

VI. IN THE STRUGGLE, THE BOND BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO CARE  
FOR EACH OTHER BRINGS HAPPINESS AND ALLEVIATION OF  
LONELINESS

The good relationship between Santiago and Manolin lessens the pressure that falls on Santiago. That very strong pressure becomes less strong because Manolin has accompanied him and always consoles him. They build a very good relationship. That is why Manolin insists on helping him when he cannot go with him. He helps Santiago at home, he brings him food and drink if he has nothing. Mainly Manolin wants to lessen Santiago's sufferings. "I would like to go. If I cannot fish with you, I would like to serve in some way."<sup>19</sup> We see here that the love between them is deep. Santiago receives all this kindness in the spirit in which it is offered. That bond brings him happiness and peacefulness and alleviates his loneliness. Manolin is his only friend to talk with and to exchange ideas. Santiago feels relieved when he meets the boy after his hard fishing for three days. We notice this from the quotation below :

He noticed how pleasant it was to have  
someone to talk to instead of speaking  
only to himself and to the sea. 'I  
missed you,' he said.<sup>20</sup>

Santiago feels happy as his human nature's demand is ful-

<sup>19</sup> Ibid, p. 4 .

<sup>20</sup> Ibid, p. 116 .

filled. Especially after the boy consoles him and insists that he is not beaten, Santiago is willing to fish with him again. Manolin is the only one who can really appreciate Santiago's struggle. He considers the old man's endurance of loneliness and great pain as the work of a true champion. We see this from the following quotation :

For Manolin understands what a heroism of pride, will, and endurance the old man's struggle must have involved ; to get such a fish, against all odds, in the face of loneliness and pain, is actually far more important than was the loss of the marlin to the scavenger-sharks.... What Santiago did with the marlin, however, was the work of a true champion of the human spirit....<sup>21</sup>

Manolin thinks that Santiago's struggle is very important in his old age when he is facing death.

Stanley Cooperman says that Hemingway tells us that the success of one's struggle is less important than is the struggle itself. A good relationship with his surrounding will support him, especially when he struggles alone.

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<sup>21</sup> Stanley Cooperman, Ernest Hemingway's The Old Man And The Sea, Monarch Press, New York, 1965, p. 58 .