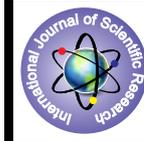


The Metamorphoses of Jake in The Sun Also Rises



Literature

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ABSTRACT

Jake Barnes is the hero of "The Sun Also Rises." Initially he and several other characters were morally sterile but later on by disciplining their emotions, Jake over comes his weaknesses and gradually comes out of this morass. So the Sun which has gone down finally 'Rises' for Jake. Thus Hemingway entitles the novel " The Sun Also Rises"

Hemingway's novel "the sun also rises" tries to capture haunting sense of life's transitorizes which the experience of war did impart to Jake and his generation or the "lost generation". Rather than having a sense of life as "vanity", in this novel Hemingway's novel carry a dread of death. Unlike the religious people, they try to cling to life rather desperately, for them life is not a "vanity", but a "feast" where the last course is always death.

An early instance in the novel of the haunting sense of life's transitorizes is the following conversation between Robert Cohn and Jake Barnes.

"Do you know that in about thirty-five years more we'll be dead?"

Even as Brett informs Jake of her recent off air with Cohn, Jake shows his lack of interest in the subject, but she keeps on telling him about it.

In Pamplona, Jake's treatment of Brett undergoes a further change. We find him always nice to her and yet always a little detached. He continues to love her, becomes even instrumental in her obtaining of Romero, but is never taking over by his earlier, sentiment of possessing her.

In arranging between Brett and Romero, Jake is not committing as Richard Hovey thinks a "masochistic and sadistic ace"

The real significance of this act is that it reveals Jake's success in having mastered his desire to possess Brett. Brett also notices these changes in his attitude towards her.

"Do you still love me, Jake?"

She asks and he replies that he does. But the concern that he shows towards Brett in Pamplona is radically different from what of an understanding friend rather than of a helpless lover. Jake and Brett's journey from Paris to Pamplona and back can be compared to a similar journey in Shakespeare is "As You Like It" where the major character move from court to the country and again return to court. In both cases the strategy behind juxtaposition is the same; to expose the limitations and virtues of the two places representing the two ways of life and to suggest a new possibility in the reintegration of these separated components of life. Also, there integration in both Hemingway

and Shakespeare is achieved by the central figure who has the capacity to combine the virtues of two ways of life. While Shakespeare's heroes and heroines are persons of consequence on whom depends the deconstruction or reconstruction of order in the entire society. Hemingway's central character is modern isolates that have clearly set their own priorities. As we see them at the end. The climax in the development of both of the characters reaches in their ability to "discipline" their desire indicated by their acts of self-denial; as Jake denies himself the desire to possess Brett, so does Brett let go Romero whom she so much wanted to possess. Thus the novel clearly demonstrates that at least Jake and Brett are no longer "lost" at the end of the novel. They do experience in the novel's beginning temporarily "lostness". But while others like Mike and Cohn remain permanently lost, Jake and Brett succeed to discipline their chaotic emotions.

Hemingway's "lost generation" is therefore not actually lost; it is only as much lost as any other generation. Also as in case of other generations, only those of its members are lost who lack self-discipline.

Jake is not lost because he is the character who has committed to the values of duty and personal relationship. The two sources of strength which sustain him through the trying experiences of life- Jake is not only living in a cosmopolitan city (Paris) he is also deeply engaged in professional activity, in the welfare of his friends. He has an office which he attends regularly, he is also a strong committor to his work both as a journalist and a promising artist.

So ultimately the characters of this novel who are committed and have humanistic impulses like friendship, honesty, dutifulness and courtesy, do finally struggle with their hostile environmental conditions and thus finally rises out of this morass. Hence Hemingway prefers to entitle this novel as "the sun also rises". Jake who was a representative of sterile wasteland and also a member of "lost generation", a sun gone down, never hoping to rise again, struggles and finally emerges out as a winner. And for all other characters as well who were committed morally, the "sun rises" again.

In this novel, Hemingway had laid special emphasis on the rise of the sun. The fact that he prefers to entitle it "the sun also rises" clearly shows that he intended to convey "rising" of the sun and not the "lostness" of this generation.

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