

Lecture 14

Reliance on Art not Muscles

Santiago is meant to be a master fisherman and there is a good reason why Hemingway chose an old man as his hero, if it was a young fisherman there would rely on muscles rather than art, even if he were highly competent. Santiago may no longer have his youthful muscles, but in addition to his art he has the wisdom of the body which compensates for his need of physical strength. As a seasoned fisherman, Santiago knows how to exercise his skill with wisdom, always mindful to preserve his primal energy. Hemmingway said " strength is of little use except at the actual moment of killing" What really matters isn't physical youth, but inner youth and that Santiago has plenty of this inner youth is shown by his repeated invocation of Marlin, and especially his vision of young lion on the African shore.

Santiago's Loneliness and talk to himself

The novel "The Old Man and the Sea" deals with the loneliness and isolation of Santiago. Santiago is all alone in the world. From the very beginning, we find him lonely in the world. He is a poor person and lives in a hut. He has no friend except a small boy, whom he teaches the art of fishing. He has no amusement to delight him. He has no radio to listen to the news. He has no shoe and has not anything to live a decent life.

The Old Man goes far out and beyond all people of the world. He is alone in the boat. He is to hunt a big fish to make his name in the history of fishing. He is alone when he is faced with that great ordeal. His left hand is cramped. The fish pulls him towards himself. He stands in the boat for three nights and three days. He is alone in his fight with the sharks also. On the arrival of Mako shark, he drives his harpoon in the shark's brain with full resolution and strength. He

says "man is not made for defeat".

When he goes home after his fight with the sharks, he is beaten and defeated. At that time, he is alone. He lies on his bed with a sense of loss and waste. Throughout his fight with the fish and his battle against the sharks, he is alone and does not share the company of any human being. However, He breaks his loneliness in the following manner. 1. He lives in the company of sea birds and other sea creatures. He loves them and talks to them whenever he wants and when he feels lonely. So we can say that he is not completely isolated. 2. He enjoys the company of green turtles and hawksbills with their elegance and speed. He takes pity on the delicate dark terns and says that these birds have a harder life than of robber birds