vision, the divine power many others possess, setting the stage for a transformative journey. In game *Genshin Impact* (2020) exemplifies, this player guides the Aether through trials, meet allies, and grow through adversity, similar to traditional myths portraying the hero's evolution.

This journey mirrors the classic hero narrative, where the protagonist ventures from the familiar to a new world. Kobacker (2016) confronting extraordinary forces and returning with newfound knowledge or power that benefits others. In this context, the Traveler's transition into the world of Teyvat forces them to adapt and rise to challenges, transforming their role from an outsider to a pivotal figure in the world's unfolding destiny. The role of the player becomes a critical narrative tool, as their decisions and interactions guide the progression of the story. Players spend most of their energy and time interacting with the main text in the game (Liu, Ruoyu. 2024).

The research is guided by one key question: How is Aether's Hero's Journey depicted in the Mondstadt region in *Genshin Impact* (2020)? By applying Vogler's (2007) Hero's Journey framework, the study explores the stages of Aether's journey begin "Ordinary World" to "Return with the Elixir" examines how these elements contribute to his transformation and growth. This research not only provides insight into how classical narrative structures are adapted in modern interactive media but also contributes to the academic discourse on video game narratives. By focusing on the Hero's Journey in *Genshin Impact* (2020), this study highlights the potential of video games to deliver complex, transformative storytelling experiences, enriching the broader field of narrative theory in digital media.

This section reviews four previous study discussing hero's journey. The first study was conducted by Sophia Riley Kobacker in 2019. Kobacker argues that the classic Hero's Journey often doesn't represent women in strong or active roles. By creating a new structure for the Female Hero's Journey, Kobacker shows how this model can help tell more powerful and realistic stories about women. The original screenplay, *Little Bit Long Way*, demonstrates that this new approach can lead to successful films with female protagonists, offering a

better way to represent women in media (Kobacker, 2014). Meanwhile, a study conducted by Damayanti and Munjid (2020) analyzed how Siddhartha's character growth is analyzed using Joseph Campbell's Hero's Journey. It is shown that twelve out of the seventeen stages of the Hero's Journey are followed by Siddhartha's journey. The "Belly of the Whale" stage, which appears later, marks a key turning point in his growth. The authors explain that Siddhartha changes from being a self-centered person to a wise and flexible one, illustrating how Campbell's model helps to understand his character development (Damayanti & Munjid, 2021).

Another study by Nuriya, Sisfiamuhsha, Aulia, Fahriany (2024) explored how *Genshin Impact* (2020) contributes to enhancing students' vocabulary mastery and the development of 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, specifically within the context of English Education majors at the State Islamic University of Syarif Hidayatullah Jakarta. The researchers examined students' perceptions and experiences with the game as an alternative tool for language learning. The findings reveal that playing *Genshin Impact* (2020) positively influences vocabulary acquisition and allows students to apply their newly learned words in context. Additionally, the game fosters 21st-century skills, including critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, as students engage with its interactive, narrative-driven environment. The researchers conclude that game *Genshin Impact* (2020) can be an effective and engaging medium for improving both language skills and essential future-oriented competencies, suggesting that students might consider incorporating gaming into their educational practices for a more dynamic learning experience. (Rahma Nuriyah et al., 2024).

Dien's study (2023) investigated the effectiveness of using *Genshin Impact* (2020) as game-based learning to enhance students English vocabulary. The study employs a quasi-experimental design to compare two groups: one using *Genshin Impact* game as a learning medium and the other relying on traditional methods. The study finds that students who used the game showed significantly better vocabulary retention compared to those in the control group. This suggests that integrating game-based learning, like game *Genshin Impact* (2020), can provide a more engaging and effective way to learn English vocabulary (Pierre & Dien, 2023). The researcher concludes by recommending the use of such interactive tools in educational settings to motivate students and improve learning outcomes.

The first two studies explore the adaptation of the hero's journey theory to analyze character transformation in various narratives. Sophia Riley Kobacker's 2019 study highlights gender bias in the traditional hero's journey, arguing it often fails to represent women in strong roles. He introduces a new structure for the Female Hero's Journey, offering a more empowering portrayal of women, demonstrated in her screenplay *Little Bit Long Way*. The second study by Adelia Damayanti and Achmad Munjid in 2020 applies the Hero's Journey to analyze the character development of Siddhartha in Siddhartha, emphasizing how the journey transforms him from a self-centered individual to a wise, flexible figure, with key insights provided through Campbell's model.

The third and fourth studies focus on the role of game-based learning, particularly with Genshin Impact, in enhancing skills. Nuriya et al.'s 2024 study explores how *Genshin Impact* aids in improving English vocabulary and 21st-century skills, such as critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration, with students showing notable improvements. Muhammad Pierre Persada Dien's 2023 study investigates the effectiveness of *Genshin Impact* as a tool for English vocabulary development, finding that students using the game outperformed those using traditional methods in vocabulary retention, supporting the idea that game-based learning can be more engaging and effective in education. To fill this gap, this study will focus on analyzing *Genshin Impact* using the Hero's Journey framework proposed by Christopher Vogler. It is believed that the game's narrative closely follows the stages of the Hero's Journey, particularly through the character development of Aether as they explore the different regions in the game.

## METHOD

This study utilizes a narrative analysis approach based on the Hero's Journey framework outlined by Christopher Vogler (2007). The primary data source for this analysis is the game *Genshin Impact* (2020), developed by miHoYo (HoYoverse), with a particular focus on the questlines, cutscenes, character interactions, and in-game texts from the region of Mondstadt. The data will be sourced from YouTube videos that depict the quests in this region. The analysis aims to explore how the stages of the Hero's Journey are represented and how cultural and thematic aspects within Mondstadt contribute to the storytelling experience.

Data collection will involve systematic viewing and analysis of relevant scenes, with attention to character

interactions, dialogues, and plot progression. Specifically, the questlines from the Mondstadt region, as presented on YouTube, will serve as the primary material. The process will include two main steps: first, identifying key scenes that represent significant narrative moments, and second, transcribing and analyzing the significant dialogues, monologues, and visual elements, focusing on themes such as power dynamics, identity, and transformation. Supporting materials, such as screenshots and transcripts, will be gathered to ensure the accuracy of the analysis. Once the data is collected, a thematic analysis will be conducted, focusing on how the questlines in Mondstadt align with the stages of the Hero's Journey.

The analysis will examine key quests, dialogues, and cutscenes to identify pivotal moments corresponding to stages begin "Ordinary World" to "Return with the Elixir" It examines how the game follows Christopher Vogler's Hero's Journey framework, focusing on the main character's adventure, and uses the TEEL technique to explain the stages of the Traveler's journey. The chapter also addresses the two main research questions presented in first chapter. Christopher Vogler's Hero's Journey framework will serve as the primary lens for analysis, with a further exploration of how cultural elements, environmental storytelling, and character interactions within Mondstadt contribute to the protagonist's journey and the game's overall narrative.

## RESULTS AND ANALYSIS

This study analyzed how *Genshin Impact* (2020) game follows Christopher Vogler's Hero's Journey framework, focusing on the main character's adventure, and uses the TEEL technique to explain the stages of the Traveler's journey.

### **Aether's Hero's Journey depicted in Mondstadt Region in *Genshin Impact* (2020) Game**

Christopher Vogler (2007), in his book *The Writer's Journey: Mythic Structure for Writers*, presents the Hero's Journey as a narrative structure composed of twelve stages. In this game *Genshin Impact* (2020), the protagonist Aether embarks on a journey that closely mirrors Vogler's Hero's Journey, such as:

#### **Ordinary World**

In *Genshin Impact* (2020) game, Aether's "Ordinary World" revolves around his quest to find his missing sibling. At the start of the game, Aether and his sibling travel together, maintaining a sense of normalcy.

However, this peaceful existence is shattered when an unknown god separates them, forcing Aether to embark on a search for his twin, starting from the closest city. In this initial world, Aether's primary objective is clear: to reunite with his sibling. This mission helps define his character, fostering empathy in the player and establishing an emotional bond between Aether and the audience as he sets off on his journey.



Figure 1: Scene Aether and his sibling was separated

(00:02:00)

**Paimon:** "Monstad is the city of wind because they worship the god of anemo", "So perharps, you got power from god of anemo, you can find some clues there"

In this scene, after Aether and his sibling arrive in the new world, they initially resist staying but are stopped by an unknown force that compels them to remain. A conflict ensues, which leads to the siblings' defeat and separation. To find his lost sibling, Aether embarks on an adventure, starting with a journey to a nearby town where he is left stranded.

The phrase, "You can find some clues there," suggests that Aether will uncover vital information about his sibling's whereabouts in this location. It implies that through exploration and careful observation of his surroundings, Aether will be able to gather the necessary clues to aid in his search. This statement hints that the answers he seeks may be hidden around him, with Aether's skills playing a key role in discovering them. These early moments in *Genshin Impact* (2020) mirror the Hero's Journey structure, specifically the "Ordinary World" phase, where Aether is stranded in an unfamiliar world and begins his quest to find his sibling.

### The Call to Adventure

"The Call to Adventure" occurs when Aether arrives in Mondstadt, where he starts to learn more about the world

and seeks information regarding his sibling's location. This moment serves as a significant turning point, as Aether encounters a new challenge that shifts his focus away from his original quest and compels him to confront the unknown. Initially, Aether may hesitate to give up his hope of reuniting with his brother, but the escalating dangers in Mondstadt eventually drive him to embrace this new path.



Figure 2: Scene Amber explain the situation

(00:22:20)

**Amber:** "storm terror is attacking mondstadt itself"

In Figure 2, the scene shows Amber explaining the critical situation in Mondstadt to Aether, revealing that Stormterror, a powerful and menacing dragon, is attacking the city. Her statement, "Stormterror is attacking Mondstadt itself," acts as the spark that ignites the protagonist's journey, marking the beginning of the "Call to Adventure." This crucial moment marks the start of Aether's involvement in the conflict, urging him to leave his familiar world and enter the chaos unfolding around him. Amber's revelation not only triggers the events that follow but also sets the foundation for Aether's transformation, pushing him into an unexpected role that will ultimately shape his journey.



Figure 3: Scene Amber invite Aether and keya

(00:22:26 – 00:22:27)



**Amber:** “Kaya, traveler you’ve come at the right time we must”

In the figure above, Amber’s face indicates serious situations and need to be handled as soon as possible. “Kaya, traveler you’ve come at the right time we must” the quote marks an crucial moment in the story, as she directly asks Aether to help with the current situation. In this phrase “we must” shows the shift from Aether just being an observer to actively facing the challenges ahead. The urgent request highlights the seriousness of the situation and Aether's key role in solving it. In the Hero's Journey, the Call to Adventure is a pivotal stage that signals the hero’s departure from the known into the unknown. urging them to rise up and face the challenges ahead.

### Refusal of the Call

After going through the initial stages, the hero starts to grapple with the looming conflict, feeling the uncertainty and fear that accompany being part of such a struggle. This moment compels them to confront the possible outcomes of their actions and the dangers that lie ahead. The hero becomes more conscious of the challenges they will encounter, weighed down by the emotional burden of the decisions they must make. These concerns are a vital aspect of their development, prompting them to question their determination and ready themselves for the trials to come.



Figure 4: Scene the dragon raging

(00:09:14)

This scene shows Stormterror (Dvalin), a key boss in *Genshin Impact*. Dvalin is a mighty and terrifying dragon who becomes a significant obstacle for the Traveler in Mondstadt. His fearsome appearance and immense power are pivotal to the story, symbolizing a huge challenge that the Traveler will be facing.



Figure 5: Scene Aether after meet the dragon

(00:09:58)

**Paimon:** “Yeah, Paimon gets why you’re worried”

In this scene, Aether and Paimon’s “worried” illustrates their hesitation when confronted with the impending danger of encountering the dragon Devalin. At this stage, the protagonist is uncertain about involving himself in the challenges ahead. This fear, which contributes to the hero’s initial reluctance, plays a key role in the narrative, paving the way for the eventual embrace of the adventure and the actions that will drive the hero’s development throughout the story.

### Meeting with the Mentor

Encountering the Mentors is a crucial turning point for the Hero, as they meet figures or sources of wisdom who provide essential guidance for the journey ahead. These Mentors equip the Hero with new abilities, knowledge, or tools that are vital for overcoming future challenges. Whether through direct instruction, sharing valuable skills, or offering advice, the Mentors prepare the Hero to face the upcoming trials in unfamiliar territory. This moment of learning serves as an important shift, giving the Hero the confidence and strength needed to move forward on their quest.



Figure 6: Scene Aether new ability to fight Stormterror

(00:21:04)

**Mysterious Voice:** "Now, Concentrate. See yourself grasping the wind. Harness its energy."

In the scene above, a mysterious voice instructs Aether on how to use his new ability. The voice commands, "Concentrate," directing Aether to use his power to temporarily block Devalin's attack on the city. This guidance represents the mentor's role in teaching the hero to harness new abilities, marking a significant moment of empowerment crucial to the hero's transformation throughout the journey.

In the Hero's Journey, the mentor's encounter is an essential phase that provides the hero with the tools and skills necessary to face upcoming challenges. The mentor's advice equips the hero with new capabilities, strengthening them to tackle the trials that will test their courage and determination.

### Crossing the Threshold

Crossing the Threshold signifies a pivotal moment in the Hero's Journey, where the Aether chooses to fully commit to the adventure ahead, leaving behind the safety and familiarity of their previous life. This transition represents a bold step into the unknown, marking a definitive break from their ordinary world. It often involves facing significant fears, grappling with uncertainty, or experiencing an event so transformative that it forces the hero to move forward. Once the threshold is crossed, the hero cannot return to their old life, and they are irrevocably immersed in the challenges and experiences that lie ahead. This stage is not only about physical departure but also about the psychological shift that propels the hero into uncharted territory, where growth, transformation, and new discoveries await. The hero's journey is now set in motion, and they must navigate the obstacles that will ultimately define their path.



Figure 7: Scene Aether feel empathy to people of Monstadt

(00:20:30 – 00:20:47)

In this scene, Aether takes a significant step in his journey by crossing the threshold into the chaotic world of Mondstadt. Upon witnessing the widespread devastation caused by Stormterror, Aether is visibly resolute in his decision to act. This moment closely follows the structure of the Hero's Journey, where crossing the threshold marks the hero's commitment to leave behind the comfort of the ordinary world and step into the unknown. As Aether approaches Mondstadt, the peaceful streets are now filled with confusion and panic. People rush in all directions, their expressions filled with fear and urgency. Buildings that once stood tall and proud now appear vulnerable, with smoke rising from the rooftops and the sounds of chaos echoing through the air.

Aether, standing at the edge of this turmoil, feels the gravity of the situation and realizes that something catastrophic has disrupted the harmony of the city. His heart races as he attempts to piece together the cause of this destruction, knowing that this moment could be pivotal in his quest. The city that once seemed tranquil and safe is now teetering on the brink of disaster, and Aether must act swiftly to uncover the source of the upheaval and restore balance to Mondstadt and its people.

This scene marks Aether's crossing of the threshold in the Hero's Journey. Up until this point, his journey has been characterized by smaller victories and moments of self-discovery, but now, faced with the chaos in Mondstadt, he is compelled to confront the harsh reality of his mission. The city he once admired is no longer the sanctuary he knew, and this disruption forces him to take decisive action. By stepping into the role of a hero, Aether moves beyond the familiar and embraces his fate as both a protector and a seeker of answers. This marks a clear shift from his ordinary world into one that is far more complex and fraught with danger. This moment of transformation not only underscores Aether's growth but

also sets the stage for the many trials and challenges that lie ahead.

### Tests, Allies, Enemies

After stepping into the Special World, Aether is propelled into a realm that is starkly different from the familiar Ordinary World, where the rules, dangers, and dynamics are unpredictable and foreign. In this phase, the Hero encounters numerous challenges, both external and internal, that test their determination, abilities, and character. Along the way, they form alliances with individuals who provide support, guidance, or companionship, while also facing enemies who obstruct or challenge their journey.



Figure 8: Scene Keya Asking Aether

(00:22:10 – 00:22:15)

**Kaeya:** “you’ve actually got the power to go up against the dragon.”, “are you a new ally or a new storm”

The question in the cutscene, “Are you a new ally or a new storm?” serves as a direct challenge, urging Aether to prove that he is trustworthy and capable of overcoming the challenges ahead. This moment is crucial, marking the “Tests, Allies, and Enemies” stage of the Hero’s Journey, where the Hero must navigate uncertainty and decide who can be counted on. It compels Aether to show his strength, wisdom, and intentions, distinguishing himself from potential threats or deceit. The scene emphasizes the significance of forming alliances and confronting enemies, as each encounter shapes the Hero’s ability to determine who is trustworthy and who may pose obstacles.

This scene highlights the “Tests, Allies, and Enemies” phase of the Hero’s Journey, where the Hero is tested and must prove their abilities. During this stage, the Hero faces various challenges that not only test their strength and resourcefulness but also reveal their true character. As Aether moves through these trials, he encounters both

potential allies offering support and enemies presenting significant risks. This phase is essential for the Hero, forcing them to evaluate who can be trusted and how to manage the intricate web of relationships that will ultimately determine the success or failure of their mission.

### Approach to the Inmost Cave

In this phase, Aether’s preparation for the impending confrontation represents a critical point in his journey, as he gathers the strength, resources, and allies needed to face the challenges ahead. This stage is typically marked by careful strategic planning, where the Hero evaluates their progress, identifies the obstacles they must overcome, and devises a plan for the ultimate confrontation.



Figure 9: Scene Aether invited by Jean to defeat the stormterror

(00:24:10 – 00:27:23)

**Jean:**

“Knights of Favonius, time is against us”

“The storm is rampant; there is no point in maintaining a defensive position.”

“All right we need to take initiative and act before the situation escalates

In the scene above, the alliance is shown making plans. The dialogue, “Knights of Favonius, time is against us,” “The storm is raging, there’s no point in holding a defensive position,” and “Alright, we need to take initiative and act before the situation worsens,” reflects the group’s realization that their current strategy is no longer effective. The shift from defense to proactive action signifies a key moment of empowerment, where the hero begins to take responsibility for the chaos around them and takes control of their destiny. This decision marks a critical turning point in the story, as the group moves from simply responding to the storm to actively shaping their response. This moment aligns with the



"Approach to the Inmost Cave" stage of the Hero's Journey, where the hero prepares for the final confrontation and fully accepts their role in overcoming the challenge. By choosing to act rather than wait, the group advances toward facing the storm head-on, demonstrating their readiness to tackle whatever challenges lie ahead.

Similar to how the mentor's guidance enables the hero to harness new abilities, this change in strategy empowers the group to embrace their responsibility, indicating their preparedness to take control of their fate and move forward to the ultimate challenge. It's a moment of growth, as they realize that the situation will not improve unless they take decisive action themselves.

### **The Ordeal**

In this stage, the Hero faces their most intense and defining trial, where they must confront their deepest fears or tackle challenges unlike any they have faced before. At this point, the stakes are at their peak, and the fear of failure is overwhelming, with defeat seeming inevitable. However, it is within this crucible that the Aether undergoes their transformation. The Ordeal acts as a breaking point, pushing the Hero to their limits, but overcoming it brings a profound sense of renewal. Emerging from this trial, the Hero is permanently changed: they are stronger, wiser, and more capable. However, the enemy a formidable dragon remains an extremely tough opponent, and even with all of the Hero's power, victory will not come easily.



Figure 10: Scene The Dragon Attack Aether and allies

(1:44:01)

In the image above, Aether faces a confrontation with a massive, terrifying dragon, symbolizing the intense battle the Hero must fight at this stage. The dragon, with its immense size and strength, represents the most significant obstacle the Aether must overcome. This creature embodies the Aether's deepest fears and the

toughest challenges they've encountered thus far, aligning with the Ordeal phase of the Hero's Journey. Beyond its physical threat, the dragon also reflects Aether's internal struggles, compelling him to confront not only external dangers but also his own vulnerabilities and doubts.

Therefore, the battle with the dragon is more than just a physical confrontation; it serves as a powerful symbolic moment marking Aether's growth. In the Hero's Journey context, the Ordeal is a critical phase that tests the Hero's strength, resolve, and ability to overcome both external obstacles and internal conflicts. Facing the dragon forces Aether to confront not only the external enemy but also his own fears, insecurities, and limitations. The intensity of this battle pushes the Hero to transcend their previous self, often resulting in a shift in perspective or understanding. In this way, the fight with the dragon becomes a transformative experience, reshaping Aether's identity and emphasizing that the Ordeal is not just a struggle, but a crucial step in the Hero's path toward self-discovery and personal growth.

### **The Reward**

After conquering the Ordeal, Aether is granted a reward, which may take various forms, such as a tangible prize like a powerful weapon, or something intangible, like newfound wisdom or the steadfast loyalty of a companion. This reward serves as a moment of relief and celebration, offering the Hero a chance to reflect on their triumph and acknowledge the progress they've made. It provides a brief respite from the challenges faced, allowing the Hero to recover and regain strength before continuing their journey. However, this reward also symbolizes personal growth, acting as a reminder of the hard-won victories from past struggles and inspiring the Hero to confront the even greater challenges that await.



Figure 11: Scene Grand Master's Gift to Aether



(00:50:40)

**Jean:** “Please accept the title of Honorary Knight...”,  
“we ask for your continued assistance in finding some  
answers storm Terrors rage and strange”

The bestowing of this title represented more than just an honorary position; it was a significant recognition of Aether’s contributions and accomplishments. This gesture not only officially acknowledges Aether’s value but also strengthens the relationship between Aether and the people of Mondstadt, particularly those within the alliance. By receiving the title, Aether is recognized as a trustworthy and respected figure, solidifying their role in the story and paving the way for ongoing collaboration with the Knights of Favonius.

Jean’s declaration, “Please accept the title of Honorary Knight...” and the moment of Aether receiving the title mark the formal acknowledgment of Aether’s importance. The formal language and the visual presentation of the title underscore the significance of the moment. While initially, only members of the alliance were aware of Aether’s importance, the title’s spread throughout the community signifies Aether’s growing influence. After Aether accepts the title, Jean continues the conversation, noting, “finding some answers to Stormterror’s rage and the strange events.” This statement highlights Jean’s hope in Aether’s ability to uncover the reasons behind the dragon’s attack on Mondstadt, suggesting that the conflict is far from over.

This act of recognition, symbolized by the Honorary Knight title, serves as a tribute to Aether’s past actions in defeating the dragon. It reflects Aether’s growth as a character and their evolving role in the larger story of Mondstadt. The spread of this title throughout the city underscores the increasing influence Aether has within the community, making them a key figure in the unfolding events.

### The Road Back

As the Heroes return to the world they once knew, it becomes evident that their journey is far from complete. The challenges that lie ahead are even more daunting, often marked by powerful enemies or the ever-present threat of danger. These rising threats heighten the urgency of the Heroes’ mission, making the stakes of failure even greater. Each new challenge forces the Heroes to push past their previous limits, testing their ability to reenter the world they once understood. With each escalating trial, their determination grows stronger, driving them toward a final, decisive confrontation.



Figure 12: Scene Venti introduces the symbol of Mondstadt

(2:02:00)

**Venti:** “When you first arrived at Mondstadt, did no one  
that Mondstadt is the City of Freedom?”

In this scene, Aether returns to the ordinary world, unaware of the true nature of Mondstadt. Venti introduces him to the city’s essence by saying, “When you first arrived in Mondstadt, did no one tell you that Mondstadt is the City of Freedom?” This question not only highlights the central value of freedom that defines Mondstadt, but also encourages Aether to reflect on the practical implications of this principle. This moment signifies a symbolic shift for the Hero, reminding him that, although he is returning to a familiar place, he must now engage with the world on a deeper and more meaningful level.

The theme of freedom pushes Aether to rethink his role in Mondstadt not merely as an outsider or traveler, but as someone with the power and responsibility to protect and uphold the city’s ideals. As a result, this scene represents the Hero’s return to the “ordinary world” as more than a passive return; it is a moment of transformation and reaffirmation of purpose. Through Venti’s words, the narrative stresses that Aether’s return is not a regression, but a renewed commitment to the larger mission of his journey.

### The Resurrection

The Resurrection represents the most pivotal and transformative moment for the Heroes, serving as the ultimate trial that challenges everything they have worked for. In this final confrontation, often against their greatest adversaries or at a moment of deep self-awareness, Aether faces a critical test. To succeed, he must draw upon all the strength, wisdom, and resilience he has developed throughout his journey. This defining

moment showcases the full extent of Aether's transformation, as he surpasses his former self. It marks the peak of his external battle and serves as a powerful confirmation of his growth and evolution.



Figure 13: Scene Aether face the dragon

(2:04:28)

**Venti:** *"Just like the last time, I shall channel anemo energy for you."*

**Aether:** *"I knew it! It was your voice I heard."*

In this scene, Aether confronts the dragon once again, but the difference lies in his heightened intensity and readiness to face the challenge. The phrase "Just like the last time" references Aether's previous encounter, where he received energy from the Anemo God. Venti's words, *"I will channel Anemo energy for you,"* highlight the strong bond and trust that has developed between Aether and his allies. This support not only represents Aether's personal growth but also symbolizes the unity he inspires among those around him.

The line, *"I knew it! It was your voice I heard,"* marks a significant and emotionally impactful moment for Aether. This acknowledgment goes beyond simple auditory recognition; it signifies Aether's growing intuition and emotional connection with those guiding him. A key aspect of transformation in the Hero's Journey is the Hero's ability to trust not only external allies but also their own inner voice. Here, Aether's recognition of Venti's presence and guidance reflects the inner strength and confidence he has gained throughout his journey. The line emphasizes that the Hero's strength is not solely physical, but rooted in trust, clarity, and a renewed sense of purpose.

Together, these moments highlight the Hero's transformation from self-doubt to confidence and connection. Aether no longer questions his abilities; instead, he faces the climactic battle with clarity and inner strength. This scene embodies the essence of the Awakening stage in the Hero's Journey, demonstrating how Aether's growth equips him to overcome the final

challenge and fulfill his role as a true Hero.

### Return with The Elixir

Returning with the Elixir symbolizes the knowledge and wisdom Aether has gained through his trials. This Elixir is not a physical object, but a deeper understanding of the elemental powers and his connection to the Archons, particularly the influence of Venti. This newfound insight has the potential to broaden Aether's perspective, guiding him towards new revelations that will positively influence his journey ahead. Aether's return to his true mission marks a significant transformation; he is no longer just an adventurer in search of answers, but now possesses a clearer understanding of the forces at work. This return not only reaffirms Aether's primary goal but also opens up new possibilities for his future. It suggests that Aether's growth, strengthened by the wisdom he has gained, will lead to more adventures and discoveries as he continues his quest to find his sibling.



Figure 14: Scene Venti sharing information to Aether  
(2.33.00)

**Venti:** *"But for which of The Seven took your sister... I'm sorry. I don't know"*

**Venti:** *"A Gnosis is a higher-order nexus of elemental manipulation and is emblematic of an Archon's status as one the of The Seven."*

Venti's words, *"But as for which of the Seven brought your sister... Sorry, I don't know,"* in the scene above, bring the focus back to Aether's original mission, his quest to find his missing sibling, which had been temporarily set aside when he became involved in the troubles of Mondstadt. Previously, Aether's quest was not directly mentioned, but now, he is returning to his primary goal. The following sentence, *"Gnosis is a higher-order relationship of elemental manipulation and is emblematic of the Archon's status as one of the Seven,"* introduces Aether to a deeper understanding of the elemental powers that help sustain the strength of

characters with visions. While this knowledge is not fully complete, it adds a new layer of depth to Aether's journey and sets the stage for future discoveries.

This section emphasizes that the Hero's journey is not solely about physical triumph, but also about Aether's return to his original mission: to gather information about his sibling. This marks his "Return," which reflects his main goal. Additionally, it highlights how gaining a deeper understanding of elemental power serves as a key part of the Hero's transformation, providing strength to face the challenges ahead. Venti's sharing of this knowledge acts as an "elixir," propelling Aether forward in his quest, demonstrating that often, the true gifts in a Hero's journey come in the form of insight and understanding.

### CONCLUSION

This study demonstrates that Aether's Hero's Journey in the Mondstadt region of *Genshin Impact* (2020) game follows the classic structure outlined by Christopher Vogler's Hero's Journey, with key stages begin "Ordinary World" to "Return with the Elixir" marking his progression. Aether starts as a reluctant hero, thrust into the chaos of Mondstadt where the Stormterror dragon poses a threat to the city. As he becomes more involved in the region's struggles, his role shifts from that of an outsider to a protector of Mondstadt, reflecting his growing commitment to the journey. Significant moments, such as the battle with the dragon and the symbolic bestowal of the Honorary Knight title, mark his personal development and his full acceptance of the hero's role. Aether's journey in Mondstadt showcases universal themes of transformation, responsibility, and self-discovery inherent in the Hero's Journey narrative.

### SUGGESTIONS

Future research on the video game *Genshin Impact* (2020), developed by HoYoverse, could explore several avenues to further understand its narrative and thematic elements. A comparative analysis between the narrative of *Genshin Impact* (2020) and those of other story-driven games could provide valuable insights, or an exploration of the game through different thematic lenses could uncover additional layers of meaning.

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