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IMPORTANCE OF WATER AS DEPICTED IN ERNEST HEMINGWAY'S "TO HAVE AND HAVE NOT"

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ABSTRACT

Ernest Hemingway is one of the famous novelists all around the globe. He has written many books and the fictional book *"To Have and Have Not"* represents a unique display on how nature especially in the form of water has given importance in the life of a person not only in their personal matters but also acts as a saviour in times of danger. The book has three Parts of unequal lengths where part one and two consists of few chapters while part three covers more than half of the book. The story mainly revolves around Harry Morgan who was forced to smuggle to feed his family represents "Have Not" while Richard Gordon represents "Haves" a wealthy fellow was fed up of his surrounding usually by the yachting crowd who were obsessed with adulteries and frenetic plays. However both the major characters represent a passion for discoveries of vast sea and other natural elements.

Keywords: Cuba, Havana, Key-West, Queen Conch, sub-tropical.

I. INTRODUCTION

Hemingway is one of the great novelists who have won both the Pulitzer and Nobel Prize for the single novel *"The Old Man and The Sea"*. He is a kind of writer who displays his experience and emotions in the writings. So, he can be treated as a unique and profound writer. His way of presenting natural elements are beautifully developed in various forms such that the readers are usually mesmerised by his exposition. The importance of nature is found in his writings with a great importance. Further, his personal experience adds more beauty to his works. The use of simple and easy words makes his works simple and easy to understand.

II. ABOUT THE BOOK

The first half of the story revolves around largely on Harry Morgan, represents Have Not. He was an unlucky fellow who has a wife and two

daughters. He finds very hard to earn for a living so he started illegal ways to make money with his thirty eight foot long boat. A second major character, the writer Richard Gordon represents the haves. He was a writer by profession. He was frustrated in his work and alienated from his wife. He was surrounded by the wealthy yachting crowd who are pathetic in their adulteries, frenetic plays and bored excesses. The novel was originally published as two short stories and was then expanded to a novel. The point of view changes from one section to another section in the book. The have-nots appeared in the first half of the book and then the unpleasant haves appear in the second part of the book. There are no thematic ties between the two sections. The only common in the two is that of ugliness, violence and hard drinking. It is perhaps the least successful book by Hemmingway. It can be treated as a brutal book

and the "real world" as envisioned in the book turns to be a far cry from most conventional assessments.

III. IMPORTANCE OF WATER IN THE LIFE OF A MAN

Water plays an important role in the life of man. He needs water for food, everyday uses, travel and lively support.

"Those big flying fish are the best sign there is. As far as you could see, there was that faded yellow gulfweed in small patches that means the main stream is well in and there were birds ahead working over a school of little tuna. You could see them jumping; just little ones weighing a couple of pounds apiece." (9) Yellow gulfweed are the sea food which are found exclusively near the tropics and are famous for attracting large number of fishes. *Cuba* is one those countries where people can fish all around the year. This is mainly due to the favourable climatic condition and availability of plenty of seaweed or gulfweed. Here, Mr. Harry Morgan was accompanied by his friends while they set out on the sea for catching fishes. To a person who has a great knowledge of catching fishes, there were various signs from which they know what kind of fish is available in the place and Gordon was one of such people.

The above lines describe the luck day for the crew for fishing for they can visualise the surroundings. This shows the importance of sea in the life of human and the signs which the nature gives human shows that nature is always there for the human's need. Further nature supports not only the livelihood of the humans but also for other creatures especially the fishes. The quoted lines show that nature has enough for everyone; the author wants the people to understand that nature is not only for humans and should treat nature with care for without them we would not be able to sustain our lives in a comfortable way.

"The nigger was still taking her out and I looked and saw he had seen a patch of flying fish burst out ahead and up the stream a little. Looking back, I could see *Havana* looking fine in the sun and a ship just coming out of the harbor past the *Morro*." (10) A harbor is an area near the sea shore deep enough for placing a ship or boat either to protect them from strong winds, waves, currents or for business purposes. There are various harbours

around the world which is unique in their own and *Morro* was one of them. Mr. Morgan could see his nigger friend taking the wheel of the boat and saw the shoal of fish ahead of them. Further he could see the beautiful *Havana* in the sun while turning back and saw a ship coming out of the harbor of *Morro*. This shows that sea offers a variety of activities for humans from that of proving food to that of means for business and vice versa. Without the help of nature it is impossible for humans to perform anything and the author wants to show that humans should not neglect nature but to take care; for it is nature that are providing human for their basic survival and connection between different parts of the world.

"We'd put out a feather squid and caught four of those little tuna and the nigger put one on his hook for bait. It looked pretty heavy but it made a big splash in the wake." (13) Mr. Morgan and his friends were having a great time in the sea catching various kinds of fishes. By the evening while they were about to return for the last time they baited with a feather squid to try their luck and caught four little tunas. While the nigger had caught something heavy and made a big splash; the above lines shows the love, joy and happiness in the face of the people while they are out with nature. Further it also shows that man has the habit of dominance over nature and it is clearly seen in the above quoted lines. A human with the help of his brain uses the help of other living creatures against one another for their own benefit without having any idea of what it will lead to in the future. The author believes that man should have the habit of caring nature for it is they who are taking care of us by supplying food, transportation and happiness.

"Above the roar of the motors and the high, slapping rush of the boat through the water he felt a strange, hollow singing in his heart. He always felt this way coming home at the end of a trip. I hope they can fix that arm, he thought. I got a lot of use from that arm." (62) After having a gun fight while delivering bootleg liquor to the Key West, the nigger who accompanied Mr. Morgan was wounded and so was him. While they were returning towards home, on the way he could sense the water of the sea gushing against the boat though he could not feel

his heart. He wished his arm could be fixed as it was of a great help to him. He knew that he would not survive before reaching his home and usually had a thought of such kind. The above lines shows nature represented by sea acts a mode of communication link between different places. Nature has helped all the living and nonliving creatures in every possible way but human's over possessive thought has degraded nature to certain extent that it will lead to uselessness in the near future. Further human has the tendency to remember Mother Nature while nearing to death. Thus the author is trying to show the connection link between human and nature in a simple but effective way.

"He watched Richard Gordon lurching down the street until he was out of sight in the shadow from the big trees whose branches dipped down to grow into the ground like roots. What he was thinking as he watched him was not pleasant." (153) Mr. Gordon was returning home by foot and in a taxi the Professor was returning back to home. He was still angry with him as the former has suspicion that he was beaten in the bar by the gang of the later one. So, the professor watched him as far as he could until he was vanished in the shadows of the big trees. The big trees as described in the given lines shows that they are never taken care of for their branches dipped down to get food and other minerals from the ground. The above lines also describe how nature represented by the big tree saved a human being from creating nuisance in front of a public. Thus the author is trying to show that nature has many ways of protecting human but it is human who are destroying for their own benefit and further wants the humans to realise the importance of nature in the life of a human beings.

"The coast guard cutter towing the *Queen Conch* was coming down the hawk channel between the reef and the Keys. The cutter rolled in the cross shop the light north wind raised against the flood tide but the white boat was towing easily and well." (154) Hawk channel is one the most wonderful gift the nature has given to the *Key West*, Florida. It is a deep natural waterway marked and protected by the reefs from the heaviest sea offshore. It is also one of the most marvellous of all Florida's gift to the sailor especially the fishermen and the business

persons. Here, in the above quoted lines nature represented by sea acts as a guide for the coast guards who was towing the *Conch*. The scenic beauty of the vast sea where both natural phenomenon and human activities were seen together is given in the above lines. Nature always has got something or the other for each and everyone according to their convenience. Human who has got higher intelligence power has named and divided each place for their convenience and just like it they named a channel in the sea as "Hawk" which lies between the reef and the keys. The sea acts as a chief means of transportation in those times as land communication between different places were impossible.

Thus, according to the author nature which has supported and played an important role in the life of a human should not be neglected and be treated with great care.

"Outside it was a lovely, cool, *sub-tropical* winter day and the palm branches were sawing in the light north wind. Some winter people rode by the house on bicycles. They were laughing. In the big yard of the house across the street a peacock squawked." (180) The above lines describes the beautiful surrounding of a place where the weather was cool outside the house, the branches of the palm trees are also enjoying the wind and further one could hear the squawking sound of a peacock. This shows that the area of the house was filled with natural elements like wind, peacock and trees all around. Further one could also see the joyful moment of the people while they were near the house. The quoted lines shows that Hemingway loves to spend time with nature and wanted to surround his house with natural elements. Further his interest in the wild animals especially the birds could also be seen in the given lines.

Thus, the author wants to show that having a simple relation with nature can bring a smile not only to oneself but to all those who are around. So, he wants the readers to feel through the story what it feels like to live within the environment filled with nature and believes they would soon have a caring relation with nature.

IV. CONCLUSION

Thus, the author believes that after reading this fictional work, people would believe that nature especially water plays an important role in the life of a man. Further he believes that nature gives enormous support in the life of a man in the form of various things like food and water. Hemingway further describes the beauty of Havana and Key West where the open sea connects to different places of the world. He believes that man should take some time to think about the nature and the importance of it in their lives. Lastly, he believes that the relation of nature will increase because without nature man cannot survive alone.

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