

LECTURE 8

Night as a symbol of suffering

Hemingway tells the old man's sea voyage in three nights . In the dark night both the old man and the fish persevere not to do big activity .

"I can do nothing with him and he can do nothing with me , he thought ,Not as long as he keeps this up .Once he stood up and urinated over the side of the skiff and looked at the stars and checked his course ."

Night is interpreted as man's suffering even the death, the writer interpreters it as suffering .The dark night give frightened sense .It is an obstacle for most creatures to do some activities . The night air spreads negative atmosphere . The dark night symbolizes man's suffering . Man 's suffering is in various form ,they are mental such as sense of loneliness ,hopeless ,being in fault ,etc. and physical such as sickness ,being old ,poverty ,hunger ,etc.

After a day the old man waits to catch the fish and the fish has brought him further into the sea, the old man looks tired and less confidence .Night has made the old man in distress ,due to the darkness it is difficult for him to do his work and

even he falls down and hurt under his eyes when the fish makes a surge on the rope.

" I 'll lash the two oars together across the stern and that will slow him in the night ,he said --- The setting of the sun is a difficult time for all fish."

"It was difficult in the dark and once the fish made a surge that pulled him down on his face and made a cut below his eyes ."

In his less –confidence the old man tries to return it back by remembering his strength which he has when he was a champion .Man in their life must have ever been immersed and for the pessimist it is considered as the darkness periods which will not last while for the optimists suffering is a life variation which will change .They will try to let it go from them .One of the ways to be free from it is by motivating themselves ,by remembering his champion which he got in his youth to raise his self –confidence.

" As the sun set he remembered ,to give himself more confidence , the time in the tavern at Casablanca when he had played the hand game with the great negro from Cienfuegos who ,was the strongest man on the docks."

Lions as a symbol of strength

Hemingway illustrates lion as a power which inspires the old man. The lions are not illustrated in reality but rather in the old man's dream. Lion is considered as the king of the jungle. Traditionally or conventionally this description is agreed by many people.

The lions which are running and playing like their little form, cat, on the beach often appear in the old man's dream when his strength decreasing and when he needs a bigger strength on his long voyage. By imagining lion in his mind it will raise his strength and enables him to endure longer. When the old man feels down and losing his strength he likes to dream about the lion. The lion is identical to strength for him.

" He no longer dreamed of storms, or of women, or of great occurrences, or of great fish, or of constant strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of place snow and of the lions on the beach. They played like young cats in the dusk and he loved them as he loved the boy"(p.17)

Hemingway has used the lion for three times in the old man's dream. This dream makes him confident again, it makes him happy, to continue his life again. His happiness will raise new energy and power that help him go through his next struggle.

In real life power or strength can be generated through several ways, besides exercise man can generate it through

imagination and motivation. Doing and thinking positive things . dreaming of big things or success will bring hope.

" After that he began to dream of the long yellow beach and saw the first of the lions come down onto it in the early dark and then the other lions came and he rested his chin on of wood of the bows where the ship lay anchored with the evening off shore breeze and he wanted to see if there would be more lions and he was happy "(p.59)

In the last pages Hemmingway one again uses the lion in the old man's dream . after his long voyage in fighting and struggling his fish Marlin. He never stops hoping and dreaming to get his strength to return back physically.

" Up the road, in his shack, the old man was sleeping again. He was still sleeping on his face and the boy was sitting by him watching him. The old man was dreaming about the lions" (p.92)

It can be concluded that to gain nobility, men should have bravery, confidence and no despair. This is the bridge which leads someone to reach nobility.