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Hemingway's short story analysis A Farewell to Arms

Manisha Rathore

Frederick Henry believes that defeat is worse than living because life becomes horrible and lifeless as he says, "I believe we should get the war over," I said. "It would not finish if one side stopped fighting. It would only be worse if we stopped fighting... Defeat is worse... They come after you. They take your home. They take your sisters... They hang you. They come and make you be a soldier again. Not in the auto-ambulance in the infantry... I think you do not know anything about being conquered and so you think it is bad." To the ambulance driver Frederick describes that if the war is won then nothing happens but if there is a defeat everything is ruined when Frederick says to the ambulance driver that war is always either a defeat or a winning because if one is defeated then they have to pay for their failure as they take away their family, home and near and dear friends and sisters away from them so it is very essential to win a war and to avoid a defeat in war.

While war itself results in a lot of disaster and destructions so he hated killing in the war as he says,

"The whole bloody thing is crazy. Down below they blow up a little bridge. Have they leave a bridge on the main road where is everybody? Don't they try and stop them at all?" I shut up, it was none of my business; all I had to do was to go to Pordenone. I probably could not even get to Udine. The hell I couldn't. The thing to do was to be calm and not get shot or captured." Frederick feels that it is better to have an escape than to get captured or tortured by enemy as he and his fellow men lost the ambulance in the muddy road and soon realise that the German soldiers were right behind him as they leave a bridge connected to the main road to catch the enemy so Frederick too feels that it is necessary to be calm then to get captured as they would threaten and torture them if they did not go to Udine.

The struggle of these soldiers is hardbound as they are forced to stay away from their loved ones by not committing them a healthy married relationship and even if they try to run away from terror there is no escape for these loves as running away from war responsibilities results in ruin of a peaceful life too as Catherine faces death when her pregnancy gets severe she says to Frederick, "I'm not brave any more, darling. I'm all broken. They've broken me. I know it now..

But it's awful. They just keep it up till they break you". There is still a feeling that she would not die because she does not want to lose her love again. Hemingway describes not only shattered hopes but heartless giving out of a new peace and hope to overcome the struggles of life.

Struggle in the soldiers life causes destruction to nature also as,"...In the bed of the river,there were pebbled and boulders,dry and white in the sun...troops went by the house and down the road and the dust they raised powered the leaves of the trees.The trunks of the trees too were dusty and the leaves fell early that year..."

Then there is a hope to overcome this fear by strengthening and struggling hard as Catherine alone rows the boat when she elopes with Frederick as she says,"It would keep me from being too stiff...Rowing in moderation is very good for the pregnant lady"...She rowed very well but the oars were too long and bothered her.This also shows the courage and will power of a woman like Catherine who rows the boat to reach Switzerland overnight.Although the windy weather made it quite difficult for her to escape by travelling the distance of 35 kilometres or 22 miles to safely reach Switzerland so Frederick too admires Catherine for his courage and strength.Thus Hemingway describes the true struggle and bold living of true lovers in search of peace and happiness.

