

CHAPTER IV  
THE MOTIVATION OF SANTIAGO'S STRUGGLE  
FROM HIS INNER SELF

Apart from the sociological point of view, there is another way to analyze Santiago's motivation which stimulates him to fight in order to gain the marlin. This point of view is the psychology which is used to discuss the motivations coming from him as an individual, not as a member of the fishermen community in which his actions are always influenced by other members of the community.

Although he is old, Santiago has a strong motivation and self-confidence to catch the marlin. He fights desperately against the sharks that attack the marlin, "he can be destroyed but can not be defeated". He does not want to be defeated, although in fact, some parts of the marlin's flesh has been eaten by the sharks, while Santiago is hurt physically. Santiago believes in his extraordinary strength, "I am a strange old man" (9), he says to Manolin about himself. He is also sure that he is strong enough to catch a truly big fish when Manolin asks him:

"But are you strong enough now for a truly big

fish?"

"I think so. And there are many tricks". (9-10).

Santiago clearly wants to show that he is still powerful to gain a big fish. The fact that he is old does not mean that anybody can underestimate him as he pleases. Every human being has a tendency to use his or her own potentiality as maximum as possible. As quoted from Understanding Human Behaviour (1977) by James V. Mc Cornell, Alfred Adler stated that "we have an instinct for self-realization, for completion and perfection". (502)

According to Adler, this instinct was the driving force of life itself which was the first cause of all behaviour. Thus, Santiago's long struggle with the marlin and against the sharks is caused by his instinct for self realization, he intends to use all his potentiality as a fisherman. Santiago is aware of his existence as a fisherman, this awareness has motivated him to make great effort on the sea after he has caught no fish for a long period. He realizes that he has to make great achievement by using all his capability and potentiality. Carl Rogers in Psychology (1984) by Henry I. Roediger et al. stated that there is an innate drive within each

person which leads ultimately to self-actualization, "the fulfilment of all of an individual's capabilities and achievement of all of his or her potential".

(489)

Thus, his long struggle can be said as a realization of self-actualization to prove his powerfulness, as he says to Manolin: "I told the boy I was a strange old man," he said. Now is when I must prove it" (55). It is not easy to make an achievement, it needs sacrifice. Santiago knows that, therefore he is willing to sacrifice everything, including his own life. He decides to fight by using his maximum potentiality until he dies.

To gain what one wants, a person has to be optimistic that he or she will be able to reach this dream. By being optimistic, a person will always try hard to maintain what he or she wants. This also applies to Santiago who is also an optimistic person. He is sure that someday he will be lucky enough to catch a big fish. As he says to himself:

But, he thought, I keep them with precision. Only I have no luck anymore. But who knew? may be today. Every day is a new day. It is better to be lucky. But I would rather be exact. Then

when luck comes you are already. (25)

He is not afraid of all the challenges that he has to overcome, although he has to face them alone on the sea for three days and nights. He overcomes it courageously, he does not consider the nature as "his enemy but as his friend". There is no negative thinking about nature in his mind as it is expressed when he thinks of the sea as kind and beautiful, not as an enemy like other people consider it:

He always thought of the sea as "la mar" which is what people call her in Spanish when they love her. Sometimes those who love her say bad things of her but they are always said as though she were a woman. Some of the younger fishermen, those who used buoys as floats for their lines and had motor-boats, bough when the shark livers had brought much money, spoke of her as "el mar" which is masculine. They spoke of her as contestant or a place or even an enemy. But the old man always thought of her as feminine and as something that gave or withheld great favours, and if she did wild or wicked things it was because she could not help them.

The moon affects her as it does a woman, he thought. (23)

Even the marlin which has been caught is considered as his friend, therefore he tries to protect it from the sharks' attack:

"The fish is my friend too," he said aloud. "I have never seen or heard of such a fish. But I must kill him. I am glad we do not have to try to kill the stars."

He considers that his struggle against the sharks is a consequence after he has killed the marlin:

"Keep my head clear," he said against the wood of the bow. "I am tired old man. But I have killed this fish which is my brother and now I must do the slave work."

To add his self-confidence when on the sea, Santiago often remembers of things as something having to do with victory. For example, he tries to remember about the time when he won a hand game play with a great negro: "As the sun set he remembered, to give himself more confidence, the time in the tavern at Casablanca when he had played the hand game with the great negro from Cienfuegos who was the strongest man in the docks. (58). He recalls this

scene in order to convince him that he is a strong old man who could beat a fine man and great athlete. His victory was partly caused by his optimistic view that he would be able to beat the negro who had tried very hard to defeat Santiago:

Then the negro, after the rum, would try for a tremendous effort and once he had the old man, who was not an old man then, but was Santiago "El Campeon", nearly three inches off balance. But the old man had raised his hand up to dead even again. He was sure then that he had the negro, who was a fine man and a great athlete, beaten. (59)

He also idolizes Di Maggio, a great American baseball player who always plays perfectly although he has the pain of the bone spur in his heel. If DiMaggio can stand the feeling of pain in his heel, why can not he?. Therefore, he also imagines DiMaggio playing perfectly with the pain in a part of his body. Santiago always tries to overcome the difficulties which can lessen his courage to fight. One of the solutions is by thinking about something that can give him spirit to keep fighting against nature. For example, when he feels tired he tries

to think about the result of a baseball game in which DiMaggio participates:

He felt tired now and he knew the night would come soon and he tried to think of other things. He thought of the Big Leagues, to him they were the "Gran Ligas", and he knew that the Yankees of New York were playing the "Tigres" of Detroit.

This is the second day now that I do not know the result of the "juegos", he thought. But I must have confidence and I must be worthy of the great DiMaggio who does all things perfectly even with the pain of the bone spur in his heel. (57)

Santiago also tries to compare DiMaggio with he himself. He thinks that DiMaggio would also have stayed on the sea as long as he is doing now if DiMaggio were a fisherman:

Do you believe the great DiMaggio would stay with a fish as long as I will stay with this one? he thought.

I am sure he would and more since he is young

and strong. Also his father was a fisherman.  
(57-58)

Like Santiago, DiMaggio and the negro are also never desperate. They always try hard to show their existences. DiMaggio always makes great effort in every baseball game, by showing his existence as a great baseball player. While the negro has also made tremendous effort to prove that he is really a great athlete, although Santiago can finally defeat him.

Santiago hopes that he can be as strong and professional as they are. As a fisherman, he also has to be a professional fisherman who catches fish perfectly as DiMaggio did when he played baseball.

Santiago also realizes that he was born to be a fisherman and it means that he has to do everything as a consequence of being a fisherman. "Perhaps I should not have been a fisherman, he thought. But that was the think that I was born for" (42).

He is willing to fight against nature to catch fish for that must be done if someone was born to be a fisherman. Thus, he sacrifices everything not because of money but because of his pride as a fisherman. This belief gives him spirit to fight after he has caught not a



single fish for eighty four days. It is apparent when he expresses his opinion about killing a fish: "You did not kill the fish only to keep alive and to sell for food, he thought. You killed him for pride and because you are a fisherman" (90-91).

If he had done fishing only for money, he would not have brought home the marlin's skeleton which means nothing if it is considered materially. Santiago appreciates his tremendous effort in catching this big fish, he does not view it economically but more than that. For him, the value of his struggle and sacrifice in gaining the marlin should be appreciated. Thus, something must be estimated based on the moral values behind it. There are other things that are more valuable than money. Carey stated that:

The old fisherman and the boy value human relationships above materialism. The boy's father and many of the other fisherman put material consideration first: a man must catch fish-otherwise he has no money; otherwise he is not a man (12).

The quotation shows the close relationship between Manolin and Santiago. The young boy learns much from the

old man, he admires him. Santiago has strong self-confidence but on the other hand, he is a humble person. On the sea, after he has catch the marlin, he feels that he can catch the marlin not because of his superiority. It is just because of the tricks that he has made in catching the marlin: "I am only better than him through trickery and he meant me no harm. (85)