

C O N C L U S I O N

In the story itself there are several detailed descriptions which suggest the symbolic nature of the pattern of events.

When Coyotito was stung by a scorpion the greedy doctor refused to see them; but after Kino found the pearl, the doctor degraded himself by visiting Kino's hut to cure Coyotito. From this we know what kind of a person the doctor is. And the doctor and the pearl brokers are obviously symbols of greed although we must admit that the pearl brokers are men doing their job as well as they can do. Also John Steinbeck wants to show us that Kino's wants were too much because Kino was never satisfied with what he had.

The pearl of salvation became the pearl of damnation, because it is said that if you give a person one thing and he wants other things. That is why the gods took revenge upon Kino. A good point of Kino's character is that he remained humble although he possessed the pearl. He was not conceited towards his neighbours.

After the second attack Juana tried to throw the pearl back into the sea but Kino could prevent her intention because Kino had set his mind to face the troubles. Someone had tried to kill Kino, but he could defend himself and kill the attackers and went home directly. When he came there his hut was on fire and he asked his brother's protection and at last he decided to run away to the hills accompanied by his wife and his son. It happened that the pursuers fired a rifle up the mountainside and killed his son.

Then Kino and his wife returned back to the town and went directly towards the sea shore. It was a final decision for Kino to give up his pearl and Kino offered the pearl to Juana because she was right that the pearl was evil and it destroyed them. |

Another good point of Kino's character was he did not have any idea to take his neighbours' canoe even his canoe was destroyed by someone to prevent him crossing the Gulf. Here John Steinbeck wants to show us that we are not allowed to leave our station like Kino who tried to leave his station. and the gods punished him because he tried to leave his station.

And in the town as ecological unit each kind of inhabitant - pearl fishers, pearl buyers, Spanish aristocrats, beggars, ants, dogs, - has its niche, its particular means of preserving itself. And each individual must stay within the niche of his kind and not encroach on another.<sup>7</sup>

By Juana's refusal to throw the pearl back into the sea, she gave dignity and pride once more to her husband as the leader of the family.

After having lost everything, Kino realised that wealth not always brings happiness and he returned to his familiar and comfortable poverty. And he became a free man again. |

In this novel John Steinbeck shows his ability to give the materialistic level of meaning from this simple story. And the title of the story itself reveals that the story is a parable and from it we could see the constant spiritual struggle of man to adjust himself to an essentially materialistic world.

---

7. Fontenrose, Joseph.  
John Steinbeck an introduction and interpretation  
page 114.