

LECTURE 7

Symbols in **The Old Man and the Sea** .

Sea as a symbol of universe :

The main setting of Hemingway's novel **The Old Man and the Sea** , is the sea, Hemingway describes the sea as a place where fisherman earn their life ,find some experiences such as facing bad weather and storm ,struggling against a big sea, animals which become difficulty for fisherman ,sea also provides some enjoyments where they can get pride.

Hemingway uses sea to symbolizes universe ,both sea and universe provide various creatures from the tiny to the giant ones.

" As he watched the bird dipped again slanting his wings for the dive and then swinging them wildly and ineffectually as he followed the flying fish .The old man could see the slight bulge in the water that the big dolphin raised as they followed the escaping dolphin fish .The dolphins were cutting through the water

below the flight of the fish and would be in the water ,driving at speed. when the fish dropped .It is a big school of dolphin ,he thought .They are wide spread and the flying fish have little chance .The bird has no chance."

In real world or universe there are also various creatures based on their kind and size ,such as plants ,animals and human, from tiny to the biggest creatures ,such as ant to the elephant .And it is the same to living in the sea ,in universe the minority withers it is in number or size will face hard life . Both in sea and universe small creature is harder to endure than the big ones ,because the bigger creatures destroy them ,the majority and the bigger creature tend to threaten the minority and the smaller creatures even they eat and destroy the weaker.

Small creatures are harder to maintain their life compared to the big ones because the bigger creatures tend to destroy ,attack and eat them .

Like the universe ,sea gives man some lots of facilities .As a fisherman ,the old man greatly relies on the sea for food . Fishing in his life besides giving him food ,fishing also gives him some values of life .And the same with the sea creatures ,man can exist .has to fight and struggle to

use what universe provides .In real life only man who has strength.

Sun as a symbol of happiness

In this story Hemingway describes the sun as the useful thing in the old man's activity along his voyage .The sun helps him see the condition of the sea after passing the dark night and the sea's surroundings become more clearly so he can see the other boat from farther place and this makes him feel any other man with him on the sea ,the sun also gives good news to fisherman, it informs that the weather will be good ,good weather will help him to sail more safely and comfortably .

" The sun rose thinly from the sea and the old man could see the others boats, low on the water and well in toward the shore ,spread out across the current."

"The strange light the sun made in the water ,now that the sun was higher ,meant good weather and so did the shape of the clouds over the land ."

The sun symbolizes man's new happiness .In the novel it is told that sun light breaks through the water thus the

condition in certain depth looks brighter so the old man can see the life there more clearly .

Even though sun light gives the old man a help to see the surrounding of the seas life well , and also give him some hopes to meet good weather which will help him to catch a big fish ,but there is any sun light which hurt the old man's eyes because of its strength in the morning ,this portraits that happiness spread to everybody's heart, spreads where ever there is living .