

## Lecture 4

"Fish ---I love you and respect you very much .But I will kill you dead before this day ends. "

Santiago says this to the fish before the bird approaches his boat for a chat .He talks to the fish as if it is equal in battle ,and he has great respect for it as a noble creature.

He speaks of his commitment to fulfilling his job as a fisher man ,because it is more than a job . it is his entire life .All that Santiago is as a man is wrapped up in his task of killing the marlin and

bringing it home. Loving and respecting it is not mutually exclusive with killing it .

" I 'm a strange old man "

Santiago says this to Manolin after they finish up a day of fishing on separate boats. It is meant as an explanation for how his eyes remain so good after going turtle –ing for so many years (apparently turtle-ing damages the eyes ).But it also identifies Santiago as unique.

Foreshadowing the uncanny strength of will and body he will demonstrate in the days that follow as he wrestles the marlin.

He is also "strange" in that, unlike most other fisherman, he feels like the creatures of the sea are his brothers.

"If sharks come, God pity him and me."

Santiago says this aloud to himself while he trails the marlin, he determined to be "worthy of the great DiMaggio", who is able to play baseball even with a bone spur.

This quotation fore shadows the coming of the sharks who will eat all the meat of the marlin before Santiago is able to return to shore.

It implies that the marlin and Santiago are one, united against the sharks. This sentiment is contrary to the battle that is staged between man and fish as Santiago tries to outlast the marlin.

"Then the fish came alive, with his death in him, and rose high out of the water showing all his great length and width and all his power and his beauty. He seemed to hang in the air above the old man in the skiff. Then he fell into the water with a splash that sent spray over the old man and over all of the skiff."

According to Hemingway, man was most alive when facing death. The true test of manhood was how one reacted to such occasions. In this case it is the marlin who triumphs despite the inevitability of his death.

Because defeat (death ) is inevitable. Symbolized later by the arrival of the sharks and their devouring of the marlin .losing is acceptable . It is the struggle where individuals achieve glory.

"Just then the stern line came under his foot ,where he had kept the loop of the line ,and he dropped his oars and felt the weight of the small tuna's shivering pull as he held the line firm and commenced to haul it in .The shivering increased as he pulled in and he could see the blue back of the fish in the water and the gold of his sides before he swung him over the side and into the boat .He lay stern in the sun ,compact and bullet shaped ,his big ,unintelligent eyes staring as he thumped his life out against the planking of the boat with the quick shivering strokes of his neat, fast – moving tail .The old man hit him on the head for kindness and kicked him ,his body still shuddering ,under the shade of the stern."

This passage ,which describes Santiago 's hauling in the tuna on the second day of the narrative ,exemplifies the power and beauty of the simple, evocative style of prose that earned Hemingway his reputation as a revolutionary and influenced generations of writers to come. Hemingway's strength and mastery lies in his ability to render concrete but still poetic images using familiar words and simple vocabulary.

Fish is remarkably visible as it shivers and shudders on the floor of the skiff .Hemingway loads the passage with carefully chosen sounds , for instance ,the repetition of the "K" and "s" sounds in the last sentence suggests a calm ,rhythmic motion ,like the

breaking of waves against the boat or the side –to-side  
twitching of the fish's body.