



Lecture 6

Significance of dreams in the novel

The setting for the story is simple: an old fisherman, Santiago, prepares for his experiences a three-day fishing trip. **The first night**, before he sets out on his trip, Santiago dreams of Africa. The narrator notes: 'He no longer dreamed of storms, nor of women, nor of great occurrences, nor of great fish, nor fights, nor contests of strength, nor of his wife. He only dreamed of places now and of lions on the beach.'

On the second night at sea, Santiago sleeps. Initially he dreams of porpoises during mating season, leaping into the air. Then he dreams that he is in his bed in the village and is very cold. Then, 'he began to dream of the long yellow beach and he saw the first of the lions come down onto it in the early dark and then the other lions came and he rested his chin on the wood of the bows where the ship lay anchored with the evening off-shore breeze and he waited to see if there would be more lions and he was happy.'

The novel ends with Santiago in bed, resting after his three-day ordeal with the marlin. 'The old man was dreaming about the lions.' is the last sentence.

The structure of this Novel:

The structure of this novel is very well built to illuminate what Hemingway is trying to say. The narrative is well designed as a kind of drama in three acts:

- **The opening act:** is really a prologue , which introduces the characters of the central figure. There are only two characters in this section , Santiago and Manolin . Manolin is used as a mirror to reflect the important qualities of the old man. Through their relation , we have insight into the qualities of Santiago's character.
- **The second act :** forms the bulk of Hemingway's drama the chase, the capture and the attacks by the shark.
- **The third act:** of the novel is composed of several short scenes, where we find ourselves shifting from one short scenes to another.

Hemingway's use of symbols in the novel ?Discuss.

The hero of Hemingway finds the place of the human beings within the nature. Therefore, the writer overlords the novel with symbols to give the prominence for the hero of the text. As well as giving the importance towards the hero of the novel, **the writer has used symbols in the novel to give the depth for the themes.** It is very essential to grab the attention of the readers for the themes of the text, because themes are the messages that the writer wants to present for his readers. Using number of symbols, the writer has given his consideration with the attention of the readers towards the themes of the novel. In addition, Hemingway's symbolism is an essential tool in addressing topics indirectly, in the nineteenth century.

To conclude, Hemingway's *The Old Man and The Sea* (1951) is full of symbols. However, it would be impossible to deal with all the symbols. The present study has focused more on the major ones and tried to explain their meanings in order to add an extra meaning to the novel.