



## Death, courage and war – Tenets of Hemingway’s Short Stories .

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This proposed study aims to reflect Hemingway as the greatest novelists of the modern era . Ernest Miller Hemingway is generally acknowledged to be the most important writer of the twentieth century. American literature imitated by many but surpassed by none. His preoccupation with violence dominated his life : bull fighting, fishing, big game hunting, deep sea fishing, fight with guerrillas in the mountains of Spain are all branded in his writing. His narratives present deep insight into brutality and tragedy of life which are well exhibited in his wonderful works which would be well discussed in my full length paper followed by it. His style is strong, yet faced with compassionate understanding of human struggle.

The treatment of death in Hemingway’s fiction is to a great extent related to the concept of a heroic Code. The “code” is a sort of armour that guards the Hemingway hero from being torn to pieces by the Irrational forces of the universe. Death and dying are events that are inevitable . Many people reacted to This state of affair with the feeling that there is something more beat in writing and reading about death, Courage and war.

*If we win here, we will win everywhere. The world is a fine place &Worth the fighting for and I hate very much to leave it.*

E.Hemingway.

**Key words- Death , courage, war , life and Heroes**

Hemingway keenly observed the evolution of the political process in the Spain, as he knew the way the people are progressing after the world war 1 in Europe. Hemingway’s novel and short stories deal with wars those are man-made. His passionate love for life caused by war due to the ideological commitments of leaders and heads of government in his concern . Among the vast number of countries that Hemingway visited, it is Spain he loved the most after his homeland (puche 1974) that plays a decisive role in the both his life and work. Ernest Hemingway is a cultural icon—an archetype of rugged masculinity, a romantic ideal of the intellectual in perpetual exile—but, to his countless readers, Hemingway remains a literary force much greater than his image. Of all of Hemingway’s canonical fictions, perhaps none demonstrate so forcefully the power of the author’s revolutionary style as his short stories. In classics like “Hills like White Elephants,” “The Butterfly in the Tank,” and “The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber,” Hemingway shows us great literature compressed to its most potent essentials. We also see, in Hemingway’s short fiction, the tales that created the legend: these are stories of men and women in love and in war and on the hunt, stories of a lost generation born into a fractured time.

The Short Stories of Ernest Hemingway presents many of Hemingway's most famous classics alongside rare and unpublished material: Hemingway's early drafts and correspondence, his dazzling out-of-print essay on the art of the short story, and two marvelous examples of his earliest work—his first published story, "The Judgment of Manitou," which Hemingway wrote when still a high school student, and a never-before-published story, written when the author was recovering from a war injury in Milan after WWI. This work offers vital insight into the artistic development of one of the twentieth century's greatest writers. It is a perfect introduction for a new generation of Hemingway readers, and it belongs in the collection of any true Hemingway fan.

Hemingway narrates with utmost exactness the way the officers behave during the civil war in Spain in ch 40 . The civil war an occasion for those who are self – declared , self-styled, warriors officers, fighting the cause of liberation on behalf of the common man to compare themselves with the formally trained. Hemingway deals with the undercurrent of humanity however complex the war may be. Hemingway is keen on joining the Army during the first world war .He failed to succeed in enrolling himself as a soldier but succeeded in becoming an ambulance driver and took a close look at the events that unfurled in the rather objectively succeed in creating character like Robert Jordan For Whom The Bell Tolls Fredrick Henry in Farewell To Arms and Jake in the The Sun a Also Rises .

Hemingway did not probe the moral aspect of war or its relationship to Christianity . The Spaniards are devoting Christians who loved their country equally and upheld all moral standards to maintain their individual identity as an exclusive European race. They drank liquor and indulge in violent bullfights . Their pastime and sports is bull fighting that lead to gambling,which is equally harmful to the youth of Spain during the post world war period.

Hemingway's ambivalent attitude towards war is the reason that he is trying to convince his doubting mind that anything at all can be achieved through it . The fact that he claimed to hate war he hated war only under certain circumstances. That is why he never opposed it . He says in " Notes on the Next war".

*If a war is fought by those who marked to fight it and knew what they are doing and liked it, or even understood it , then it would be defensible. But those who want to go to the war , the elite are killed off in the first months and the bearing of arms are thought to be more afraid of sure death form their more their officers if they run than possible death if they stay in the line or attack .(150)*

Most of the European countries are the beginning of the twentieth century are monotheistic and theocratic . The monarchies that rule these countries owned allegiance to the holy sea at Rome . Many symbols are Christology in the nature . The cycle of birth and death it's continues implication in the process of life is the basic Christian belief that God has a purpose for every creation on this earth .

The way in which Hemingway explains death in For Whom The Tolls makes it obvious that death has its own smell like birth . " Yet he who is no gypsy, smelled death on Joselito when he fought at talavera . Although I do not see how he could smell it above the smell of mamzanilla"(262)

The fact that the Spanish people are able to smell death ,gives death a symbolic dimension of the smell of death ,gives death a symbolic dimension in this novel . In the other novels of Hemingway this dimension of the smell of death is not found . The smell of death is a common indication that a man will die soon.

Death is considered the ultimate context for all human activity as well the source of absurdity. In fact , life arrives at its full meaning when it is set down against death and it demands a constant act of repetition for a continual process of meaning – making . Karl Jasper talks of the issue of death in terms of "limit-situations" . "limits – situation" , maintains Jasper, are the condition in the face of which each man is best- owned, or, instead, forfeit his/her soul. The ultimate limit-situations , continues Jasper ,is death . In confrontation with death , one forgoes the shambles of everyday struggles and sets out for the search of meaning in life through action.

Hemingway's deep intrest in death could not kill his equally deep love for the good things of life . Both are well – balanced in the scale of his craft manship. Several short stories of Hemingway can be cited as examples of the blending of the awful and the pleasant things of life . The stories like "on the Quai at Smyrna," "Indian Champ" , "The Killer" and the " The Short Happy Life of Francis Macomber" illustrate this point.

Death is one of the most important theme in Hemingway's fiction. His preoccupation with death has widely been commented upon . He is above all a tragic writer , haunted , repelled and attracted by the lasting fear of mortality. He Bates observes : *"It is from Catholicism perhaps, that Hemingway 's constant preoccupation with the theme of death arises. His stories appears to deal with a variety of themes ,boxing, bullfighting,illegal operations ,game – hunting, war, fishing,all of them physical subject. But in reality, Hemingway has only one theme – death"* Hemingway himself said that violent death is one of his subjects. He remarks in *Death in The Afternoon* that he went to Spain to watch the bull- fighting because that was the only place after the war , where he could study violent death .

Bark Spilka observes , *"Hemingway' s preoccupation with death has been explained by various way by his desire to write about simple fundamental things, by his "Sudo masochism" or more fairly and accurately by his need to efface an actual war wound ,or to supplant the ugly senseless violence of war with ordered graceful violence"* .

It must be a common experience of all Hemingway's readers , that death looms large over his world and he seems to have accepted it as a necessary condition and an inseparable part of the total situation prevalent in his times and he had tested on the unveil of his own experience.

For Hemingway, the twin ideas of physical activity and physical mortality are force of magnetism that never lose their powerful attraction. Hemingway capture things some truly that their magnification is established permanently.

A brief review of Hemingway's works will not be out of place here . Influenced by Ezra Pound and Gertrude Stein whose style strongly affected him. Hemingway brought out Three stories and Ten poems in 1925. These early attempts already gives an earnest insight of the great writer that Hemingway ultimately became. As self styled spokesman of the lost generation , he expressed the feeling of war wounded people disillusioned by the loss of faith and hope . The stories are mainly Concerned with 'tough' people. Emotion is held at arm's length,only the least happening are recorded and emphasis is obtained by understatement and spare dialogue.

Death is imminent in the war and anyone who escapes death is lucky . The element of luck in surviving death in a war like the Spanish civil war is related to Providence of God . Every country has a huge war memories for those who died in war . The death of soldier and civilians in the context of the post world war 1 is the concern of Hemingway.

A Greenville Hicks said: *" All of Hemingway's compulsions stem from his feeling about death, with which he has been concerned in a way that few author have since John Donne posed for a sculptor wrapped in his winding sheet"* (524)

The centrality of the use of symbols in the novels and short stories of Hemingway . The symbol that hover around the centre themes of Hemingway literary works repeatedly remind the reader of the of the progress made by man man with an enhancement of the destruction of human life by devised methods of war and violence. One of Hemingway's most enduring writings is *The Old Man and the Sea*. It's the storey of a down-on-his-luck old Cuban fisherman and his ultimate experience, a relentless, excruciating battle with a gigantic marlin far out in the Gulf Stream, told in language of remarkable simplicity and power. Hemingway recasts the old theme of courage in the face of defeat, of personal success achieved through loss, in a stunningly contemporary language. This tremendously famous novella, written in 1952, underlined Hemingway's influence and presence in the literary world and helped him earn the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1954. Ernest Hemingway's masterwork *The Sun Also Rises* is a great example of his simple but forceful language. The story features two of Hemingway's most memorable characters: Jake Barnes and Lady Brett Ashley, and takes a heartbreaking look at the disillusionment and angst of the post-World War I age. Follow the flamboyant Brett and the hapless Jake as they travel with a colourful gang of exiles from the riotous nightlife of 1920s Paris to the horrific bullfighting rings of Spain. It is a time of moral bankruptcy, spiritual disintegration, unfulfilled love, and fading illusions. *The Sun Also Rises*, first published in 1926, helped Hemingway establish himself as one of the best writers of the twentieth century."

Hemingway attempted to address the virtual question that rained the conditionalities of living physically and damaged the human psyche permanently. The war has created on impulse of uncertainty in every aspect of life all over the world . Historians look at it as a record of the past without assessing the impact it has created on the present, whereas Hemingway symbolically established the significance that war created on the present day , from almost all known aspects. He pursued the war in all its nuances not for the sake of studying war from the perspective of a writer, but for society to read his writing and take their

lessons in the need to give up war and violence . He is aware of the social segment and their aspirations that gave of human behaviour, which appear temporary but have a long lasting impact an society.

The post world war novels and short stories of Hemingway have had many readers to revisit the changes that occurred throughout the twentieth century and continue to affect the world till today . Hemingway's aesthetics and philosophy are practical and not based on illusions. He understood the political compulsions of war and is never very critical or reprimanding in his writing because he always preferred the human aspect to be analysed ,rather than the political aspect and ramifications and maintained a certain amount of distance from politics and propaganda that are the basics foundation on which the war machine moved on.

The outstanding quality of Hemingway has made him successful till today with his readers. Hemingway has made a mark for himself , because his short stories are read by a large audience till due date. The relevance is found in the texts prescribed for students of contemporary times who read and enjoy the text , it's message and the mode of conveying the message needs to be mentioned because Hemingway symbols are universal and relevant for all times and all place. Hemingway's style is his way of life . It has aimed at the transcription of reality.

Ernest Hemingway has command over his narrative power and is an inventor of techniques. He has expressed his idea in a simple language in the most effective manner. The simplicity of his ideas in a simple language, syntactical construction and his realistic dialogue has been attributed to his choice of subject -matter . Moloney in his ' Missing Dimension ' comments:

*" But , in general ,all of Hemingway's characters talk alike. The manner of their speech in the straightforward assertion or the simple question without syntactical qualification, whether they be gangsters or labourers or decadent aristocrat or Italian or Spanish or American soldiers. Psychologically Hemingway is right .....But Hemingway 's fictional world , whatever it's locale,is the deadly state , monotonous world of modern position and modern industrialism from which all spiritual leaven has been removed and he is consistent in giving a universal flatness to the speech of his characters."*

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