Being a journalist in profession Hemingway had a firsthandexperience of the World War I which made him realize theinevitability of death, from this realization Hemingwayconstituted his philosophy for life that brutality anddisappointment are the larger part of the substance of life.

Through Santiago’s ambitious venture and his combat with anunknown, more powerful adversary, Hemingway tries to showthat one man alone can never win. And in victory or in failurethe protagonist recognizes the need for solidarity and the fact ofinterdependence of all living creatures.The old man is alone in the voyage accompanied only by his oldage. He is abandoned by his fellow mariners, they thought himunlucky. At times the old man talks to himself or to a small birdon his skiff which shows how lonely he is in the midst of thesea.Later he calls the fish his “brother”. Santiago is the code hero.Though he is old yet he does not offer an impression of a 2helpless creature instead he possesses courage, honesty,endurance and skill.His triumph is in survival and his struggle with the sharks mayleave him striped of flesh but cannot destroy the skeleton spiritwhich is the essential identity of all individual. From this risesthe philosophy of human struggle, which Hemingway make hisprotagonist say “But a man is not made for defeat,” he said “Aman can be destroyed but not defeated.” Thus, the novelbecomes the triumph of man over the forces of nature.Hemingway presents two world of realities – the world ofexternal reality and the inside world of human sentiment.In The Old Man and the Sea “Hemingway attempts to make areal old man, a real boy, a real sea, real fish and real sharks.”Santiago, the ocean, the marlin, the sharks, the lions all becomethe version of the voyage into the gulf stream of the self.His action takes on symbolic reverberations when Santiagohumanizes and identifies with the great fish on the end of theline: “His choice (the Marlin’s) had been to stay in the deepwater far out beyond all snares and traps and treacheries. Mychoice was to go there and find him beyond all people. Now weare joined together and have been since noon. And no one tohelp ether one of us”. Structurally, the novella follows the traditional pattern of thequest or the journey. Santiago has an unexplainable “call” orvocation to be a fisherman and to meet the marlin in the deep 3water. Santiago is not just a fisherman; he is The Fisherman –the one chosen from all the others because of his superior meritsof skill and character. The great marlin will not come to a greatfisherman; he will only be caught by a great Man.Santiago is not alone. A literal cord joins him to his “brother,”the fish. Other equally strong cords bind him to the “things” ofnature – the Sun, the Moon, and the Starts; the sea life and thebirds; his town, his neighbors, the boy, and his past. It is as“whole” man that he meets the fish and brings him back; and itmust be as Man, not fisherman, that his experience be measured.“You are killing me, fish, the old man thought. But you have aright to. Never have I seen a greater, or more beautiful, or acalmer or more noble thing than you, brother. Come on and killme. I do not care who kills who.”Man’s struggle for a dignified survival in a non-human universe.There is something of Christ. Every quest and confrontation is adiscovery of self. “Fish… I love you and respect you very much.But I will kill you dead before this day ends” Ignoring all thepain and tiredness the old man prepared to kill the fish.

Themetaphor of blood has an in suitable association with Christ.

He fought until he was left without a weapon. Then he knew hewas beaten and turned the skiff home. The sharks bit into whatwas left of the great fish, but the old man did not heed them.Hemingway has presented an allegory by showing the old man’sstruggling against nature represents that every man is in his own 4cross. Here the victor and the victim are presented as the crossand the Christ. The two states are interrelated. The fish becomesthe mankind of which Santiago is the savior.The old man beating off the sharks is like life rebelling againstdeath. The old man and the great fish are lashed together and aresteering on towards home, just as earlier they had been bound bythe “pain of life,” and thus have become the symbol of life;while the sharks now symbolize death which must be resistedeven though it will vein. Even the old man’s killing the fish isthe preservation for sustenance and it is the way every creaturelive on. The old man in severe hunger ate the flesh of the fish,though he considered him to be his brother. But in such onextreme situation one sacrifice’s one’s brother only to secureone’s own life.The old man was dreaming of the lions on the beaches of Africaestablishes the desire for immortality and the fact the “man canbe destroyed but not defeated.” Santiago will now fulfill hisdreams through the boy.

Mandolin is the young Santiago, whowith the vitality of life will explore the sea accompanying theold man in his lonely voyage.