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Character Analysis of Robert Jordan and Santiago: The Sublime Parables of the Unconquerable Human Spirit against the Heavy Odds

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Abstract: ***Ernest Hemingway is one of America's most distinguished novelists of the twentieth century. The protagonists of Ernest Hemingway are emblematic of resilience and fortitude, navigating through life's physical and psychological adversities. Robert Jordan, a guerrilla fighter in the Spanish Civil War, embodies the existential struggle against a hostile universe, dealing with deep emotional scars and imminent death with unyielding courage. Santiago, the old fisherman, epitomizes the Hemingway code hero, demonstrating indomitable strength and perseverance in his relentless battle with a giant marlin. Despite severe injuries and overwhelming challenges, both characters maintain their dignity and exemplify the essence of "grace under pressure." This analysis delves into Hemingway's exploration of human resilience, highlighting how his heroes reflect the profound courage and perseverance that define the human spirit in the face of adversity. The characters of Santiago and Robert Jordan deal with the vital issues of mortality, hope, despair, and determination, where they fight back against adverse circumstances to regain their honor and dignity, exhibiting the indestructible spirit of man at its best.***

Keywords: Ernest Hemingway, Code Hero, Spanish Civil War, Robert Jordan.

1. INTRODUCTION

Ernest Hemingway is one of the significant archetypes of the Lost Generation of the 20th century. Hemingway's inner world is instinctively somewhat tumult and empty, where there is a battle between a solitary man and a mysterious force that is incomprehensible to him. He is conscious of the fact that whatsoever hard the struggle of man against this baffling force, they remain in a state of intense bewilderment and melancholy, so we can say that Hemingway's heroes have an intrinsic quality of what Bertrand Russell terms "despairing courage," which

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makes man act like a real man who can show his dignity in the face of adversities. Having the qualities of perseverance, self-esteem, and courage, such as those of Robert Jordan and Santiago, they display bravery driven by their masculinity [1]. Ernest Hemingway's heroes are often depicted as tormented individuals, enduring both physical and psychological wounds. This theme is exemplified in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," where Robert Jordan, the protagonist, grapples with the emotional trauma of his father's suicide and the physical injuries sustained during the Spanish Civil War. Hemingway introduced the concept of the "code hero" to counterbalance these sufferings. The code hero lives by a strict personal code, confronting the world's violence, misery, and chaos with courage and resilience, thereby offering a model of strength and integrity to heal the Hemingway hero's afflictions... The code hero is, therefore, a prototype of a particular code or beliefs that he adheres to [2]. These qualities make him a man, so he stands firm against life, which is usually a losing battle. This sanctioned him to exist as Hemingway favors “with grace under pressure.” Hemingway's protagonists embody resilience, confronting life's challenges with unwavering determination. Santiago, the hero of "The Old Man and the Sea," is the most significant illustration of the "Code Hero.” After struggling for eighty-four days, Santiago hooks a giant marlin, enduring severe injuries and exhaustion. His battle with the fish symbolizes man's struggle against overwhelming odds, showcasing his strength and courage. Even as sharks devour his hard-won prize, Santiago's dignity and endurance illustrate Hemingway's belief that while a man can be destroyed, he cannot be defeated. This portrayal highlights an ordinary man's profound courage and steadfastness in the face of life's inevitable hardships [2, 3]. Similarly, Robert Jordan is again the exemplification of both the hero and the Code hero. He fully acknowledges the fact that death is imminent but faces it bravely in an unyielding and unflinching manner. He is injured emotionally and physically but has learned to face life despite his wounds [2]. This research explores the depth and resilience of Ernest Hemingway's "code heroes," exemplified by Robert Jordan and Santiago. It examines how these protagonists' unwavering determination and personal code of honor reflect core themes of courage, integrity, and human perseverance. Additionally, the study highlights the impact of war on Hemingway's heroes, like Robert Jordan, as how they are profoundly shaped by the ravages of war, which test their courage and integrity. The brutal realities of conflict reveal their resilience and adherence to a personal code of honor amidst chaos. Moreover, this study offers a profound exploration of Hemingway's artistry in heroism and his concept of the code hero. Overall, this research sheds light on Hemingway's literary mastery in crafting characters that resonate with timeless human virtues, inspiring readers to embrace courage, resilience, and integrity in their own lives.

Ernest Hemingway's protagonists in "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and "The Old Man and the Sea" grapple with profound internal struggles and psychological complexities amidst war and personal battles. Despite extensive literary analysis of Hemingway's works, a need to comprehensively understand how these characters navigate their tumultuous inner worlds and confront the physical and emotional wounds inflicted upon them remains. This study aims to address the gap in the literature by exploring the mental conditions of Robert Jordan and Santiago, the embodiment of the Hemingway "code hero," and their demonstration of "despairing courage" and "grace under pressure." By delving into these aspects, the research will provide deeper insights into Hemingway's portrayal of the human condition, the resilience

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of his characters, and his unique narrative style, thereby enriching our understanding of his contributions to 20th-century American literature.

2. RELATED WORKS

In Ernest Hemingway's classic novel "For Whom the Bell Tolls," the protagonist, Robert Jordan, stands out as a unique character who embodies the essence of the code hero, a concept central to Hemingway's literary philosophy. His virtues, such as courage, love for his country, and a steadfast dedication to his missions, are not just characteristic traits of the code hero, but they are also uniquely manifested in Jordan's actions [1] [2] [3]. His authenticity in existence becomes palpable through his decisive actions, particularly his willingness to risk his life to sabotage a bridge during the tumultuous backdrop of the Spanish Civil War [4]. Hemingway's adept contrast of Jordan with the Spanish characters in the novel further positions him as the quintessential literary hero [5]. Robert Jordan, the protagonist of Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls," is tasked with bombing a bridge behind fascist lines to aid the Republic's surprise attack. Despite facing numerous challenges, Jordan remains steadfastly committed to his mission, facing death with bravery. His dedication to the cause and willingness to sacrifice for others distinguish him as a true hero. Unlike many who feign selflessness, Jordan's actions are genuinely altruistic, earning him a sterling reputation as an international soldier opposing fascism. A young American Spanish teacher, Jordan could have remained distant from the Spanish Civil War, yet his profound love for Spain compels him to fight for its people's peace and freedom until his last breath. His noble traits and ultimate sacrifice highlight his exceptional character, making him a typical Hemingway hero. In "For Whom the Bell Tolls," Maria holds a profound significance for Robert Jordan, as their love breathes new life into him amidst the ravages of war. This poignant love story, juxtaposed with the war's brutality, underscores love's beauty and tragic struggle against conflict. While Jordan is a quasi-Marxist, not fully committed to Marxist ideology, he resolutely undertakes his mission, even at the cost of his life. His sacrifice, rendered even more tragic by the task's seeming futility, is marked by his zest for life and courage in the face of death. Jordan epitomizes the classic Hemingway hero, enduring physical and emotional torment yet meeting his end with dignity and grace [1]. In "For Whom the Bell Tolls," death is inevitable. Unlike Nick Adams from Hemingway's World War I stories, Robert Jordan is unburdened by the fear of dying, viewing it as an abstract concept: "Dying was nothing, and he had no picture of it in his mind." His disdain for death stems from a deep love for life. Yet, when confronted with the certainty of his demise, Jordan faces it with unwavering courage and acceptance, embodying the relentless spirit of a true Hemingway hero [4]. ‘The Old Man and the Sea’ was published in 1952; it was the last major work of Earnest Hemingway. According to Chiba (2019), Santiago and Hemingway are analogs. Santiago could hunt in the nearer stripes of water, but he searches for a bigger fish in the unfathomable sea depths. In the same way, Hemingway seeks a big achievement with his most significant literary endeavor [3]. According to Schatz (2020), this novel contains a profound meaning and a distinction that transcends time and place. It reveals the hypotheses of the prevalence of man in this world, where fearlessness, respect, integrity, intuition, dignity, dreams, and imagination trigger man’s search to thrive amid tribulations and sufferings. It is a story of the unyielding spirit of man; Santiago manifests a positive outlook toward life while

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fighting with the considerable marlin and gives life lessons to all. Santiago symbolizes the essence of endeavor and aspiration in the waning conditions when defeat is predestined for him. No other fisherman would even consider staying against such a large fish, even in shallow waters, so Santiago had to fight to prove his dominance over the vicious nature of the fish to finally capture it after 84 days. According to Shahwan (2019), it is this cognizance of individuality due to which the sub-consciousness is aroused that proves the existence of one's inner self and ability to reflect personal recognition, which is based on self-worth and dignity and provide the strength and capability to respond emphatically to challenging circumstances. His faith serves to prove him a man of strong determination. His immense resolution and self-reliance permit him to triumph over his contender [3]. According to Aslam and Khattak (2014), Santiago has pride. He cannot accept that he lacks the agility and strength of the young anglers even though he possesses the expertise, and he goes too far to prove his legitimacy, which makes his character one-sided. As Cunningham (2016) says, the villagers call him Salao; his old body was tormented by years of misery and despair except for his blue eyes, which were "cheerful and undefeated." On the 85th day, Santiago starts his journey through the deep blue ocean again, pushing himself towards "the schools of Bonita and albacore" to demonstrate his prowess as a savvy and seasoned fisherman [3]. Hemingway not only represents Santiago's frailty related to old age but also tends to show his unwavering spirit, as is indicated by his cheerful eyes. His eyes vividly explain Santiago's real personality. Also, Hemingway uses the duration of time (84 days) to manifest indirectly Santiago's characteristics. Also, the prolonged struggle for this long timespan (84 days) manifests Santiago's unusual capabilities. A man usually cannot face and endure perpetual failure because too many setbacks or prolonged failures can shatter confidence, even a person's strong will, but Santiago is unprecedented. From his perspective, nothing can conquer his will, although he is an impoverished and lonely older man. He constantly nurtures the belief that he will not always be unlucky. Therefore, the power for his persistence is the hope for the future and strong determination to face his destiny. In a nutshell, Hemingway indicates the distinctive character of a code hero in The Old Man and the Sea. Hemingway uses Santiago as a hero who embodies his outlook on life. In other words, a person must accept the inevitable failure that comes with daily life while still maintaining his composure and grace. Santiago exhibits tenacity, self-assurance, and resolution in overcoming challenges. Even though he acknowledges that he cannot win the battles, he still tries hard to fight alone to show his dignity, courage, bravery, and skill. Ultimately, it is crucial to cite Santiago's famous phrase, "A man can be destroyed but not defeated." This is the soul of the whole novel. This sentence encapsulates the older man's character: his stoicism, commitment, persistence, and unyielding will. As for us, these spirits give us insight and stimulate us to be positive against adversities [1].

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

A qualitative descriptive approach is used in this article because it investigates the moral values of the main characters. This study explains the traits of code heroes based on the situations and conditions of the characters. The writers use primary data, which consists of two novels, For Whom the Bell Tolls and The Old Man and the Sea, and secondary data, such as references from other materials and the Internet. Through meticulous literary analysis, the research

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highlights the themes of resilience, courage, and integrity embodied by Robert Jordan and Santiago. By comparing these protagonists, the study highlights their shared and distinct traits in confronting life's adversities. Historical contextualization grounds the analysis in Hemingway's real-life experiences, offering more profound insight into his creation of the code hero archetype showing how Hemingway's own life influenced his characters as Hemingway's experiences in war and his personal struggles are reflected in the moral and existential battles faced by his protagonists. Furthermore, the research includes a comprehensive review of scholarly critiques, situating this study within the broader context of Hemingway studies. This review not only identifies gaps in existing literature but also builds upon previous interpretations, offering new insights and perspectives. By integrating these critiques, the study enhances its academic diligence and contributes to a more subtle understanding of Hemingway's work. Overall, this extended methodology allows for a more thorough and insightful analysis of the moral values and traits of Hemingway's code heroes, providing valuable contributions to the field of literary studies. By employing this comprehensive methodology, the study not only provides a detailed character analysis of Robert Jordan and Santiago but also illustrates how they serve as sublime parables of the unconquerable human spirit against heavy odds. The research being conducted primarily focuses on the thematic and psychological analysis, examining certain excerpts from the novels in order to delve into and illustrate the characteristics and elements of heroism embodied in the protagonists.

4. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Ernest Hemingway, the leading exponent of American literature, produced numerous novels and short stories that garnered him worldwide fame, including the most prestigious Nobel Prize for Literature. His works vividly illuminate war-related issues, featuring protagonists that often mirror his experiences. These characters vocally oppose the reckless use of power and authority that inflicts widespread suffering. Living through the tumultuous 20th century, marked by bloodshed, violence, political conflict, and hostility, Hemingway could not escape the repercussions of extensive use of power. His involvement in World War I, World War II, and the Spanish Civil War lends authenticity and depth to his war depictions, solidifying his significance in war literature. A multifaceted individual, Hemingway’s adventurous life and literary prowess provided rich material for his fiction. Hemingway's literary legacy, characterized by his profound exploration of war and its effects, is underscored by his wartime experiences, making his works a cornerstone of war literature. His adventurous spirit and personal encounters with conflict enrich his novels, offering a compelling and credible portrayal of the 20th century's tumultuous landscape. Hemingway's perspective in his fiction is that of a stark realist, grounded in sharp observations and vivid descriptions, rather than an imaginative writer conjuring conflicts between fictional nations and peoples. Consequently, it is accurate to assert that Hemingway's life and works are deeply intertwined. His varied life experiences as an adventurer and war participant significantly inform the subject matter of his fiction. This inseparability bestows a semi-autobiographical quality to his works, leading many to interpret his protagonists in the context of his own life. Hemingway introduced a series of unforgettable characters to world literature, depicted with vivid brilliance and a style marked by conciseness and brevity, aiming for a direct portrayal of character and action. His major

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novels, including "A Farewell to Arms," "The Old Man and the Sea," "The Sun Also Rises," and "For Whom the Bell Tolls," reflect his dedication to exploring themes of war and humanism. His unwavering stance on demonstrating indomitable resolve and the willpower to endure pain for the sake of human dignity is evident in his works. These novels convey a humanitarian passion for a future based on peace and prosperity rather than violence, death, and terror. Early in his writing career, Hemingway recognized that the devastation of the World Wars had left people feeling battered, frustrated, disillusioned, and hopeless about the future. He believed that providing moral direction was an essential role of the artist. However, Hemingway was neither a propagandist nor an overt moralist. Instead, he offered the "lost generation" a moral code derived from the life experiences of his characters, guiding them to survive with grace in a world rife with bloodshed and violence.

Hemingway's personal experiences of suffering from the wars, both physically and psychologically, profoundly influenced his artistic expression of themes related to war, death, and humanism. There is a notable similarity between Hemingway and his protagonists regarding the sufferings they endure due to their involvement in destructive conflicts. These characters inhabit a violent world, sustain war wounds, experience psychological depression, and suffer from insomnia, frustration, and a pervasive sense of life's futility. This brooding sense of absurdity led Hemingway to describe the modern American generation as the "lost generation." Hemingway's wartime and other experiences inflicted him not only physically but also psychologically, which he channeled into his fiction. To varying degrees, his protagonists reflect his views on life, war, and humanity. The horrors of war, which shattered the social and cultural values of the Euro-American world, rendered individual existence absurd and meaningless. Both Hemingway's personal life and those of his heroes reflect these conditions. As the voice of his generation, Hemingway felt a duty to address the profound isolation and frustration experienced by the post-war generations. Consequently, his heroes exhibit exceptional courage and dedication to upholding life's noble values. They remain true to their purposes, do not succumb to powerful adversaries, endure intense suffering without complaint, prioritize broader human values over personal interests, and ultimately achieve moral victories. Among Hemingway's unforgettable war heroes, Robert Jordan, the protagonist of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," stands out. Although an American by nationality and seemingly unconnected to the Spanish Civil War, he volunteers to fight in Spain to protect the country he loves from Fascist devastation. Like Hemingway, Jordan has a deep affection for Spain and strives to defend its democratic republic from Fascist plunder. As an American, Jordan's unwavering commitment to democracy compels him to dedicate his life to its preservation worldwide. War profoundly influences Hemingway's characters, often acting as a catalyst for their heroic traits. In "For Whom the Bell Tolls," the violence and trauma of the Spanish Civil War shape the characters significantly. Robert Jordan, for instance, evolves to become more compassionate and empathetic due to his wartime experiences. His love for Maria is partly driven by his desire to protect her from the violence and suffering he has witnessed. Additionally, the war tests and challenges the characters' heroism. Jordan encounters numerous obstacles and ethical dilemmas throughout the novel, forcing him to make tough decisions and confront his doubts and fears [5]. Hemingway’s depiction of heroism within his novels has left an indelible mark on literature and society, resonating with its portrayal of protagonists who defy conventional hero archetypes. Departing from the traditional image of flawless heroes, Hemingway presents

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multifaceted characters whose actions are influenced by the complexities of human nature and the tumult of external circumstances, particularly the specter of war. In Hemingway's narratives, heroes are not immune to imperfections but grapple with personal flaws and confront daunting dilemmas. Their heroism is not measured solely by grand victories but by their unwavering resilience amidst adversity and their commitment to their convictions. Notably, Hemingway's protagonists are characterized by their deeds rather than their rhetoric, embodying a stoic resolve that speaks volumes about their integrity and moral fiber. Moreover, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism signifies a paradigm shift in literary and cultural landscapes, steering away from simplistic, idealized portrayals toward a more nuanced and realistic depiction. By presenting heroes who are fallible and nuanced, Hemingway prompts readers to reconsider preconceived notions of heroism, inviting introspection into the true nature of courage and sacrifice[6]**.** According to Akbaraliyevna, Hemingway diverges from conventional perceptions of heroism by emphasizing action and immediacy, deviating from the passive archetype often associated with traditional heroes. In challenging conventional heroism, Hemingway portrays ordinary individuals who demonstrate courage and integrity in their unique contexts. His characters are flawed and relatable, grappling with existential dilemmas while seeking purpose and meaning. This departure from idealized heroism humanizes his protagonists, making their struggles and triumphs more accessible to readers. Hemingway's exploration of heroism has left an indelible mark on literature and society, prompting a reevaluation of traditional hero archetypes and a deeper understanding of the complexities of human courage and integrity. His works resonate with readers, serving as a poignant reminder of the importance of staying true to one's convictions and embracing individual existence's inherent freedom and responsibility. Hence, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism disrupts traditional ideals by presenting flawed yet courageous characters who confront life's challenges head-on[6]. "For Whom the Bell Tolls" graphically portrays the brutality of the Spanish Civil War, primarily through the thoughts and experiences of its protagonist, Robert Jordan. Hemingway drew inspiration for the character from his experiences as a reporter for the North American Newspaper Alliance during the war. Widely considered one of Hemingway's finest works, the novel offers a vivid and poignant exploration of conflict and its impacts [7]**.** The character of Robert Jordan epitomizes the author's unconventional portrayal of heroism. Rather than being depicted as a larger-than-life figure endowed with extraordinary bravery and physical prowess, Jordan emerges as an ordinary individual who demonstrates courage and integrity in his distinct manner. While he willingly places himself in dangerous situations to fulfill his mission, Jordan grapples with moral complexities surrounding the war and experiences internal conflicts regarding the violence. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism through Jordan is not centered on his capacity for killing but on his commitment to righteousness and his unwavering defense of his principles. Jordan's heroism is elaborated by his willingness to stand for what he believes is right, even in the face of doubt and ethical ambiguity. Hemingway's heroes, including Jordan, confront the harsh realities of the world and face the inherent meaninglessness of life, yet they persist in acting with courage and moral rectitude. Through his portrayal of heroism, Hemingway challenges conventional paradigms and compels the readers to reconsider preconceived notions of what it means to be heroic. His characters inspire introspection and reflection, encouraging individuals to forge their paths and uncover their unique purposes in life [6]. Themes of neurosis and psychological

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conflict are prevalent in Hemingway's heroes, exemplified by characters such as Nick Adams, Jake Barnes, and Robert Jordan [8]. Moreover, a psychoanalytical examination of literary characters like Jordan can unveil deeper insights into their psyche, shedding light on the underlying causes of their neuroses and conflicts. Karen Horney's concept of the neurotic quest for power is apparent in Hemingway's characters through their intense focus on courage, stoicism, and emotional control, revealing complex and enigmatic personalities [9].

Ernest Hemingway's renowned novel, "The Old Man and the Sea," delves into the profound depths of the human spirit, exploring themes of determination, resilience, and the quest for meaning in an indifferent world. At the heart of the narrative lies the protagonist, Santiago, whose journey is a powerful allegory for the existential struggles of man's life. Despite seemingly insurmountable challenges, Santiago emerges as a beacon of hope and perseverance. His unwavering courage and enduring patience propel him on a journey of self-discovery and redemption. Through Santiago's relentless battle with the marlin and the unforgiving elements of the sea, Hemingway crafts a compelling allegory for the broader human experience. Santiago's struggle against the forces of nature mirrors humanity's eternal quest for purpose and significance in a world that often appears indifferent and absurd. Despite the odds against him, Santiago embodies heroism, stoicism, and humanism. His unwavering resolve in the face of adversity is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit. Through Santiago's triumphs and tribulations, Hemingway offers profound insights into the human condition and the quest for meaning. "The Old Man and the Sea" remains a timeless literary masterpiece, captivating readers with its poignant exploration of existential themes and its portrayal of the indomitable human spirit. According to Ghimire, Santiago's journey inspires all who grapple with life's uncertainties and the inherent ambiguity of existence. In his relentless pursuit of purpose amidst the universe's chaos, Santiago emerges as a triumphant figure, reminding readers of the transformative power of courage, resilience, and unwavering determination in life's most significant challenges [10]. So, it can be inferred that Robert Jordan and Santiago are iconic heroes, embodying unique traits and navigating distinct journeys. Robert Jordan, the protagonist in "For Whom the Bell Tolls," exemplifies an isolated individual contending with a hostile world, with his narrative echoing a Tolstoyan scale in his quest for self-understanding [11]. In contrast, in "The Old Man and the Sea," Santiago exemplifies the archetypal code hero, demonstrating grace under pressure and unwavering bravery in defeat [1]. While Robert Jordan grapples with the intricacies of war and guerrilla warfare, Santiago's struggle against the forces of nature and his internal battles highlight Hemingway's themes of perseverance and dignity [12]. Analyzing the character of Robert Jordan in Hemingway's "For Whom the Bell Tolls" and Santiago in Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" reveals archetypal literary heroes confronting formidable challenges [13]. These characters manifest the indomitable human spirit, highlighting heroism and resilience amid adversity [14].

5. CONCLUSION

In this research, we have made a detailed character analysis of Robert Jordan and Santiago elaborating effect of war on Hemingway's heroes with a vivid description of Hemingway's art of heroism. Hemingway manifests his true sentiment or perspective on life through these code heroes, who show human determination, bravery, and perseverance to face adverse

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circumstances and keep a positive attitude to gain dominance over their opponents. To Hemingway, life is predestined to struggle, just like facing different challenges. Still, he believes that regardless of the result, people are capable of battling against the predicaments of life. Even though he is aware that occasionally persistent struggle is useless when man faces natural and mysterious forces, he still believes humans are not entirely hopeless in the bitter world. In examining the characters of Robert Jordan and Santiago, we uncover the profound depth of Hemingway's portrayal of the unconquerable human spirit. Robert Jordan, the resilient guerrilla fighter of "For Whom the Bell Tolls," and Santiago, the indomitable fisherman of "The Old Man and the Sea," are sublime parables of courage, honor, and perseverance. Both characters confront overwhelming odds with unwavering determination and integrity, embodying Hemingway's quintessential code hero. Jordan's bravery and steadfastness in the face of imminent death during the Spanish Civil War illustrate his deep commitment to a cause greater than himself. His emotional and physical scars reflect the internal and external battles that define the human experience. Similarly, Santiago's epic struggle against the marlin and his subsequent ordeal with the sharks highlight his relentless spirit and dignified resolve. Hemingway explores the themes of mortality, hope, despair, and determination through these characters. Jordan and Santiago epitomize the essence of "grace under pressure," demonstrating that true heroism lies not in victory but in the unyielding will to strive and endure, thus highlighting adventure, resolution, perseverance, and the indomitable human spirit against heavy odds.

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