

CHAPTER 3

A study of the impact of Henry's relationship with Catherine and his friends in Hemingway's A Farewell to Arms

War is a situation that shows the horror of suffering experienced by common people. A Farewell to Arms is the story with the condition of the First World War, which has a long series of inconclusive battles, particularly on the Western Front in France, in which civilian life was badly disrupted and in which the toll of lives was far higher than previously imaginable. Frederic Henry is the character who is directly involved in war. Frederick Henry is an American volunteer who joins in the Italian army. He joins the Italian army first because he likes challenge and adventure that is why he wants to participate with the Italian army, as a volunteer while actually it is not his war. In the novel, Henry represents

in many ways the author's character and experience, which has many significant parts in the story. Second, Henry joins the army because he wants to search for values and he gets these values from his friends and Catherine as well.

Therefore, I analyze Henry relationship with Catherine, his lover and his friends. Henry's relationship with Catherine and his friends has made his point of view toward life changed and also his way of life, which I will analyze through his action, saying and feelings.

3.1.1 Henry's relationship with Catherine

When Henry meets Miss Catherine Barkley, the English nurse for the first time, Henry is only attracted to her appearance because she is very beautiful nothing more than that. It is shown in the following quotation:

“Miss Barkley was quite tall. She wore what seemed to me to be a nurse's uniform, was blonde and had a tawny skin and gray eyes. I thought she was very beautiful.” (page 18).

Attracted to her appearance, he begins making friend with Catherine. At that time Henry has not loved Catherine yet, he only wants to be with her and be her close friend and make love to her. It can be seen how Henry insisted not to fall in love with Catherine. “God knows I had not wanted to fall in love with her. I had not wanted to fall in love with any one.” (page 93). From the quotation it also can be seen that he has no intention to fall in love with her. Henry thinks that it is better for him to make friends with Catherine than going to the whorehouse.

“I kissed both her shut eyes. I thought she was probably a little crazy. It was all right if she was. I did not care what I was getting into. This was better than going every evening to the house for officers where the girls climbed all over you and put your cap on backward as a sign of affection between their trips upstairs with brother officers. I knew I did not love Catherine Barkley nor had any idea of loving her.”
(page 30)

From the quotation above it shows that Henry does not know what true love is. In fact, it is natural that man needs a woman and vice versa. Henry, however, wants

to put this fact aside. He may have relationship with some girls, but they mean nothing to him. The same way as he thinks that he has no special feeling for Catherine.

Henry considers that love is a game. He does not realize the meaning of love. At the beginning, Henry in front of Catherine pretends that he loves her, only to make her attracted to him, but actually he does not love her. After meeting Catherine for several times, Henry's feeling toward her begins to change. He feels that he begins to fall in love with Catherine. When Henry does not see her, he feels lonely and empty. It is proved in the following quotation:

“I went out the door and suddenly I felt lonely and empty. I had treated seeing Catherine very lightly, I had gotten somewhat drunk and had nearly forgotten to come but when I could not see her there I was feeling lonely and hollow.” (page 41)

His feeling of loneliness of not seeing her makes him realize that he has fallen in love with Catherine, and it proves in the sentence “When I saw her I was in love with her. Everything turned over inside of me.” It means that what he has never expected before has happened to him. (page 91). “All I wanted was to see Catherine” (page 117). In the following sentence, I can see that Henry cannot avoid what he feels toward Catherine. On the contrary, falling in love with Catherine is against his will, as it is known he has made a promise to himself not to be tied to one woman. Henry's statement that he does not want to be tied to one woman shows that he has an inner conflict when he begins to feel something for Catherine. It means that he could not hide the truth that he has fallen in love with Catherine. First he considers his relationship with Catherine only as a game.

“This was a game, like bridge, in which you said things instead of playing cards. Like bridge you had to pretend you were playing for money or playing for some stakes. Nobody had mentioned what the stakes were. It was all right with me.” (page 30)

At first, Henry's relationship with Catherine is only as a friend, but through many moments that they spent together, they realize that their relationship has developed into a deeper relationship. In this case, they become a couple who love

each other. In the end, even though they have a commitment to become wife and husband, they never consider that it is important for them, because the important thing is that they still meet each other and it is enough for them in the situation of war where they face a lot of difficulties.

3.1.2 The impact of Henry relationship with Catherine

Henry's relationship with Catherine has certain impact. I will discuss as follows.

3.1.2.1 Henry changes his bad way of life

In war, it is common that there are love affairs between soldiers and women. For them, their relationship is not based on true love as they can make love by going to whore houses. By getting physical enjoyment, they consider that they have already got what love is. The most important thing for them is to have physical enjoyments; therefore, most of them do not want to marry legally. This also happens to Henry. For Henry, love is something that seems to be totally forgotten and has no place in his heart. He does not want to be involved in love, meaning that he does not want to be tied to one woman.

However Henry's relationship with Catherine becomes intimate, and this relationship has changed his bad way of life. Before Henry is acquainted with Catherine, he often spends his nights by going to the whorehouses to get physical enjoyments like other soldiers. After he met Catherine, he never again went to the whorehouses. It is true that at first he thinks that it is better to have intimate relationship with Catherine than going to a whorehouse but later this feeling changes in where he feels he cares for Catherine.

“You see,” she said. “I do anything you want.”

“You're so lovely.”

“I'm afraid I'm not very good at it yet.”

“You're lovely.”

“I want what you want. There isn't any me any more. Just what you want.”

“you sweet.”

“I’m good. Aren’t I good? You don’t want any other girls, do you?”

“No.”

“You see? I’m good. I do what you want.” (page 106)

The quotation above shows that he will do what Catherine want. So, it proves that he cares for Catherine and willing to do anything what she wants. That is why he also changes his habit not going anymore to the whorehouse.

3.1.2.2 Henry learns what true love is

Besides the fact that his relationship with Catherine has changed his bad way of life, Henry also understands the priest’s explanation about what true love is. According to the priest, if a man really loves somebody, he wishes he could serve his beloved. “When you love you wish to do things for. You wish to sacrifice for. You wish to serve.” (page 72). To serve means to care deeply for the love-object, which in turn implies responsibility, the capacity and willingness to respond fully to the cares and needs of the love object. When later Henry really loves Catherine, he realizes it. He then understands what love means as described by the priest also now he understands the difference between passion and love. It shows when he looking for Catherine in the hospital but he cannot find her, but then when Catherine approaches him, he feels something different toward her, he feels love.

“Hello, darling,” she said. She looked fresh and young and very beautiful. I thought I had never seen any one so beautiful.

“Hello,” I said. When I saw her I was in love with her. Everything turned over inside of me. She looked toward the door, saw there was no one, then she sat on the side of the bed and leaned over and kissed me. I pulled her down and kissed her and felt her heart beating. (page 91)

Henry’s love toward Catherine becomes so deep that he becomes very dependent on Catherine. Without Catherine, Henry feels lonely although he is

with another girl. Therefore he decides to commit himself only to Catherine, to be only with her. With her he does not feel lonely, as he says to Catherine:

“I have been alone while I was with many girls and that is the way that you can be most lonely. But we were never lonely and never afraid when we were together” (page 249)

It shows also that actually Catherine is dependent on Henry, since together they are not lonely or afraid. Having once lost her fiancé in war, she does not want to lose once again the one she loves. She gives him a Saint Anthony medal, hoping that he will be protected from the danger of war.

“She was unclasping something from her neck. She put it in my hand, “It’s a Saint Anthony,” she said, “and come to-morrow night.”

“You’re not Catholic, are you?”

“No. But they say a Saint Anthony’s very useful.”

“I’ll take care of him for you. Good-by.”

“No,” she said, “not good-by.”

“All right” (page 43)

The medal that Catherine gives to Henry hoping he will come back safely, makes Henry know that she really love him. Attention that Catherine gives to Henry makes him realize that he also needs it. In this case because he starts to love Catherine and wants to share and wants to sacrifice all what he has for her. This is one of the reasons why Henry decides to leave the army. In leaving the army, Henry thinks that he could have a private life in which he and Catherine attempt to be self-sufficient. It means he could start a happy new life together with Catherine after leaving the army. Far from the horror of war, they enjoy walking by the lake and occasionally go to Montreux. At that time, Henry tries to make the best of their relationship, caring and loving Catherine, and being happy together. His love for Catherine becomes very deep.

3.1.2.3 Henry cannot marry Catherine legally

In addition, Henry’s real love toward Catherine makes him loyal to her. Even though Henry wants his relationship with Catherine to continue to a legal

marriage it seems impossible since they will be separated by regulation of the army. Catherine does not care that their intimate relationship is considered as bad morality. She considers this kind of life of being together with Henry as “strange life”. And it is proved in the sentence: “She looked up at me. “Because we’re going to have a strange life.” (page 27).

Henry loyalty is shown when Henry knows that Catherine is pregnant, and he asks her to marry legally. But during war makes them feel they are like in the jail. They could not have a free life together because they could not marry in the sense that if they marry, they would be separated.

“I wanted us to be married really because I worried about having a child if I thought about it, but we pretended to ourselves we were married and did not worry much and I suppose I enjoyed not being married, really. I know one night we talked about it and Catherine said, “But, darling, they’d send me away.”

“Maybe they wouldn’t.”

“They would. They’d send me home and then we would be apart until after the war.” (page 115)

Indeed, in the situation of war Henry’s relationship with Catherine has a great impact on them. They would be separated if they marry, therefore Catherine does not want to be married legally, even though Henry has suggested it. Catherine refuses Henry’s suggestion because there are some reasons.

“We said to each other that we were married the first day she had come to the hospital and we counted months from our wedding day. I wanted to be really married but Catherine said that if we were they would send her away and if we merely started on the formalities they would watch her and would break us up. We would have to be married under Italian law and the formalities were terrific. I wanted us to be married really because I worried about having a child if I thought about it, but we pretended to ourselves we were married and did not worry much and I suppose I enjoyed not being married, really.” (page 114-115)

So legal marriage is impossible for them because they would be separated based on the army's regulation. Henry who wants to marry Catherine legally and Catherine who refuses legal marriage since she does not want to be separated from Henry makes them have conflict with each other. Even though they have different opinion, and Catherine rejects his good intention, he still loves her and he still keeps their relationship even though he knows that there will be many problems in their relationship.

Due to the chaotic war, most people are not concerned with the traditional concepts of morality. They have to face life realistically, so Henry has to give up his desire to marry Catherine legally, since they will be separated. They love each other and this is a strong basis of their feeling of being united. They do not care about people's opinion about immorality, what they know is only their love for each other.

3.1.2.4 Henry's farewell to Catherine

Unfortunately, their intimate relation cause Catherine to be pregnant which disturb their peaceful life that they intend to obtain. Moreover the birth of the child causes Catherine to hemorrhage, which endangers her life. Henry feels desperate and sad, he feels he will lose something valuable. Thus, it makes Henry remember God. He makes a bargain with God, if Catherine stays alive, he will do anything God asks. Before that, Henry never pays attention to God, but seeing Catherine dying he feels very desperate and he prays to God:

"I knew she was going to die and I prayed that she would not. Don't let her die. Oh, God, please don't let her die. I'll do anything for you if you won't let her die. Please, please, please, dear god, don't let her die. Dear God, don't let her die. Please, please, please don't let her die. God please make her not die. I'll do anything you say if you don't let her die. You took the baby but don't let her die. That was all right but don't let her die. Please, please, dear God, don't let her die."
(page 330)

I can see that Henry's feeling toward Catherine is very deep. It can be seen through his prayer. He does not care about the baby, he only cares for Catherine. The only thing that he really wants is Catherine to stay alive. Thus, he also makes a bargain with God, he says that he wants to do anything if He keeps her alive. His feeling of love toward Catherine is very strong until she dies.

Catherine's death makes Henry realize her philosophy of death. Once she told him about her philosophy that death ends everything. Due to her own experience with her fiancé who was killed at the Somme, Catherine tells Henry about her philosophy. At first, Henry cannot accept it, since he never thinks about death before. Later, when Catherine is dead, it means the end of an existence or death ends everything. Henry learns that the pain of war is released through death or lost in the peace. (Aldrige, 1951, p.10). Frederic Henry also discovers how man should live and how he should face death; "In the end, then one could not be a candle-holder and look on. Life caught you up, willy-nilly, by your emotions, caught you in a trap; and the better you were, the harder it dealt with you." (Johnson, 1951, p.136). In spite of Henry's failure, he had learned in the end that learning to live means to tolerate life and not escape one's obligations as he had done. Once he has learned all this, it was too late; for what he had hoped for in life was gone. As a result, he will not have any connection with other people; on the other hand, people cannot hold or take him. This happens to Catherine. When Catherine is dead, Henry cannot meet Catherine anymore. He cannot continue his relationship with Catherine and Catherine herself cannot hold Henry in her arms. So Henry has to say A Farewell to Arms – A Farewell to Catherine's arms.

3.2.1 Henry's relationship with his friends

War is an important theme in Hemingway's novel A Farewell to Arms. It describes the terrible war between countries. The countries, which are involved, are fighting for their good cause without thinking of the results of this violent war. It has bad impact not only on the country itself, but also on the people, especially to the young generation.

The seriousness of war causes great changes in human being's life. Everybody is depressed by this war, for nothing can stop it. Even the killing comes suddenly and unreasonably. A lot of people are killed and wounded by the gunshot and bombs during this cruel war. Besides these, diseases spread widely that kills thousands of people.

“At the start of the winter came the permanent rain and with the rain came the cholera. But it was checked and in the end only seven thousand died of it in the army” (Penguin Books Britain, 1971)

From the quotation, Hemingway reveals his opinion that in the violence of war, it is normal if a lot of people are wounded or killed. Since there is war, there are many victims for in wartime everybody is threatened to be killed and the attack of the enemy comes unexpectedly. People are scared to face death because they know that if they die they cannot interact anymore with others, therefore they realize how they need each other when they are still alive. In this case relationship is important in order to make all become united. Since they feel united, their relationship becomes stronger, the feeling of brotherhood enables them to face together the war and obstacles. They need each other, and in this case, there are no other people who can be counted like those who are in their own group.

The World War I is more dangerous and destructive than war in the movies, which seems more glorious. However, how bad this war is, still there are people who cannot realize it. In this case, the main character Frederic Henry does not realize the danger of this destructive war. He thinks this war seems no more dangerous to him than “war in the movies”, although still he expects this war will be over.

“Well, I knew I would not be killed. Not in this war. It did not have anything to do with me. It seemed no more dangerous to me myself than war in the movies. I wished to God it was over though. Maybe it would finish this summer.” (page 37)

As well as other people who begin to realize the bad impact of this war, they all expect it will be over soon. They wonder what will happen to them, for this war seems as if it is never going to end. Therefore, all realize that “There is no finish to a war.” It is proven in the sentence: “I know it is bad but we must finish it.” “It doesn’t finish. There is no finish to a war.” (page 50)

War causes great dissappointments, people become dissappointed since war lasts a long time, they hate war. Even the soldiers are tired of fighting and they do not think about their country’s victory anymore. The soldiers’ only care about themselves and their own group since most time they spent together. This makes them feel responsible toward each other. In this case, Frederic Henry also shows his responsibility toward his friends in his group while they were in the battle. He cares for them, making sure they are fed.

I cut the cheese into pieces and laid them on the macaroni.

“Sit down to it,” I said. They sat down and waited. I put thumb and fingers into the macaroni and lifted. A mass loosened.

“Lift it high, Tenente.”

I lifted it to arm’s length and the strands cleared. I lowered it into the mouth, sucked and snapped in the ends, and chewed, then took a bite of cheese, chewed, and then a drink of the wine. It tasted of rusty metal. I handed the canteen back to Passini. (page 53-54)

However, even they are responsible to each other and care for each other they also start to feel everything is dull even their friends are dull. They try to find something that can release them from this dullness. The only thing that can help them is wine. It becomes their companion in war. The feeling of dullness is proved through the sentence: “The priest was good but dull. The officers were not

good but dull. The King was good but dull. The wine was bad but not dull.” (page 38).

When the soldiers have wine too much, they become drunk and talk about this terrible war, which comes to nothing. It happens also to Frederick Henry. He seems to have the same habit as other soldiers.

“I had drunk much wine and afterward coffee and Strega and I explained, winefully, how we did not do the things we wanted to do; we never did such things.” (page 13)

3.2.2 The impact of Henry relationship with Rinaldi and the Priest

This novel have many minor characters that support the main character, but in this case, the impact of Henry relationship only discuss with the character of Rinaldi and the Priest.

3.2.2.1 The impact of Henry relationship with Rinaldi

I will take Rinaldi as the representation of Henry’s friends. Henry’s relationship with Rinaldi is always connected with pleasure. Rinaldi, like Henry, avoids emotional involvement, remaining detached from the world around him by limiting his life to sensation: drink and women (A study master, 1967). It proves in the sentence: “We’ll both get drunk and cheerful”. (page 168). The sentence above shows that Rinaldi as a surgeon drinks a lot. Actually as a surgeon he should not drink a lot.

Having the habit of drinking, Henry is influenced by his friend, Rinaldi. Henry becomes addicted to wine, shown in the following quotation:

“Can I have wine with meals?” (page 86)

“I sent for the porter and when he came I told him in Italian to get me a bottle of Cinzano at the wine shop, a fiasco of Chianti and the evening papers.” (page 87)

Henry meets Rinaldi again after some time being separated because Henry has to be in the battle. Rinaldi still feels close to Henry, it shows when Rinaldi says “baby” all the time to Henry. I can see that Rinaldi really pays attention to him and makes Henry as a person who is really special. Like a boyfriend to his girlfriend, Rinaldi even calls Henry “baby” to show that he is very special.

“Take off your pants, baby. We’re all friends here.....”I see that, baby.....”But now, baby, it’s all over.....This is terrible war, baby.” (page 166,167)

The quotation above shows that every time Rinaldi wants to call Henry, he uses the word “baby”. In addition, even when they are separated for a long time, Rinaldi still wants to show his care and attention to Henry. From the small things like for instance Rinaldi still keeps Henry toothbrush glass “Look, baby, this is your old tooth-brushing glass. I kept it all the time to remind me of you.” (page 168) shows that Rinaldi always thinks of Henry. Their relationship is really close, and they understand each other. It proves in the sentence: “He had spent two years teasing me and I had always liked it. “We understood each other very well.” (page 169) They are close like real brothers who know each other’s behavior and understand each other.“ You are my friend and my war brother.” (page 171). Rinaldi also sees Henry as his financial protector. “You are my great and good friend and financial protector.” (page 12). It means that Henry and Rinaldi really are good friends. In this case, Rinaldi trusts Henry and makes him become a person who is always there when Rinaldi needs him. From that Henry also learns what true friendship means for him. He knows that he could not live alone without any help from others. Especially from his close friend, in this case Rinaldi.

However, Henry and Rinaldi become a little bit separated after Catherine comes into Henry’s life. Thus, Rinaldi who for the first time sees Henry as his close friend is very close to Catherine becomes jealous toward her. But in this case, it does not mean they become enemy. They still have good relationship. It is proved in the sentence below:

“So you make progress with Miss Barkley?”

“We are friends.”

“You have that pleasant air of a dog in heat.”

I did not understand the word.

“Of a what?”

He explained.

“You,” I said, “have that pleasant air of a dog who—“

“Stop it,” he said. “In a little while we would say insulting things.” He laughed. (page 27)

The quotation above shows that even they know that they both like Catherine and both try to attract her attention, still they would not want that their friendship would end because of her. In fact, after Rinaldi meets Henry, he envies Henry who now has a commitment with one woman and is happy. It seems that Henry who first was influenced by ‘crude world’ of Rinaldi becomes a role model for Rinaldi. Rinaldi wants to become like Henry. The proof can be seen when he wants also to get an English girl. “I will get an English girl too.” By saying this he means that an English girl can have a good influence on him too. Their relationship gives impact on both of them. Influenced by Rinaldi, Henry likes to drink, on the other hand Henry’s influence on Rinaldi is good, because Rinaldi wants to settle down and wants as Henry to have an English girl as his girl.

3.2.2.2 The impact of Henry's relationship with the Priest

During war, Henry also searches for values, which he gets from the Priest. Even though some of his friends like to mock the priest, he respects the priest. All members of the society, actually, should respect a priest who guides them in religion. The mocking to the priest shows that the soldiers lack respect to a priest.

“Priest today with girls, the captain said looking at the priest and at me. The priest smiled and blushed and shook his head. The captain baited him often.” (page 7)

What happen to the Priest, Henry always defends him. It shows that Henry is the only officer who is being nice to the Priest.

In this case actually they should show their disciplined life and show respect to the priest but they do not. But, Frederic Henry does not “bait” the Priest, he has a certain respect for him and for his ideas, however incongenial he might find them.

“ He had not had it but he understood that I had really wanted to go to the Abruzzi but had not gone and we were still friends, with many tastes alike, but with the difference between us. He had always known what I did not know and what, when I learned it, I was always able to forget. But I did not know that then, although I learned it later. In the meantime we were all at the mess, the meal was finished, and the argument went on.” (page 13-14)

Henry's relationship with the Priest is not as close as Henry with Rinaldi, but because Henry knows about what true friendship means from Rinaldi, he starts making friends with the Priest. Even though the other officers do not like the Priest but Henry tries to be nice to him. And the Priest knows that Henry is a good person, he tries to make Henry know about God and make him believe in Him.

The Priest who represents the effort to maintain religious and spiritual values in a world at war, however, hopes of instilling some of these attitudes in his companions, particularly Frederic Henry. In his relationship with Henry, the Priest

knows that he can give good influence on Henry. It means that the Priest can give Henry some values to appreciate life. When the soldiers see how Henry appreciates the priest and also appreciate life they would also appreciate and value their lives too and this may be will also influence their behaviour, as well. In this case, the Priest also knows that it can give him some good points if he can influence Henry. In other words, the Priest can give some good example to the soldiers through Henry. And also to make soldiers believe that actually their life is worthy. According to the Priest, they should realize that war only brings suffering, that is why they should appreciate life more and believe that God actually is the only hope for them. Thus, the Priest wants Henry to go to Abruzzi. In this case the Priest tries to help Henry, how he can have a better life and how he can get closer to God. "The cold sharp air of Switzerland that is like the air of the Abruzzi where it is understood that a man may love God." (page 12). Abruzzi for the Priest is the chance for Henry to search the truth about God. And the Priest thinks that if Henry goes there it can bring him to a good life. The only thing that the Priest wants is that Henry gets the best of his life. But Henry refuses his suggestion to go to Abruzzi. Henry disappoints the Priest of not going to Abruzzi. It proves in the sentence below:

"That night at the mess I sat next to the Priest and he was disappointed and suddenly hurt that I had not gone to the Abruzzi. He had written to his father that I was coming and they had made preparation. I myself felt as badly as he did and could not understand why I had not gone. It was what I had wanted to do and I tried to explain how one thing had led to another and finally he saw it and understood that I had really wanted to go and it was almost all right." (page 13)

Henry learns from the priest that love also means sacrifice. For example if a man loves somebody it means he could serve his beloved without any condition. "When you love you wish to do things for. You wish to sacrifice for. You wish to serve." (page 72). Relationship with the priest makes Henry learn a lot about love that he never thinks about it before. In this case, Henry's with the Priest shows that Henry gets good influence from this friendship with the priest.

And he changes in his view of love after knowing the priest. Henry, who at first does not want to appreciate love, finally realizes that he needs love, especially from Catherine. This shows that the Priest has good impact on Henry especially on Henry feeling toward Catherine. At first his feeling toward Catherine is just for a while, but after he has relationship with the Priest and has some conversation and discussion about what true love is, Henry realizes that his feeling for Catherine is true love.