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## MASCULINITY WITHIN HEMINGWAY'S AESTHETIC STYLE

Wael Fahdil Hasobi

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**Abstract:** The paper explains Hemingway's attempt to put his whole soul into his writing and how he portrayed the protagonist in his fictions as an emotional male suffering from physical and psychic wounds which are resulted from the wounds of war or love. He did that with aesthetic style depending on the sense of place, sense of fact, and the sense of scene.

**Keywords:** Masculinity, masochism, the suffering of physical and psychic wounds, facing death and fate, the individual within the society.

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**Introduction:** Hemingway put down what had happened in action but there is so many considerations settled far more than the brief and simple action that appear. He took in his style the aesthetic note of the moments of passivity and created a new concept knowing as the awareness of passivity as well as he was the first novelist to deal with the anti-aspects of a novel as most of his heroes are anti-heroes and much of the action in his works is anti-action.

Hemingway's narrative style is beyond the merely physical action but he brings out the spiritual mode of the action with the passivity or inactivity that he used and extend to make up the given action. He spoke about making up the action in an article named *Esquire* "If you make it up instead of describe it you can make it round and whole and solid and give it life, you create it for good or bad".

Telling the truth was Hemingway's sacrosanct point and also it was when he is trying to invent. He once said that he only knew what he had been seen as well as he wrote about what he was interested in with an attempt to transfer the truth in extraordinary complex. He didn't depend on any literary evidence or evidence from other sources but he used his own experience. His career lied on three esthetic instruments :the sense of place, the sense of fact, and the sense of scene.

What concern the sense of place, Hemingway once wrote that unless one has the geography background, he has nothing. He with few writers charted out the geographical groundwork of their novels. He described the continental cities with their occasions through his eyes as an artist. He mentioned the names of the cities associated with the description of rivers, lakes, marshes, gulf stream, trout stream, forests, groves, hills.

The esthetic aspect of his career sounds odd as he used so many words which without being obtrusive. For instance, Hemingway described the Irati Valley in his fairly novel *The Sun Also Rises* "The trees were big, and the foliage was thick but it was not gloomy. There was no undergrowth, only the smooth grass, very green and very fresh" *The Sun also Rises*, p.120.

What comes next is the sense of fact which is part of the sense of place and the combination between them brings a dramatic life. Facts stated as they were at that time. Hemingway stated facts in some of his early works for the purpose he apparently intended but for others it seems difficult to understand the purpose beyond. The sense of place and the sense of fact are indispensable to Hemingway's art but unless the sense of scene runs through them, they will be under inertness. Hemingway with his skillful works brings to the true place and facts the creative imagination. He wrote what he saw and felt in a way that the reader feels as if he is part of the incident or share it with other characters.

Hemingway's books are emotional as a result of the traditional parental environment and the blind Victorian community in which he brought up. Oak park community was genteel and was called "saint's Rest" for the number of retired clergy. But there was a sharp contrast between this community and the difficulties of the individual in that world which formulated Hemingway's views of life and writing. It was not only the single event of being wounded in war or the event of love that formulated his views.

Hemingway's feelings towards Oak Park community and about his family were reflected in Nick Adam's stories "The Doctor and The Doctor's Wife," "Now I Lay Me," "Ten Indians," and "fathers and Sons". And these stories also showed Hemingway's struggle to

get a masculine independence. Masculinity appeared nearly in every fiction and it was associated with the injuries of war or bullfight injuries and even fishing injuries like what had happened to Santiago in his struggle in *The Old Man and The Sea* .

Hemingway ,in his fiction showed what he called grace under pressure and showed that loss of the early twentieth century can be transcended with facing the trauma courageously. Masculinity is not born with a specific Code of behavior but "men " must construct one and renew it according to the situation they face .As

Thomas Strychacz described : " Men are not born with a code , If they are to become men ,they must acquire one and constantly renew it "(Strychacz2013,p279) Literary modernism is characterized by dealing with the crisis of Masochism and Hemingway highlights this crisis in his writings but at the same time he preserved and reinforced traditionally stoic masculine values. with his wounded heroes, he showed the suffering and death of everything and showed the demand for a degree of surrender to the physical and psychic wound. Richard Fantina explained : "This surrender must take place on both the physical and psychic planes as the world body meshes with the wound soul" ( Fantina,2005,p.63)

Most of Hemingway's novels showed the man as the hero of those novels suffering physical or psychic wound or both of them and also it is vivid in many of his short stories like "A natural History of the Dead," "The Capital of the World," "In Another Country," and many others. women has dual role in Hemingway's writings as they inflict the wounds and suffering of the hero and in turn their nurturing strengthen him to face the inevitable physical and psychic wound.

The confrontation of death and fate seemed to be clear in Hemingway's terse and powerful style and covered most of his fictional writings. The confrontation between man and death was described as the man facing impending disaster with courage and conviction .Most of his protagonists held this notion and he used a vivid picture for some of them through his using of bullfighting or boxing or a big game of hunting."One of the simplest things of all and the most fundamental is violent death" ( Death in the Afternoon,p.6,1974.)

Hemingway in this non fiction novel sees that the best place to see violent death is in the bull ring and

for better view he went to Spain to witness those great moments and to support his words about writing what is true.In his novel "*Farewell to the Arms*"Hemingway tried to convey two aspects of what is immediate and what

is ultimate and the necessity of the individual to seek for the ultimate goal.Chaman Mehal explained : "Hemingway pessimism is pitched not against the immediate but against the ultimate" ( Nahal,1971. P.77)

The death of the heroin Catherine is the victory of ultimate and never cancel out the meaning of her life and what she passed through with Henry Frederick. The individual as a protagonist is the unit of ultimate moral responsibility .Hemingway didn't focus on the groups but he used them as forces lacking specific responsibility and demanding definite character who can achieve that moral responsibility which the author use it as a projection of his own condition.

Most of the protagonist in Hemingway's novels reflected that masculinity within dignity and the necessity of the individual to be hard to himself and never surrender to the illusion .Jake Barent ,Fredric Henry, Colonel Cantwell,and Santiago knew what kind of wound they suffer and what moral responsibility they have to achieve and have the ability to discipline themselves toward a solid basis to do the ultimate goal or create a new code of living.

Hemingway didn't intend to ignore the society through his concentrating on the individual in his journey to create values but his awareness to the importance of the battle of the self which leads to the achievements of valid and meaningful relationships among society. For instance,Jake Barnes in *The Sun also Rises* represented the American soldiers after World War I who were suffering not much by the war itself as by the attitude of other Americans toward the war and its consequences .The protagonist ,in Hemingway's major novels searches to understand the nature of war,love and the society that surrounds him.

**Conclusion:** Hemingway's technique devised to carry the impression of actual life with simplicity and directness and his insistence on the necessity of the individual to seek and hold the immortal values within his journey of physical and psychic suffering. The truth of inside and outside suffering can be easily touched through his writings as he himself sought for it and touched it and masculinity within reality for

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the male's behavior is also a demand which covered most of his writings.

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Wael Fahdil Hasobi/PhD Scholar English Dept/Acharya Nagarjuna  
University/Waelfadhil38@gmail.com/9676703836