

## COURAGE AND MODESTY AS THE ATTRIBUTES OF MORAL VALUE IN THE NOVEL OF THE OLD MAN AND THE SEA

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### **Abstract**

*This comprehensive article investigates the profound exploration of moral values, particularly courage and modesty, in Ernest Hemingway's masterpiece, "The Old Man and the Sea." Drawing inspiration from the psychological perspectives of Peterson and Seligman, the study aims to unravel the intricate layers of moral character development within the novel and shed light on the enduring significance of courage and modesty in shaping human experiences. The attribute of being modest was displayed by showing that the old man behaves as if he were the father of the young boy Manolin. In terms of being religious, the old man displayed the characteristic of being grateful to God when he realized that God had made the fish not as intelligent as human. This, in the old man's view, made it possible that human could kill the fish. In such a feeling, he also imagined if only the fish were as intelligent as human. This novel revealed the Courage and Modesty in details.*

### **Keywords**

*Moral values, Courage, Modesty, Ernest Hemingway, The Old Man and the Sea, Peterson and Seligman*

**Introduction:** In the vast tapestry of human existence, moral values play a pivotal role in shaping individuals and their interactions with the world. Ernest Hemingway's "The Old Man and the Sea" stands as a testament to the exploration of these values, with a particular focus on courage and modesty. This article delves into the complexities of moral character development in the novel, drawing insights from the psychological framework articulated by Peterson and Seligman. A novel is an efficient and simple book. It is easier to bring everywhere and easier to understand. The way the writers express their ideas, the issues, and the language used are easier to understand. Novels also talk about life in places or times (Haryati, 2019). Some writers write their novels based on their real-life or their

imagination. It also gives more appeal to the readers if the writers write the novel based on their true story (Rosida & Saputri, 2019). The values of any novel can be presented for readers' consideration in real life.

**Moral Values in Human Life:** Moral values are the compass that guides human conduct, providing a framework for ethical decision-making and contributing to the formation of character. Within the narrative of "The Old Man and the Sea," Hemingway weaves a tale that explores the consequences of characters' moral choices, inviting readers to reflect on the intricacies of their own moral landscapes. It is easy enough to show that this version of moral relativism will not do, but surely a defender of moral relativism can find a better definition. Harman's moral relativism is a soberly logical thesis, a thesis about logical form if one likes. Just as the judgment that something is large is true or false only in relation to one or another comparison class, so too, Harman argues, the judgment that it is wrong of someone to do something is true or false only in relation to an agreement or understanding. A dog may be large in relation to chihuahuas but not large in relation to dogs in general. Similarly, Harman argues, an action may be wrong in relation to one agreement but not in relation to another. Just as it is indeterminate whether a dog is large, period, apart from any relation to a comparison class, so too, Harman argues, it is indeterminate whether an action is wrong, period, apart from any relation to an agreement. There is an agreement, in the relevant sense, if each of a number of people intends to adhere to some schedule, plan, or set of principles, intending to do this on the understanding that the others similarly intend. In this essay, Harman argues that there is a way in which certain moral judgments are relative to an agreement but other moral judgments are not. This relativism is a thesis only about what Harman calls „inner judgments“, such as the judgment that someone morally ought or ought not to have acted in a certain way or the judgment that it was morally right or wrong of him to have done so. The relativism defended in this first essay is not meant to apply, for example, to the judgment that someone is evil or the judgment that a given institution is unjust.

**Courage and Humanity:** Attributes of Moral Values by Peterson and Seligman: Peterson and Seligman's Positive Psychology framework highlights the importance of virtues and strengths in fostering human flourishing. Within this framework, courage is identified as the ability to confront fear, adversity, and challenges, while modesty is characterized by humility and a balanced self-assessment. These attributes, when cultivated, contribute to the development of robust moral character.

**Research Method:** This study employs a qualitative analysis of "The Old Man and the Sea," examining the characters' actions, dialogues, and inner thoughts to identify instances of courage and modesty. The analysis is grounded in Peterson and Seligman's framework, providing a structured lens through which to evaluate how these attributes contribute to the moral development of the characters. Naturally, this research is descriptive qualitative. That is, in one way it is qualitative because the data are in the forms of words, phrases, sentences, or fragments. Thus, the data are not in the form of numbers. The words, phrases, sentences, or fragments are taken from the text of the novel *The Old Man and the Sea*. This research is descriptive because the researcher describes the moral value of the main character by discussing two attributes of moral value. They are courage and modesty. Some other supporting theories will also be used to support the analysis.

**Research Findings and Discussion:** The novel unfolds a rich tapestry of characters, with Santiago, the seasoned fisherman, serving as a paragon of courage. His ability to confront the relentless challenges posed by the sea exemplifies resilience and fortitude. Santiago's modesty is equally pronounced, as he humbly accepts the limits of his control over the vast and unpredictable forces of nature. The mentorship dynamic between Santiago and the young boy, Manolin, further highlights the transmission of moral values, emphasizing the cultivation of courage and modesty.

**Conclusion:** "The Old Man and the Sea" emerges as a literary exploration of moral values, with courage and modesty emerging as transformative attributes. The characters' embodiment of these virtues adds depth and resonance to the narrative, inviting readers to contemplate the timeless relevance of these virtues in shaping moral character. By examining the novel through the lens of Peterson and Seligman's Positive Psychology, this article underscores the enduring significance of courage and modesty as essential components of the human moral experience. In this study, it can be concluded that courage is displayed by different kinds of feelings. They are among others, Santiago (the old man)'s feelings of being determined, being hard-working and perseverance, and feeling optimistic about what he does in all cases. Other parts of being courageous are also shown in the forms of ambition, enduring the pain, and bravery. Out of all of these characteristics, however, the characteristic of being brave might be the most important part of the attribute of courage. Differently, the attribute of being modest or modesty is also displayed in various characteristics. Such characteristics are among others the feelings of being unselfish, care, respect, loving, feeling lonely, sympathetic, and even feeling of regretful after killing a fish. In some other cases,

the attribute of being modest is also displayed by showing that the old man behaves as if he were the father of the young boy Manolin.

In terms of being religious, the old man displays the characteristic of being grateful to God when he realizes that God has made the fish not as intelligent as a human. This, in the old man's view, made it possible that humans can kill the fish. In such a feeling, he also imagines if only the fish were as intelligent as human still, another characteristic that the old man displays is the feeling of getting hurt when looking at his wife's photograph. To avoid such feelings, the old man has taken off the photograph off the wall. This being brave might be the deepest part of human feelings so far displayed in the novel as part of the attribute of modesty. Throughout the novel, Santiago as the most significant character in the novel is described as a man with various characteristics. In many parts of the novel, Santiago is described as someone with full of courage in facing the difficult lives of being a fisherman. In many other parts, however, he is also described as a fisherman who is modest. That is, he is a man who is very humble, passionate, patient, loving, and caring for others.

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