



University of Tikrit  
College of Education for Women  
English Department

Subject

*Hemingway's The Old Man and the Sea*

Fourth Stage

Prepared by

Assistant Professor

**Ahmad Khalid Hassoon**

Email

ahmadartstr@tu.edu.iq

## ***The Characteristics of Ernest Hemingway( 1899 – 1961)***

**Reputation** -- Hemingway is an American novelist. He belongs to the Lost Generation, a group of American expatriates in Paris. He won the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954.

- 1- Hemingway's **style** is plain, direct, simple, and evocative one. It is distinguished by the rich and actual imagery + precision of word choice.
- 2- **The Iceberg Theory** (or The Craft of Omission) is one of Hemingway's aesthetic theory in writing his novels and short stories. (i.e.) how a writer of prose knows what he can omit things and make them feel it – What suggested or left unsaid – in order to create a tension.

As Hemingway claimed the "principle of the iceberg": meaning "seven-eighths of it is underwater for every part. The novella is rich in imagery suggestive of deeper meanings than appear on the surface.

- Hemingway believes that the deeper meaning of a story should not be evident on the surface, but it should shine through implicitly and clarity of style. "This was omitted on my new theory that you could omit anything ... and the omitted part would strengthen the story".
- Hemingway's iceberg theory "demanded that the reader feel the *whole* story" and that the reader is meant to "fill the gaps left by his omissions with their feelings"
- Hemingway's iceberg theory highlights the symbolic implications of art. He makes use of physical action to provide an interpretation of the nature of man's existence.
- Hemingway's simplicity is highly suggestive and connotative, and often reflects the strong undercurrent of emotion. Indeed, the more closely the reader watches, the less rough and simple the characters appear. Hemingway uses an effective metaphor to describe his writing style which is highly

suggestive and connotative. The dignity of movement of an iceberg is due to only 1/8 of it being above water. Hemingway tries to narrate and describe things objectively and blend his own feelings harmoniously to the natural narration and description. This gives readers a picture of compression, from which, the 1/8 of iceberg above water, they can learn the implied meaning and feelings of the author, 7/8 of the iceberg under water. When Hemingway said of this story, "I tried to make a real old man, a real sea and real sharks," he then went on to say, "But if I made them good and true enough they would mean many things." So this novel has a great conveyed by a compressed action. The core of the novel's action is fishing. To the hero, fishing is not simply of contest in life. It contains profound philosophic meaning. In addition, two details, the baseball match and the hand wrestling with the Negro, like fishing, symbolize the contest in life. They compensate and enrich the inner meaning of the main plot of fishing. So the simplicity of the novel is highly suggestive. So Hemingway has formed narrative and dialogue, which though natural and simple on the surface, is actually deliberated and artificial. It combines elements that are realistic with elements that are stylized and heightened.

**3- Characterization :** a method used by a writer to develop a character. It includes (1) showing the character's appearance, (2) displaying the character's actions, (3) revealing the character's dialogue, thoughts, and reactions toward others.

The Hemingway Hero is an important term in Hemingway's Style. The readers can recognize the traits of heroism such as dignity, discipline, consciousness, awareness, experience, patience, bravery, and stoicism. It is important to distinguish the educational relationship between the tutor (code hero) and the (the Hemingway hero) which analyzed their learning process.

Hemingway presents the characters supposing a (learning relationship) between :

**the Hemingway hero = Tyro , the Hemingway code = Tutor**

Therefore, the novella presents ( an educational process) . The tutor presents a lesson to his companion, teaches him / her some principles of life. Thus , the tyro will learn from the tutor's advice and guide.

From this perspective, in Hemingway's *The Old man and the Sea*, Santiago is mentor, spiritual father, old man, or old age; and Manolin is pupil, son, boy, or youth. Santiago is the great fisherman and Manolin his apprentice — both dedicated to fishing as a way of life that they were born to and a calling that is spiritually enriching and part of the organic whole of the natural world. Santiago, as the greatest of such fishermen and the embodiment of their philosophy, becomes a solitary human representative to the natural world. He accepts the inevitability of the natural order, in which all creatures are both predator and prey, but recognizes that all creatures also nourish one another. He accepts the natural cycle of human existence as part of that natural order, but finds within himself the imagination and inspiration to endure his greatest struggle and achieve the intangibles that can redeem his individual life so that even when destroyed he can remain undefeated

### **Symbolism and Allegory in Hemingway's *The Old man and the Sea***

'The old Man and sea' is an allegory. It denotes moral and religious ideas before reader. Hemingway emphasizes on the link between symbolism and allegory in his novels. Critics suggest, this novel is not only a moral fable but a parable. There is a close parallel between Santiago, his Marlin, and the sharks. Those symbols appeared to foreshadow events and reflect inner conflicts appeared in the novel. They employed to clarify the correlation between themes and plot to interpret the symbolic parallel between the figures and the symbolic hints including in the novel. Hemingway uses symbolism to assist the readers to understand the hidden

meanings, the ambiguous meanings, and the complicated ideas appeared in the novella.

The **marlin** symbolized strength, durability and challenge. Santiago fights and struggles to catch the marlin as last challenge in a noble way.

**DiMaggio** symbolizes hope, strength, and luck for Santiago.

Santiago considers DiMaggio as his hero and source of youth and luck, besides, his father was a poor fisherman just like he is.

The **lions** in Santiago's dreams resemble youth, freedom, and strength. It stimulates him to be more stronger and gave him the endurance to continue. Besides, the lions symbolized pride. Santiago was humble simultaneously with being proud.

Hemingway compares **Santiago to Christ** to show the similarities between them. For instance, Santiago's suffering, his cramp's hands, pain sounds which are resemble to crucified experience of the Christ.

## References

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