

THE ISSUES OF HEROISM IN THE NOVEL OF ERNEST HEMINGWAY “A FAREWELL TO ARMS”

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Annotation: This article denotes the information about Ernest Hemingway and his notable works which made the prospect to the American literature. There is brief information about a novel “*A Farewell to Arms*” as well as its heroism, concept and analysis.

Key words: literature, novel, hero, portrayal, concept, summary, relationship, hero, love, war.

Аннотация: В данной статье представлены сведения об Эрнесте Хемингуэе и его выдающихся произведениях, которые сделали проспект американской литературе. Дана краткая информация о романе «Прощай, оружие», а также о его героизме, концепции и анализе.

Ключевые слова: литература, роман, герой, образ, концепт, краткое содержание, отношения, герой, любовь, война.

American literature is literature written or produced in the United States of America and in the colonies that preceded it. The American literary tradition thus is part of the broader tradition of English-language literature, but also includes literature of other traditions produced in the United States and in other immigrant languages. Furthermore, a rich tradition of oral storytelling exists amongst Native Americans. The American Revolutionary Period (1775–1783) is notable for the political writings of Benjamin Franklin, Alexander Hamilton, Thomas Paine, and Thomas Jefferson. An early novel is William Hill Brown's *The Power of*

Sympathy published in 1791. Writer and critic John Neal in the early-mid nineteenth century helped advance America's progress toward a unique literature and culture, by criticizing predecessors like Washington Irving for imitating their British counterparts and influencing others like Edgar Allan Poe. Edgar Allan Poe took American poetry and short fiction in new directions. Ralph Waldo Emerson pioneered the influential Transcendentalism movement; Henry David Thoreau, author of *Walden*, was influenced by this movement. The conflict surrounding abolitionism inspired the writers like Harriet Beecher Stowe and by slave narratives, such as those by Frederick Douglass. Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850) explored the dark side of American history, as did Herman Melville's *Moby-Dick* (1851). Major American poets of the nineteenth century include Walt Whitman, Melville, and Emily Dickinson. Mark Twain was the first major American writer to be born away from the East Coast. Henry James achieved international recognition with novels like *The Portrait of a Lady* (1881). Following World War I, modernist literature rejected nineteenth century forms and values. F. Scott Fitzgerald captured the carefree mood of the 1920s, but John Dos Passos and Ernest Hemingway, who became famous with *The Sun Also Rises* and *A Farewell to Arms*, and William Faulkner adopted experimental forms. American modernist poets included diverse figures: Wallace Stevens, T. S. Eliot, Robert Frost, Ezra Pound, and E. E. Cummings. [8] Ernest Hemingway was an American writer and journalist who lived from 1899 to 1961. He is widely regarded as one of the most important and influential writers of the 20th century. Hemingway's writing style was characterized by its spare, direct prose and his focus on the experiences of his characters. He was a master of the short story and the novel, and his works often explored themes such as war, love, masculinity, and the human condition. Hemingway won numerous awards for his writing, including the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1953 and the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954. His reputation as a writer continues to endure to this day, with many of his works still widely read and studied in literature courses around the world. [11]

The theme of heroism in his works

The theme of heroism is a recurring motif in Hemingway's works. Hemingway often portrays his characters as heroes, but his conception of heroism is unconventional. Rather than portraying his heroes as larger-than-life figures with superhuman abilities, Hemingway's heroes are often ordinary people who face difficult circumstances with courage and dignity. Hemingway's heroes are not perfect, but they possess a code of honor that guides their actions and decisions. They are often characterized by their stoicism, their ability to endure hardship, and their willingness to sacrifice themselves for others. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism is rooted in his own experiences as a soldier and journalist, and his works often explore the complex relationships between war, violence, and heroism.[9]

A brief overview of "A Farewell to Arms"

"A Farewell to Arms" is a novel by Ernest Hemingway, first published in 1929. The novel is set against the backdrop of World War I and tells the story of Frederic Henry, an American ambulance driver who serves in the Italian army. Henry falls in love with Catherine Barkley, a British nurse, and the two begin a passionate affair. As the war rages on, Henry becomes disillusioned with the conflict and decides to desert the army in order to be with Catherine. The novel follows their journey as they attempt to escape to Switzerland, facing numerous challenges along the way. "A Farewell to Arms" is widely regarded as one of Hemingway's greatest works and is known for its powerful portrayal of the human cost of war and the struggle to find meaning and purpose in a world consumed by violence.

A brief summary of the novel's plot

"A Farewell to Arms" is a novel by Ernest Hemingway set during World War I in Italy. The story is told from the perspective of an American ambulance driver, Frederic Henry, who falls in love with a British nurse, Catherine Barkley. They begin an intense and passionate relationship, but the war threatens to tear them apart. After Catherine becomes pregnant, they decide to flee to Switzerland, where they hope to start a new

life together.[10] However, tragedy strikes when Catherine dies during childbirth, leaving Henry to grieve her loss and struggle to find meaning in a world that has been shattered by war. The novel explores themes of love, war, heroism, and the human experience in the face of tragedy and loss.

The character of Frederic Henry and his portrayal as a hero

Frederic Henry, the protagonist of “A Farewell to Arms”, is a complex character who is portrayed as a hero in some ways and not in others. Here are some of the traits and characteristics that contribute to his portrayal as a hero:

1. **Bravery:** As an ambulance driver during World War I, Frederic Henry demonstrates physical bravery by putting himself in danger to rescue wounded soldiers. He faces the constant threat of enemy fire, but he continues to do his job with courage and dedication.

2. **Independence:** Henry is not one to follow orders blindly, and he often makes decisions based on his own instincts and values. This individualistic streak makes him stand out from some of the other soldiers and contributes to his portrayal as a hero who is not afraid to go against the norm.

3. **Emotional Resilience:** Henry experiences a great deal of emotional pain and trauma over the course of the novel, but he manages to keep going despite these challenges. He struggles with the loss of his lover, Catherine Barkley, but he does not give up or lose hope.

4. **Human Flaws:** Henry is not a perfect hero, and he has his fair share of flaws and weaknesses. He drinks heavily at times, and he can be impulsive and reckless. However, these flaws make him a more relatable and realistic character, and they do not detract from his overall heroism. Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of Frederic Henry as a hero is nuanced and complex. He is not a traditional hero who always does the right thing, but he is a brave and resilient character who manages to rise to the occasion when it matters most.

The role of war in Hemingway's portrayal of heroism

War plays a significant role in Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in *A Farewell to Arms*. Here are some ways in which war shapes the novel's portrayal of heroism:

1. ***The Absurdity of War:*** Hemingway's novel portrays war as an absurd and meaningless enterprise that brings out the worst in human nature. The soldiers in the novel are often depicted as disillusioned and cynical, and the brutality and senselessness of war are highlighted throughout.

2. ***The Importance of Survival:*** In the context of war, heroism often takes the form of simple survival. Frederic Henry is portrayed as a hero because he manages to survive the war and make it out alive, despite the many dangers and obstacles he faces.

3. ***The Trauma of War:*** Hemingway's novel also explores the psychological trauma that war can inflict on soldiers. Frederic Henry suffers from PTSD and struggles to come to terms with the horrific things he has seen and experienced on the battlefield. This challenges traditional notions of heroism as a simple matter of courage and bravery, and instead portrays it as a complicated and sometimes painful process.

4. ***The Limitations of Heroism:*** Hemingway's novel also highlights the limitations of heroism in the context of war. No matter how brave or resilient a soldier may be, they are ultimately at the mercy of forces beyond their control.[4] Frederic Henry's ultimate fate is a tragic one, and his heroism is ultimately unable to protect him from the harsh realities of war. Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in *A Farewell to Arms* is deeply influenced by the context of war. The novel highlights the absurdity, trauma, and limitations of war, while also exploring the ways in which heroism can emerge in the face of these challenges.

The concept of heroism in Hemingway's works

Hemingway's concept of heroism is complex and multifaceted, and it is evident in many of his works. Hemingway's heroes are often flawed, and their heroism is often tempered by a sense of realism and pragmatism. Rather than being idealized figures, Hemingway's heroes are often portrayed as ordinary people who must confront

difficult circumstances with courage and dignity. One of the key characteristics of Hemingway's heroes is their stoicism. Hemingway's heroes often face adversity and hardship with a sense of detachment and emotional restraint. They do not indulge in self-pity or despair, but instead remain focused and determined in the face of adversity. This sense of stoicism is evident in characters such as Frederic Henry in *A Farewell to Arms* and Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea*. Another important aspect of Hemingway's concept of heroism is the idea of the "code hero." Hemingway's heroes often have a code of conduct that guides their actions and decisions. This code emphasizes values such as courage, honor, and self-reliance, and it is often shaped by the experiences of war and violence. The code hero is exemplified by characters such as Robert Jordan in *For Whom the Bell Tolls* and Jake Barnes in *The Sun Also Rises*. Hemingway's heroes are also often characterized by their ability to endure hardship. [5] They face physical and emotional challenges with a sense of resilience and determination, even when the odds are stacked against them. This endurance is evident in characters such as Nick Adams in the short stories "Big Two-Hearted River" and "The Battler." Overall, Hemingway's concept of heroism is rooted in the idea that heroism is not just about physical strength or bravery, but also about the ability to confront difficult circumstances with grace, dignity, and a sense of purpose.

The ways in which Hemingway portrays heroism in his novels

Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in his novels is nuanced and complex, and there are several key ways in which he portrays heroism in his works:

1. ***Heroism as endurance:*** Hemingway's heroes are often depicted as enduring hardship with stoicism and resilience. They face physical and emotional challenges with a sense of determination, even when the odds are against them. This endurance is evident in characters such as Frederic Henry in *A Farewell to Arms*, who continues to drive ambulances despite the danger and the horrors he witnesses on the battlefield.

2. ***Heroism as self-sacrifice:*** Hemingway's heroes often make sacrifices for others, even when it puts their own lives at risk. This self-sacrifice is evident in characters such as Robert Jordan in *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, who risks his life to blow up a bridge in order to help the Republican cause during the Spanish Civil War.

3. ***Heroism as adherence to a code of honor:*** Hemingway's heroes often have a code of conduct that guides their actions and decisions. This code emphasizes values such as courage, honor, and self-reliance. For example, Jake Barnes in *The Sun Also Rises* adheres to a code of stoicism and emotional restraint despite his inner turmoil over his inability to have a sexual relationship with Brett Ashley.

4. ***Heroism as a struggle to find meaning:*** Hemingway's heroes often struggle to find meaning and purpose in a world that is consumed by violence and despair. This struggle is evident in characters such as Santiago in *The Old Man and the Sea*, who finds a sense of purpose in his quest to catch a giant marlin despite the overwhelming odds against him.[3] Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism is rooted in the idea that heroism is not just about physical strength or bravery, but also about the ability to confront difficult circumstances with grace, dignity, and a sense of purpose. Hemingway's heroes are often flawed and imperfect, but they possess a sense of honor and integrity that inspires admiration and respect.

In conclusion have explored the theme of heroism in the novels of Ernest Hemingway, with a particular focus on *A Farewell to Arms*. We have discussed the ways in which Hemingway challenges traditional notions of heroism and how his experiences as a war correspondent influenced his portrayal of heroism. We have analyzed the character of Frederic Henry and his portrayal as a hero, as well as the impact of war on Hemingway's characters and their heroic qualities. We have also compared and contrasted the different types of heroism in Hemingway's novels and how they reflect his unique perspective on war and human experience. Overall, this essay has demonstrated the complexity and nuance of Hemingway's portrayal of heroism and how it reflects his understanding of the human condition. Hemingway's

portrayal of heroism in *A Farewell to Arms* is significant for a number of reasons. First and foremost, it challenges traditional notions of heroism by portraying heroism as a complex and multifaceted concept that emerges in response to the challenges and traumas of war. Hemingway's heroes are not idealized figures of physical courage or adherence to a strict code of honor, but rather flawed individuals struggling to make sense of the chaos and trauma of war. Furthermore, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism is significant in the way it emphasizes the impact of war on individuals and society. Hemingway's focus on the individual experience of war highlights the psychological trauma that war can inflict on individuals, and his critique of war challenges the notion that it is a noble enterprise. Ultimately, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in *A Farewell to Arms* is significant because it reflects his unique perspective on the human condition. Hemingway was deeply influenced by his experiences as a war correspondent, and his focus on realism, individual experience, trauma, and critique of war all contribute to a complex and nuanced portrayal of heroism in the context of war. Hemingway's heroes are not perfect or infallible, but rather complex individuals struggling to make sense of a world that often seems senseless. In this way, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism resonates with readers because it reflects the human experience in all its complexity and nuance. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in *A Farewell to Arms* has broader implications for both literature and society as a whole. In literature, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism challenged traditional notions of heroism and contributed to the development of a more complex and nuanced understanding of heroism in literature. Hemingway's focus on the individual experience of war, trauma, and the flaws of his characters opened up new possibilities for literary exploration and experimentation, and influenced subsequent generations of writers to move away from idealized, mythic conceptions of heroism and towards a more realistic, human portrayal.

In terms of society, Hemingway's critique of war and its impact on individuals and society challenged the prevailing narrative of war as a noble enterprise, and

contributed to a broader cultural shift in attitudes towards war and violence. Hemingway's portrayal of heroism as a response to trauma and struggle also has implications for how we understand heroism in the broader context of human experience. By emphasizing the importance of resilience, determination, and moral courage in the face of adversity, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism provides a model for how individuals can respond to the challenges and traumas of life in a meaningful and constructive way. Overall, Hemingway's portrayal of heroism in “A Farewell to Arms” has had a significant impact on both literature and society, challenging traditional notions of heroism and providing a more complex and nuanced understanding of what it means to be a hero.

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