

The Determination and the Willpower in the Old Man and the Sea

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الخلاصة

تعتبر رواية (الشيخ والبحر) آخر كتابة لهمنغواي في اثناء حياته. تم نشرها في سبتمبر 1952. وتحظى بشعبية. حيث عبر فيها المؤلف عن أفكاره بطريقة سهلة وبسيطة. تظهر الرواية القوة والارادة والعزيمة التي بواسطتها يستطيع الإنسان من تحقيق اهدافه وتطلعاته في الحياة. وإمكانية تحقيق الانتصار ضد التحديات التي تواجهه. ان هذه الرواية تروي ملحمة معركة بين جانبيين، بين الصياد القديم وسمكة ضخمة تدعى "مارلين"، وبعبارة أخرى بين الفشل والنجاح، بين الأمل واليأس. وبين كل هذا، نجد قوة الإرادة والعزيمة تبرز بالرغم من كل المحن التي واجهت الصياد "سانتياغو".

اغلب الصراع يكشف جوانب من شخصية "سانتياغو" مع التركيز على اسباب مواجهته للصعوبات بطريقة متفائلة مع استمراره بالاثبات بانه طوال رحلته وبالرغم من سوء الحظ الذي صاحبه الا انه لم يستسلم .

Abstract

The Old Man and The Sea is considered as the final writing of Hemingway's life. It was published in September 1952. It is popular. The author expressed his thoughts in an easy and simple way.

The present paper shows how the human strength, willpower and determination that could achieve his own goals then reach what he aspires in his lifetime. The possibility of gaining triumph against the challenges that he would face. This novella tells an epic battle between two sides, between the old fisherman and the huge fish that is called Marlin, in other words between failure and success, between hope and the despair. Among all these, the determination and willpower arise in spite of all ordeals that fisherman "Santiago" encountered it.

Most of these struggles disclose some sides of Santiago's personality. I also focus on why Santiago keeps going on facing his difficulties with optimistic way as well as he keeps proving that during his voyage for fishing, regardless of his misfortune but he never quit.

Keywords: Success, Fisherman, Determination, Struggle, Sea, Quit.

I - Santiago's personality

Santiago is a simple old fisherman who represents high manner. He is a pauper man who lives in Havana in Cuba. He is optimist because he is always hopeful and thinks that everything will be good and successful in the future. He keeps looking on the positive aspect rather than to look on negative one. He is determined as he never gives up doing his job in order to leave an impression that he is a professional one even when he is in old age. Of course there are not only this quality which he has but more than that.

The author uses many literary ways to display Santiago's personality through the dialogue in this novella. He also shows that by his own speeches and phrases. He used to be confident, brave and joyful not allowing anything to rattle his cage. He rejects to be frustrated in some different situations in his past time. However, he believes that someday would bring him good luck .He is exact and experienced. For example, he manages to arrange and prepare for each jaunt on his skiff.

Despite his power and capability, he is modest man. When things do not go with him on what he likes, he never suffers or complains nor blames somebody else. He always tries to find the reason that makes it not happen, even when he caught the giant fish Marlin. He reproaches no one but himself of not bringing a good weapon with him and not struggling enough against the sharks as well.

Whereas, hand Santiago is not extremist in his religious belief, he sometimes prays just for getting help from God. So Hemingway describes him as a Christ person who is not only a fisherman but s model or ideal of Christian and as token of grace under much endurance.

What makes him special is fighting until he gains. In addition to that he is as undefeated man who knows what to do through the critical challenges. He is in the full maturity of his life and armed with all the skills and abilities of his profession.

The main thing about Santiago at this decisive point is that he acts properly and honestly with enough bravery and stamina .In fact Santiago who has suffers and goes through many distresses in his life displays his determination to get his fortune changed. Furthermore, his commitment helps him gains him much respect of his community and realizes that he must accept one option of being beaten or endure till demolition .The pride is also one of the most important things which makes him keep persevering for long time as well as boosting the determination he has.

II — Determination

Eighty four days have without catching fish motivates Santiago's desire to overcome the devastating power of nature. He used his determination to meet all kinds of struggles and challenges even when he doesn't catch any fish.

Santiago was determined to navigate farther in the sea where he could find Marlin, so he keeps following his quest for the giant fish so as to save his job. Being determined doesn't come from nothing. Here comes different factors such as the strength of his personality and willing to be succeeded when he decides to make his dream comes true whatever it takes. The second factor is also important where he eliminates the negative thinking because doing would keep him involved in negativity and of course positive thinking makes him working hard and persisting to get his goal accomplished.

The old fisherman's determination and willpower started when he realizes that he is in need to be respected among his community in his village, and also to prove that he is still professional. This quality makes human

determined and insisting to achieve his goals. In addition to that, his poverty also affects to stimulate him give up.

The main part of reaching his goal is to be determined because without it a sense of life would be missing, no matter how difficult it is so as to motivate him and to practice his will. As a matter of fact not everyone has determination and willpower. Some people are ready to make a conversion in their lives.

Fishing is considered his only living which stimulates the determination and willpower in him. As a result he would never think to back off. Sometimes failure is regarded as a key to be successful because that makes human keeps trying by using his source of strength and insistence to complete his task. There are always strength and willpower inside ourselves to do the best next time. We should not put an end at the first or second try, as we fail for first time to do something we should take a step that makes us closer to our goal. If we give up we may never get back to our last step. Santiago has nothing to lose and a small boat and everything is totally old the good qualities were deep rooted:

" A man is not made for defeat. A man can be destroyed but not defeated
"page .131

Most of us have the ability that the old fisherman has but not all of us have the determination and insistence to keep going on to the end because staying confident over ongoing changes and to maintain ourselves-esteem through criticism is a big challenge that we confront. It's a wakefulness to turn negative into positive. It needs repeated determination to stay concentrated on our destination and willing to turn failure into success.

We all need more determination to survive something and to be capable to grow in all cases. To survive means to be alive beyond death so the determination comes usually from dedication. It is fundamental to everyone and most of us have a variety of perception of determination because it is inner strength which makes a human being capable of achieving his goal.

The feelings of need are sometimes considered as a starting point for motivation. It is probably the main thing that arises and stimulates the determination. Santiago manages to eliminate the negative thinking and confront all difficulties that he faces until wrest victory. He succeeds in doing the most remarkable deeds then his pride makes him undergo.

Hemingway's conception of the world seems to fall into points: despair or hope, so he obviously chooses the latter. His resolution is dramatically legendary and without it he would never accomplish his commitment.

Santiago depicted as a mythical person in spite of the most difficult situation he was in, hence was patient, practical and diligent. He was working professionally and fighting to earn his living. He has no friend a young boy named “ Manolin”, whose parents enforced him to leave him. He always lives alone and separated from community. However, in the course of time he shows up and starts being with him then they become a very good friends even though he is older than him. Manolin likes the old fisherman so he always offers help to him in many different occasions. Santiago has unwavering insistence that was implanted in his mind. He never thinks to surrender. This trait allows him to be a man of willpower.

Santiago was a joke in his small village and some fishermen call him “Salleo“and they are mocking at him. He felt helpless in some conditions. However, he doesn't care about that. So he wants to prove that he is still one

of the best fishermen in his community. He cannot get the success easily just by waiting for some good things to happen but he can achieve that by struggling and fighting until he get what he wants. He was an opportunity seeker .

“It is better to be lucky, but I would rather be exact. Then when the luck comes you are ready “(page 2. 29)

We shouldn't forget when a human gets older there is an attribute in him turns him into young age semantically. It is the hope to live and survive for a longtime. It is a grace of God so that makes him doesn't stop working and lives his life like a young man. He never hesitates to get his job done and being ambitious beyond measure.

III- Struggle against Fate

Most people think in the concept of fate in which there is a force that controls what would happen in the future. This is outside a human reach. When someone is fortunate, it is regarded as a token that he has a spiritual trait to make it happen. The old fisherman is a man of wisdom who stands up against all sorts of trials and distresses but he comes out eventually triumph. He represents a man of grandeur that is sometimes gained in his age.

According to Santiago the frustration is a sin as he says to himself: “It is a sin to lose hope“. He means that his hope and his confidence never gone. He is an abnormal fisherman who doesn't like the other who relies, he thinks in on fate because he thinks in substantial attain. He completely believes in:“Greatness lies on continuous struggle and undefeatable will“.

Santiago rejects to submit to a series of bad luck. This bad fortune and poverty makes him pathetic among some people in his village. He counts on no one but himself to make change and to manage the fatigue and pain which happened to him through his tribulation especially when his land cramps. He considered these troubles as a perfidy:" But I must have the confidence and I must be worthy of the great Demaggio who does all things perfectly even with the pain of the bone spur in his heel (page. 68)

Therefore, instead of being beaten by these challenges of physical anguish, he recalls the strength of his hand against his adversary to prove that he is still special and an excellent fisherman in his village.

Of course not everybody has courage and determination but everyone can have fortune, so he knows to handle with that he believes it his potential instead of chance:

"To hell with luck he thinks "I'll bring the luck with me" (page. 35)

Santiago wasn't quit even though he hasn't caught a fish. He managed horrible combat with Marlin. He used all his strength to breathe fish, he fought to get his big prize, his endurance is under pressure but he stays determined to defeat Marlin.

IV — Conclusion

Marlin symbolizes the nature that we all face and confront in our lifetime and perhaps represents problems and ordeals we meet which we need a power of determination and willpower to be succeeded in handling our big issues in life. It is not easy to confront all difficulties without determination. So we have seen that the old fisherman brings Marlin whatever it takes to let the people and other fishermen in his community that he has the ability to be special even when he is in an old age, and to prove that he would never count on other without using his granted capability to get his task done with determination and willpower.

Most of us need not only strength but the determination and dedication to finish what we started.

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