

## CHAPTER II

## ERNEST HEMINGWAY AND HIS WORKS

The Old Man and the Sea was written by Ernest Miller Hemingway in Havana, Cuba. Therefore, the setting of the story is in Cuba, precisely on the Gulf Stream. Havana became the appropriate place for Hemingway in expressing his ideas. He spent most of his life, almost twenty three years, in Finca Vigia, the name of his house in Havana. There, he created his important novels. Besides The Old Man and the Sea, his other main novels were born there as well. They are: For Whom the Bell Tolls, Across the River and Into the Trees, A Moveable Feast, and Island In the Stream.

Hemingway stayed in Havana when the political situation there was unstable. The country was ruled by a dictator, Gerardo Machado, who made his country beautiful by building new roads and palaces, but on the contrary, the political and moral corruption of the regime was very serious. The United States had sent many kinds of products to Havana, including canned foods with its fresh fishes imported from Cuba. (Tempo, November, 26, 1988)

Louis Untermeyer (1960) in Library of Great American Writing stated that Ernest Miller Hemingway was born

on July, 21, 1899 in Oak Park, Illinois. He was the second child of six children of Clarence Edmons Hemingway and Grace Hall Hemingway. His father was a doctor of medicine who was also a hunter and fisherman and through him Hemingway was introduced to outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, boxing which attracted him all his life and much influenced his works. (1585)

According to Scott Donaldson (1977) in By Force of Will, hunting and fishing are two activities to which he had been introduced by his father since he was very young. On his third birthday, he was taken fishing as a special present from his father, Dr. Hemingway. He even taught his son to shoot when he was two and a half and at four Ernest could handle a pistol. (15)

Untermeyer mentioned that Hemingway spent his boyhood in Oak Park by playing football and boxing. When he was in High School he also wrote columns for the school newspaper. Before graduating from High School he ran away from home at fifteen. In 1919 he returned home to finish high school and after the graduation he got a job as a reporter for the Kansas City Star. (1585)

In The Modern American Novel, Max West Brook gave illustration that after six months working as a reporter

on that biggest newspaper in the Middle West, Hemingway left for Europe as an ambulance driver with the American Red Cross. (90)

Untermayer stated that for a while he lived in Chicago and in September, 1921, he married Hadley Richardson, a young newspaper woman. There he met some good writers such as Sherwood Anderson, Gertrude Stein, and Ezra Pound who later guided him in writing. After the marriage, Hemingway and his wife rushed off to the Near East to report the Greco Turkish War.

After the war, with a letter of introduction from Sherwood Anderson to Gertrude Stein, he came to Paris. From Stein and Anderson, Hemingway first learned theories of writing which he developed into what was known as the unique "Hemingway Style". It could be stories which are clear and passionate without plot, idiom, and rhetoric.

In 1923, Hemingway published a little book, Three Stories and Ten Poems. A year later, in 1924, he wrote In Our Time which is about post-war impressions. The stories in it were set down to show that there was no real peace in the nostalgic world before the war, these were a picture of a world of violence war and sudden death" (1986).

The Sun Also Rises which was published in 1926 is

his first major novel that depicts the aimlessness of the post-war "lost generation". This generation "saw the first World War as a universal deception, a colossal and useless sacrifice of millions of useful lives" (1926). Unfortunately, the popularity of this novel was followed by his divorce with his first wife, Hadley Richardson, in 1927. In the same year, Hemingway remarried Pauline Pfeiffer, an attractive editor at Vogue magazine. From this second marriage they had two sons, Patrick and Gregory, while his first marriage with Hadley Richardson gave him a son, John. The next year, 1928, Hemingway returned to the United States and there he published another collection of short stories, Men Without Women. Then he decided to live on the ocean front at Key West, Florida. (1926-1928)

In Hemingway and His Critics, Andre Maurois (1962) informed that in the same year, 1928, came a heavy blow. His father, Clarence Edmonds Hemingway committed suicide without any certain reason. Maurice stated that:

He had much bad luck, and it was not all of it his own. He had died in a trap that he had helped only a little to set. Now the son harbored a new obsession: Had the doctor become

frightened? Fear was destined to be one of Hemingway's great themes (44).

In years around that some books were born: in 1929, A Farewell to Arms which is generally considered as his finest novel. This is about the Italian campaign; in 1932, Death in The Afternoon, a long study of bullfighting; and a story about a hunting trip in the heart of Africa, Green Hills of Africa was published in 1935.

During the 1930's Hemingway spent much time in Spain, Africa and Florida. He had many experiences as a bullfight aficionado, big game hunter and deep-sea fisherman. He involved himself as a correspondent on the Loyalist Side in the Spanish Civil War and with the First Army in World War II. (45)

Therefore, it is stated in Encyclopedia Americana(1977), that he "became somewhat legendary figure, fighting more than writing and better known for his military career than for his journalistic achievements" (82). When the civil war broke out in Spain, Maurois stated, Hemingway was among intellectuals in the United States who enlisted in the cause of the Spanish Republican Government. This experience inspired him to write a novel, For Whom The Bell Tolls whose hero, Robert Jordan,

personifies Hemingway himself. The pattern of death gives a new shape in his novel, To Have and Have Not, which was published in 1938. In this novel, "no man alone now" become Hemingway's theme.

Two years later, in 1940, his second marriage had to be ended in a divorce again. In that year, at Cheyenne, Wyoming, Hemingway married the writer Martha Gelhorn. Together they took a trip to China then settled down in Cuba not far from Havana.

In 1942 he volunteered to the United States Navy to serve as a oneman suicide squadron. His task was to attract enemy submarines; then, if one of them stopped him, he would blow up the submarine and himself. Unfortunately, the Navy refused and Hemingway managed to get himself sent to England as a war correspondent.

After World War II he stayed at a hotel in Venice and hoped to write a book about the war. Since he was interrupted by an eye infection when he had a hunting trip, Hemingway made it into a shorter novel: Across the River and Into the Trees. It is about a colonel's love affair with a young woman of nineteen.

As his previous marriage, this third marriage also ended in a divorce and Hemingway married Mary Welsh, a

former war correspondent of Time magazine. He lived with her in a house near Havana called Finca Vigia (Lookout Farm). He chose Cuba and felt a little more at peace there than elsewhere. He spent his days by writing and if weather is good he fished with his sailor-navigator. He still believed that the writer must keep in touch with nature by some forms of action. To prove this idea he wrote The Old Man and the Sea in 1952 which was received with unanimous praise. It is about an adventure of an old Cuban fisherman, Santiago, who fights courageously to land the biggest fish in his life only to see it devoured by the sharks who leave him nothing but a naked white skeleton of bones. It is a short and seemingly simple story but the theme is so powerful that it brought the novelist a Pulitzer Prize. The following year, in 1954, he was awarded the Nobel Prize for the "style making mastership" exemplified by this small novel. (45-48)

At the beginning of that year, for a few hours he was thought dead. Untermyer mentioned that his plane crashed in the Sudan jungle near the Nile while he was hunting in Africa. A radio flashed announced his death and in fact he could save himself and reach the Nile by boarding a passing boat. This accident became a world-

wide publicity for the writer. (1588)

Hemingway and his fourth wife lived in Cuba until the Castro regime forced him out of the country and he intended to settle at Ketchum, Idaho, near Sun Valley. It is stated in Encyclopedia Americana (1977) that he was in very poor health there and on July 2, 1961, he killed himself with a shotgun at home in Ketchum.