

LECTURE 9

Themes /

1-Resistance to Defeat.

As a fisherman who has caught nothing for the last 84 days ,Santiago is a man fighting against defeat .Yet Santiago never gives in to defeat : he sails further into the ocean than he ever has before in hopes of landing a fish , struggles with the marlin for three days and nights despite immense physical pain and exhaustion. And after catching the marlin, fights off the sharks

Even when it's clear that the battle against them is hopeless .Whenever the situation gets difficult and despair threatens to over whelm Santiago, he turns to a number of tactics to fuel his resistance to defeat .

He recalls memories of his youthful strength , he relies on his pride by demanding that he proves himself a worthy role model for Manolin or by comparing himself to his hero Joe DiMaggio ,and he prays to God ,even though his prayers do nothing to ease his physical suffering.

Ultimately, Santiago represents everyman's struggle to survive , yet through Santiago's struggle .Hemingway makes the cast that

escape from death is not the issue ,as Santiago observes near the end of the struggle with the marlin " a man can be destroyed but not defeated ."

In another words , victory over the inevitable is not what defines a man .And the more difficult the struggle ,the more the opponent ,the more powerfully a man can prove himself .

2-Pride as the source of greatness and determination

Pride is often depicted as negative attribute that causes people to reach for too much and ,as a result ,suffer a terrible fall. After he kills the first shark ,Santiago who knows he killed the marlin "for pride " ,wonders if the sin of pride was responsible for the shark attack ,because pride caused him to go out into the ocean beyond the usual boundaries that fisherman observes.

In fact ,Santiago 's pride is portrayed as the single motivating force that spurs him to greatness .It is his pride that pushes him to survive three days at sea .battling the marlin and then the sharks .

His struggle can be seen as an effort to be the best man and fisherman that he can be ,As he thinks in the middle of his struggle with the marlin , he must kill the marlin to show Manolin

"What a man can do, and what a man can endure ."Santiago achieves the balance between pride and humility .