

COURAGE AND ENDURANCE IN EARNEST HEMINGWAY'S "OLD MAN AND THE SEA"

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Prophet Mohammed Says:

The earth and the sand are burning .Put your face on the burning sand and on the earth of the road, since all those who are wounded by love must have the imprint on their face, and the scar must be seen ,let the scar of the heart be seen, for by their scar are known the man who are in the way of love(Peace and Blessings be upon him)⁴

So, "Love is the ultimate answer" (2)of the life. It is an 'actual energy' by we can create and maintain our being. But to feel this loving and creating state air human beings have to cross the vast ocean of the different experiences by 'courage' and 'endurance'. Courage means "the ability to do something dangerous or to face the pain or opposition without showing fear"⁽⁴⁾.Love dissolves all fear, one cannot be afraid when feeling love. So by courage human being have to remove all the outer layers of dirt and debris, the negatives thoughts and emotions. We have always diamonds underneath .In this context Swami Vivekananda ji also says:

The end and aim of all training is to make the man grow. The man who influences, he Throws his magic, as it were, upon his fellow beings, is a dynamo of power, and when that man is ready he can do anything and everything he likes: that personality put upon Anything will make it work.⁵

This statement of Swami ji reveals totally in the true story of Ernest Hemingway's Novel" The old man and the sea "Hemingway won Pulitzer Prize for "The old man and sea" in 1953.In this novel the Protagonist Santiago is the incarnation of courage and endurance in very difficult odd situations. His statements that' man is not made for defeat'. Man can be destroyed but not defeated, is the main theme of novel. So this paper proposes to explore Hemingway's novel" The Old Man and The Sea "in the light of two basic human qualities of human being-courage and endurance, which ultimate leads human effort towards the love, which is ultimate goal of life. Endurance in a real sense is the main counter part of the courage .It is the ability to "continue doing something painful or difficult or unpleasant for a long period of time without complaining"⁶.It is the inner urge for the survival, to continue to exist for a long time.

The novel "The Old man and The Sea" is a great work of creative genius and art. It was published in 1952.it come out at a time when Hemingway's literary powers were thought to be declining. This novel received immediate attention and brought renewed attention and acclaim .Largely and mostly for "The Old Man and The Sea", Hemingway was honoured with the Nobel Prize in 1954.

The story of the novel is based on the account published in the 'Esquire' in April 1936. It was by Ernest Hemingway himself under the title 'on the blue water'. It was a description of an old man fishing alone in a skiff, in the Gulf Stream off the Cuban coast. Hemingway has depicted Santiago's battle with the great fish, his courage and valour, his kinship with the creature of the universe.

The fisherman Santiago roams the Gulf-Stream in his skiff in quest of marlin for eighty – four days without success, but now he is considered unlucky by his fishing community and the younger fisherman laugh at and ridicule him. But he does not mind he has faith in himself.

A young boy, Manolin, goes with him to fish. Manolin has deep regard, admiration and affection for the old Santiago. But Manolin's parents withdraw him from the old man and send him to another boat. But the boy Manolin continues to take care of the old man.

Santiago talks to young Manolin about his younger days and about baseball. Old man lonely goes out far into the sea and ultimately hoots a big catch. The big fish tows his small boat all afternoon and night the old man pits all his experiences, skill and a the dwindling strength against the fish in the same manner as he once did against a powerful wrestlers in his younger days. When the second night also turns to dawn, he succeeds in harpooning the fish. With great efforts he lashes the marlin to his small boat and makes his weary way home. During his homeward journey the sharks attack on the fish. Old man tries to save his catch with his one hand. He tries his best to keep them away. His knife attached to the tiller does not cut much ice and the sharks persistently attack and reduce his great marlin to the skeleton. Physically and psychologically exhausted old man reaches to the shore. He goes to his lonely shack. Next morning the boy Manolin and other fisherman marvel at his catch and greatness of human spirit of the old man.

Since a man's life is a struggle against the unconquerable natural forces. In such a struggle a man can win a kind of victory through dignity. Even in defeat as Dr. Brain Weiss also says;

More learning can occur when there are many obstacles than when there are few or none. A life with difficult relationships, filled with obstacles and losses presents the most opportunity for the soul's growth. You may have chosen the more difficult life so that you could accelerate your spiritual progress.(7)

"The Old Man and the Sea" has beautifully depicted the man's struggle and suffering for the survival. Man's alienation is an integral part of his struggle for the existence. The man must live to die. To live nobly and to die nobly should be the aim. Old Man pays the price by suffering –his struggle with the marlin he reaches near to death and fails to save his prize from the sharks. The old man's name "Santiago" is itself an indication of courage and endurance. The literal meaning of this word (in Spanish) is Saint James who was originally a fisherman and later become an apostle and ultimately suffered martyrdom.

Old man was considered "Salao", which is the worst form of unlucky and yet never deserted by his courage. He always takes risk to go far in the sea in spite of his weak physical body. He was "thin and gaunt with deep wrinkles in the back of his neck. The brown blotches of the benevolent skin cancer the sun brings from its reflection on the tropic sea were on his cheek"(3). The old man had taught the boy to fish and the boy loved him. The graphic description of the old man's shack shows that he is extremely poor and lonely. But he hides all these by the talks about the fish, the bird, his fellow fishermen and the sea.

When the old man and the boy Mandolin sat on the Terrace and many of the fisherman made fun of the sad about his luck .when the old man got the food by the owner, martin he felt great affection and no loss of loss of true pride.” the boy and the old man picked up the gear from the boat .The old man carried the mast on his shoulder and the boy carried the wooden box with the coiled lines, the gaff and the harpoon with its shaft(8) He prepares himself as a great warrior prepares before going to win a battle.

The shack in which the old man lives was made of tough bud0shields of the royal palm which are called ‘guano’. There was a bed, a table one chair and a place on the dirt floor to cook with charcoal. On the brown walls of the flattened, overlapping leaves of the sturdy –fibred’ guano’ there was a “picture in the colour of the sacred Heart of Jesus and another of the virgin of Cobre”. These were relics of his wife. But the photograph of his wife he taken down because it made of courage and endurance are the fundamental part of old man’s everyday life. In reality there is “no cast net”, no pot yellow rice and fish (9) yet he told Maolin about these things as the solid reality.

He talks about the great DiMaggio, the tigers of the Detroit, the Indians Cleveland. Then the old man went in his boat he began to grow out of the harbour in the dark. Old man knew he was going far out and he left the smell of the land behind and rowed out into the clean early morning smell of the ocean.

Old man saw the phosphorescence of the Gulf weed in the water as the rowed over the part of the ocean that the fisherman called the great well. There was sudden deep of seven hundred fathoms where all sorts of fish congregated because of the swirl the current made. In this dark the old man could feel the morning coming and as he rowed he heard he the trembling sound as flying fish left the water and the hissing that their stiff set wings made as they soared away in the darkness. He was very fond of flying fish as they were his principal friends on the ocean. He was sorry for the birds, especially the small delicate dark terns that were always flying. He always thought of the sea ‘la mar’ which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her. The old man rowing steadily and it was no effort for him since he kept well within his speed and the surface on the ocean was flat except for the occasional swirls of the current. When the old man thought that he worked in deep wells for a week and nothing; so after the rising of sun he thought about today’s good luck.

I keep them with precision. Only I have no luck any more. But who knows? May be today. Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then luck comes you are ready(22).

He saw the beauty of the sea. And though about green turtles and hawk bills. When the great Marlin caught he over joyous but remains patient. He feels the gentle pulling of the Marlin. And then he felt it very hard and unbelievably heavy. He let the line slip through his fingers while he reached down with his left hand and made fast the free end of the loop of the two reserve oils of the next line.

He is courage enough against the great Marlin, but many times he wishes that the boy should be there still he says loudly.”I’ll stay with you until I am dead”(38).He cross his human limit when he struggles .He Says;

How did I let the fish cut me with that one quick pull he made? I must be getting very stupid. Or perhaps I was looking at the small bird and thinking of him. Now I will pay attention to my work and then I must eat the tuna so that I will not have a failure of strength.(40)

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He decides to kill the inspite of “all his greatness and his glory. He thought that “Although it is unjust. But I will show him what a man can do and what a man endures” (49)

Then old man his enduring sprit calls him that he “must prove it”. Since each time was a new time and he never thought about the past when he was doing it. Then after the second day he unlooked the fish re-baited the line with another sardine and tossed it over. He washed his left hand and wiped it on his trousers. He did not feel good because the pain from the card across his back.

During the ballets he has to undergo. Superhuman suffering, both physical and psychological but he always proves himself equal, to any situation that befalls him. It was this sprits and his effort which make him triumphant even when he loses his most coveted prize of his life to the sharks. His suffering and endurance elevete him to lofty of crucifixion’s it is a great tribute to a human being than to be compared to Christ.

His suffering he resembles Christ. He is the code hero of the Hemingway. He has a deep sense of honour and great humility. He is totally committed to his profession. He is knowledgeable and fastidious about his craft and profession. His integrity is beyond reproach .He is prepared to take challenges and risks but he always takes care that he does not violate his code. Thus all the qualities of old man in many different circumstances reveals the ‘courage’ and ‘endurance’ of the old man

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