

Lecture 13

" Man is not made for defeat " " a man can be destroyed but not defeated "

His resolution is always strengthened by some such thing as this, and he acts in accordance with it. These qualities of determination and action sustain him up to the point when he knows that his only remaining course is to take what comes when it comes. Arrival at this point doesn't unbalance him. He is not rebel against the ruling powers of the universe. Nor does he think that he is destroying anything. Except a prize- Marlin with whom he has fought long and fair.

Santiago respects his enemy (i.e. Marlin) because the Marlin doesn't give up easily, the Marlin tries to go here and there, to do many tricks, to achieve actions, to use his experience, to defend himself against the hook of the old man, that's why Santiago said he respects his enemy because it's a noble enemy, that insists to continue and defend himself against the enemy (i.e. Santiago) who is trying to kill him and sell his meat to the people in the market. Santiago, the hero, is a man of invincible courage and unconquerable will. He refuses to be called 'unlucky'. He decides to go far beyond the customary fishing area. He is ready to expose himself to greater danger. He says that his big fish must be somewhere in the sea. He fails to hunt any fish for the last eighty-four days, but he is not despaired or discouraged at it. He decides to try his luck on the eighty-fifth day.

The Old Man goes on his expedition. He faces the great trial, he is all alone. When the great trial comes, he is alone. The Old Man succeeds in hooking a big marlin. It is very 'beautiful and strange'.

It is bigger than his skiff. This powerful fish tows the boat and drags the Old Man with it. The Old Man remains in the boat for three days and three nights without any rest or sleep. There is great strain on his mind and body. But he does not care for his life and decides to fight with him till his death. He addresses the fish and says, "Fish, I will stay with you until I am dead". His whole body is under great stress.

He does not sleep or rest for two days and two nights. His back is sore. His hands have been lacerated. He is utterly exhausted but does not give up the fight. He is determined to show the Marlin what sort of man he is. He must kill the marlin in all its greatness and glory. But I will show him what a man can do and what a man endure?, he says. "You are killing me, fish" he says, "come on and kill me. It do not care who kills who". His act in killing the Marlin comes as a climax to his ordeal. The marlin is fifteen hundred pounds in weight. He shows the same dynamic quality and capacity for action in dealing with the sharks.

The first to attack his marlin is a very big Mako shark. He hits the shark in the brain "without hope but with resolution and complete malignancy". The shark dies but it takes away the harpoon. 'But man is not made for defeat', Santiago says. 'A man can be destroyed but cannot be defeated'. It is in his spirits that he gets ready to fight against more sharks.

