

## WHAT ARE THE FEARS OF THE HEMINGWAY PROTAGONIST?

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### Abstract

It seems universally accepted that the central theme of Hemingway's fiction is courage, and that his code hero is a man who can keep grace under pressure and "super-male stance" (in Aaron Latham's words) in utmost suffering. It may be true that the Hemingway hero many times appears to be a stoic who believes in the maxim Hemingway held for years: "il faut (d'abord) durer" (according to Carlos Baker), and who carries a stiff upper lip through ordeals; but it can never be farther from the truth to say that he is a born lionheart who loves danger and hardships so much as he loves brandy.

The truth, however, is that the Hemingway character is often haunted with fears which eventually will make him – to use David J. Leigh's idea – an existential neurotic. The purpose of this article is to find out the nature of the fears that obsess the mind of the Hemingway hero who "grows from childhood to adolescent to soldier, veteran, writer, and parent" (in Philip Young's words) and widower, how they have interacted among themselves and influenced Hemingway's way of writing, and, finally, how the Hemingway protagonist has transcended or outlived them in the art of fiction.