



“THE THEME OF COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND POWER: IN OLD MAN AND THE SEA”

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Abstract:

In the novel ‘The Old Man and The Sea’ a voracious and noble awarded novelist Ernest Hemingway portrayed the struggle of Santiago, an old fisherman goes for fishing with courage and determination and his success.

Santiago was an old fisherman. This time he had been going daily for the eighty four days without being unable to catch any fish and went for fishing with boy Manolin.

With awe Santiago observes that the fish is two feet longer than the skiff. “But I will kill you dead before this day ends.” Yet he knew that he must kill the fish and maintain his own strength to do it and that by the same token the fish’s strength must be worn down.

Santiago becomes newly aware of what he has inside him to win. “Let him think I am more man than I am, I will be so,” or again: I will show him what man can do and what a man endures. It marks the height of Santiago’s struggle, comes on the morning struggle of the third day. The second major movement of the novel describes Santiago’s confrontation with the sharks. This struggle, through shorter in duration, is as intense as the fight with marlin. With the arrival of first shark a piteous tragedy of deprivation begins. When the marlin was attacked it was as if he himself had been attacked. Santiago kills the second and third sharks, hateful, had-smelling, “scavengers as well as killers,” with his knife tied to an oar. There is nothing left of the great marlin except the skeleton, the bony head, and the vertical tail. The novel closes on a note that cheers us. The Old man has fallen asleep, again, and we read: “He was still sleeping on his face the boy was sitting by him watching him. The old man dreaming of the lions.” Thus the novel does not end on a note of gloom and despair, but on a note of hope and optimism. In other words Santiago remains undefeated in spite of his defeat. That is why his utterance not made for defeat,” he said “A man can be destroyed but not defeated. This is how Ernest Hemingway describes the courage, determination and power of Santiago.

Key words: sea, Santiago, Manolin, marlin, sharks, struggle, power, courage, determination, defeat, victory, skeleton crucifixion and result.

Introduction:

In the novel ‘The Old Man and The Sea’ a voracious and noble awarded novelist Ernest Hemingway portrayed the struggle of Santiago, an old fisherman goes for fishing with courage and determination and his success. And the result of his hard struggle to catch marlin and the attack of sharks how ultimately he gets only the skeleton of marlin. How does he feel proud for his hard struggle at the end.

Objectives:

- To know about the Old man's struggle.
- To know about Santiago's will power.
- To know about Santiago's courage and determination.
- To come to about the acceptance of victory and defeat equally.

Scope of study : In this paper American Novel "The Old Man and the Sea" by Ernest Hemingway is referred to make understand the reader.

Methodology: To prepare this paper secondary data is referred and analytical method is used.

Santiago was an old fisherman. He generally feels to fish in a skiff in the Gulf Stream. This time he had been going daily for the eighty four days without being unable to catch any fish and went for fishing with boy Manolin.

When Santiago feels the slight, nibbling ,tentative yank on his line, he knows that an event of some importance to occur, because this the line of set for hundred fathoms , and six hundred feet down in the darkness a marlin is eating the sardines impaled on the point and shank of the hook. After the gentle tugging comes the hard pull and heavy weight when huge marlin swims off with the bait in its mouth. As Santiago prepares himself for the struggle the skiff moves slowly off towards the northwest. Four hours later the fish is still swimming steadily and the Old Man is still solidly braced with the line across his back.

With awe Santiago observes that the fish is two feet longer than the skiff. But Santiago knows that there other standards of measurement than feet or inches. That night, while the boat still moved steadily, he had spoken to the fish of his love and respect "But I will kill you dead before this day ends." It is the huntsman's code to admire the courage and the strength of that which he is out to kill. Breakfasting on raw bonito, the Old man had reflected that he would like to pass some of it down to the fish, brother. Yet he knew that he must kill the fish and maintain his own strength to do it and that by the same token the fish's strength must be worn down.

From his new knowledge of what he has against him, Santiago becomes newly aware of what he has inside him to win. It is his wish to prove his worth against a worthy adversary which, as much as any other means at his disposal, sustains the Old man in his time of stress. The first breaching suggests that Santiago is gaining the advantage. The sight of the fish is further spur, for here at last, before his eyes, is the enormous quarry, the goal towards which he moves. But the chief way in which the power outside enlarges the power inside is through Santiago's resolute comparisons. "Let him think I am more man than I am, I will be so," or again: I will show him what man can do and what a man endures. If the Old man wins, he will have proved his own worth to himself once more, which is the proof men need in order to continue with the other and everlasting endurance contest which everybody who is born in this world has go through.

It marks the height of Santiago's struggle, comes on the morning struggle of the third day. Now the marlin rises and slowly circles the boat while the Old man sweats and strains to get him close enough for harpooning. "You are killing me fish, the Old man thought. But you have a right to. Never have I seen a greater or more beautiful or a calmer or more noble thing than you, brother. Come on and kill me. I do not care who kills who." But he does care. Though his hands are sore and he is utterly exhausted, he tries one final time on the ninth circle.

The second major movement of the novel describes Santiago's confrontation with the sharks. This struggle, through shorter in duration, is as intense as the fight with marlin. The struggle with the sharks comes at a time when he has used all his strength, when his hands are stiffening round the edges of his wounds, when the muscles, when he is feeling fatigued to his very bones. Having lashed the dead marlin to his skiff, Santiago enjoys a brief respite after a work well done. Side by side, like brothers, the Old man and the marlin move through the sea. Up to now they have been, as Santiago believes, friendly and mutually respectful opponents. Now they join together against the common enemy. "If sharks come," the

Old man long ago reflected, "God pity him and me." With the arrival of first shark a piteous tragedy of deprivation begins. A series of forty-pound rippings and tearings will now gradually reduce Santiago's eighteen-foot. Fifteen-hundred-pound marlin to the skeleton he finally brings ashore. The first of the shark is a Mako, Santiago standing ready with his harpoon hears the shark tearing the marlin's flesh before he drives the point of his weapon, "with resolution and complete malignancy," into the Mako's brain. The death immediate but the loss is heavy. When the shark sinks, it takes with it forty pounds of the marlin, the harpoon and all the rope. The marlin's blood will attract other sharks. But worse than this is the mutilation of the long-fought-for prize. Santiago does not feel like looking at the marlin anymore because it has been mutilated. When the marlin was attacked it was as if he himself had been attacked. The process of "crucifixion" is now intensified.

Santiago kills the second and third sharks, hateful, had-smelling, "scavengers as well as killers," with his knife tied to an oar. But these two sharks sink into the sea they take with them fully a quarter of the marlin's best meat. "I wish it were a dream and that I had never hooked him", says the Old Man. "I am sorry about it, fish. It makes everything wrong. "The fourth shark adds yet another degree to his sense of wrong. This shark breaks Santiago's knife, carrying the blade in its brain as it follows the other two to death. By the time the Old Man has clubbed the fifth and sixth sharks to death just at sunset, a full half of the marlin has already been lost. "What will you do now if they come in the night?" asks the voice inside Santiago. "Fight them," says the Old Man aloud. "I'll fight them until I die. "But when he tries to struggle against a whole pack of them at midnight, striking at whatever heads he can see, he knows that the fight is almost useless. He loses his club, and he hits out with a tiller until it breaks, and then he attacks another of the sharks with the broken end of the tiller. A few more sharks come to attack the marlin when it is already a skeleton, but these sharks are like someone picking up crumbs from a dinner-table. There is nothing left of the great marlin except the skeleton, the bony head, and the vertical tail. The novel closes on a note that cheers us. The Old man has fallen asleep, again, and we read: "He was still sleeping on his face the boy was sitting by him watching him. The old man dreaming of the lions." In other words, the Old man is in close proximity with both the boy and the lions which symbolize his youthful strength and which are a source of inspiration to him at difficult times. Thus the novel does not end on a note of gloom and despair, but on a note of hope and optimism. In other words Santiago remains undefeated in spite of his defeat. That is why his utterance not made for defeat," he said "A man can be destroyed but not defeated.

Findings:

- a. Willingness and confidence of Santiago.
- b. His zest and respect towards his profession.
- c. To know about success and failure in human life.

Suggestions:

- i. Struggle is important rather than that of success and failure.
- ii. Man should never lose confidence.
- iii. Success may surely follow if we are confident and determined.

Conclusion:

This is how Ernest Hemingway describes the courage, determination and power of the Old man Santiago. Very realistically reflected the character Santiago to give the message to the readers about the human struggle with courage, power and determination.

References:

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