

The Old Man and the Sea.

By Ernest Hemingway.

Ernest Hemingway:

Ernest Hemingway was a great American 20th Century Novelist, short story writer, Journalist. He was born on 21 - July - 1899 in USA. And died on July - 2 - 1961 in USA. He was 61 years old. His notable works are :-

1. The Sun also rises
2. A Farewell to Arms - 1929
3. For whom the Bell Tolls
4. The old man and the sea

He had received Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1953 and Noble Prize in 1954.

Characters of the Old Man and The Sea.

- Santiago - Fisherman
- Manolin - Friend, apprentice and foster son
- Joe Dimaggio - Baseball player
- Marlin - Victim.
- sharks - Scavengers
- Perico - owner of a Bodega. [Shop in a cellar selling wine and food]
- Sea - adversary
- Martin - Cafe owner
- Lions

Plot Summe of the Old Man and The Sea.

The old Man and the sea is an epic struggle between, an old, experienced fisherman Santiago and a large Marlin. 84 days at sea to catch a fish not successful; considered a salao (very unlucky); his friend is young boy Manolin. 85th day he goes further into Gulf Stream than he has done before and catches a Marlin that is too big for his skiff. As it is too big, he can't pull in and fish starts pulling the boat. For fear of snapping line, he bears all the ~~star~~ strain to see line doesn't snap. For 2 days and nights, he bears till Marlin tires out and flows with current. He admires, sympathises with Marlin's struggle - calls him brother; 3rd day he manages to get it near and kill it with a harpoon.

Blood trail of Marlin attracts sharks; he kills one with a harpoon clubbing, spearing, poking he wards them; kill 5 but they are too many; the predator eat meat leaving only the skeleton. He returns exhausted and goes to sleep. The next morning, amazed fishermen gather around skeletal carcass; Tourists mistake it for a shark. Manolin, Cries when he finds Santiago safe. The boy fetches the old man some coffee and the dai papers with the baseball scores, and watches him sleep. They two agree fish as partners once more and a man returns to sleep.

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Santiago :-

- * Experienced, but ageing widower - a fisherman with no children.
- * Passion for his craft - not materialistic which makes him different from others in his community.
- * Pragmatism v/s Idealism is set here.
- * Belongs to old world before material evolution so, technological advances and interventions in fishing industry are not a part of him.
- * To him, cosmic balance more imp - predator and prey in balance creates an order in the cyclical life of nature.
- * He wants to prove to the new world that old world ways are relevant by making a big catch; also to prove that he is a skilled fisherman amidst machines.
- * Optimistic and confident about himself
- * Sustains interest in world - especially baseball

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* he loves Manolin his apprentice like a son and hands over the legacy of his skill to him as a good teacher.

* Patient, strong, adventurous, sympathetic, Compassionate to Marlin even in it's fight; protagonist; is destroyed but not defeated.

* Dignity, determination, forbearance, humility and Compassion even in adversity make him a true hero.

* Feeling of brotherhood with Marlin, guilt at having to kill such a brave soul, awareness of interdependence makes him a gentle soul

* Even in his loss his nature wins; he realize he had stretched too far testing his and nature's endurance causing him to lose the Marlin.

* The awareness of his faults make him a true tragic individual as he bears this knowledge with humility

* In the image of a suffering Christ.

* It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact.

* A man can be destroyed but not defeat

* Fish I love you and respect you very much But I will kill you dead before this day ends.

* "Why did they make birds so delicate and fine as those sea swallows when the ocean can be so cruel? She is kind and very beautiful. But she can be so cruel and it comes so suddenly and such birds that fly dipping and hunting, with their small sad voices are made too delicately for the sea"

you are killing me, fish, the old man thought.
But you have a right to. Never have I seen
a greater, or more beautiful, or a calmer or
more noble thing than you, brother. Come on
and kill me. I do not care who kills who.

Character of Marlin :-

⇒ 18 feet long Marlin - huge catch and prize
catch vindicates S; worthy opponent; represents
struggle

⇒ Mirror, alter ego to Santiago - possesses the
same qualities that S has. S projects qualities
of dignity in struggle, nobility, endurance,
beauty. First pities fish - then admires then
sympathizes and later empathizes with it.

⇒ Each one's destiny interlocked with the other -
predator - prey; fisherman - fish.

⇒ The Marlin redeems him in his victory; but
also destroys him in its fight by attacking
other prey.

⇒ Image of crucified Christ as redeemer,
suffering for others; being eaten by Santiago
(the last supper); Communion; the natural tragic
cycle is replayed;

⇒ The Marlin struggles to live and S struggles
to save Marlin from sharks - predator / prey
et cycle.

⇒ Marlin like Manolin is a redeemer in a
different sense; constructs / destroys; help
Santiago to transcend his weaknesses
represents Santiago's struggle with him

⇒ He is wonderful and strange and who knows how old he is, he thought. Never have I had such a strong fish nor one who acted so strongly... He cannot know that it is only one man against him, nor that it is an old man.

⇒ "Now we are joined together and have been since noon. And no one to help either of us."

⇒ you did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food, he thought. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman. You loved him when he was alive and you loved him after. If you love him, it is not a sin to kill him. Or is it more?

"What's that" she asked a waiter and pointed to the long backbone of the great fish that was now just garbage waiting to go out with the tide.

"How many people will he feed, he thought. But are they worthy to eat him? No, of course not. There is no one worthy of eating him from the manner of his behavior and his great dignity."