

## **LECTURE 1**

### **Life and background of the author**

Dr .Clarence E. Hemingway was a physician in Oak Park , he was also a domesticated husband to Grace Hall Hemingway ,a religious woman .The Heming ways had six children ,and he never failed in his duties as head of the family ,he was a good husband and an affectionate father .He was a solid and well – trained citizen who somehow felt it necessary to escape from the domestic hearth at every opportunity. Using "Great outdoors "as a means of asserting whatever element of manhood or independence he felt was lacking in his family – directed home.

This conflict in his father –the conflict between the independent, masculine world of outdoors ,of hunting and fishing and physical endurance, as contrasted with the over-domesticated and somehow less manly town life-was later to be remember by Ernest Hemingway .for whom the mountains were always to be a symbol of masculine ,clarity and purity, while the city was to remain a symbol of danger.

Young Ernest , the second of the Hemingway children ,born in 1898, was profoundly influenced by his father .He followed the example of Clarence ,and made it clear that the only instrument he valued were fishing rods and guns well cared for

The typewriter ,too was to become an instrument for the young Ernest Hemingway .Although he was never a very

popular boy at school ,he quickly demonstrated his ability to write accurately and well and became the editor of his school paper .That he got the job was a tribute to his skill rather than his social success , for either through choice or nature ,he was never a member of the select social crowd .Indeed ,his school experience was often lonely and not always pleasant ,but it did provide one lesson that Hemingway was never to forget , life is a hard contest which only the tough-minded are likely to survive.

Certain aspects of Hemingway's life at this time reflected his growing restlessness .He was determined ,for example ,to learn boxing ,but was by no means a natural fighter .He achieved some mastery of boxing only at the cost of a broken nose and a serious eyes injury. He actually ran away from home twice during his school years ,and spent months "on the road "working at a variety of temporary and often laborious jobs.

When America entered The Great Crusade 1917 , Heming way tried to en list .His eye injury ,however kept him out of the service ,and he had to settle for a job as reporter on the Kansas City Star , It became impossible for Hemingway to remain in Kansas City while thousands of other Americans were going off to earn their "red badge of courage" in battle and to seek adventure.

He volunteered to serve as an ambulance driver on the Italian front ,and left his country with high expectations, if he could not be a soldier ,he would nevertheless taste the bitter glory of war.

It was a very brief taste ,and far more bitter than glorious, only a few weeks after arriving in the combat zone, Ernest Hemingway was hit by a stray shell ,receiving a serious wound that was to leave scars on his mind and spirit ,as well as on his body.

It was in many ways an absurd wound and one that had very little to do with soldiering at all. According to Hemingway 's own testimony ,he was never to forget the impact of that experience . It was not so much the pain that he remembered ,as the manner in which the pain was inflicted a helpless ,passive receiving of a blow from an invisible fist of machinery and death . Indeed, it was the passivity rather than the pain that was to remain a nightmare for Hemingway throughout his career. A situation in which a man could be flung on his back ,to receive rather than give a decisive blow, threatened far more than life , it threatened manhood itself. In a very real sense Hemingway 's life and his work were to be devoted to finding and exploring those areas of existence in whic men could take the initiative from pain and death by surrounding it with form. With ritual and with willed endurance. There is ,in short ,an essential line of causation from Hemingway 's traumatic experience during World War 1 to his subsequent preoccupation with the masculine role. In *The Old Man and the Sea* ,Santiago was alone in his pain , his own endurance and his own will and the same is true of the bullfight arena or the hunt .