

The main theme in "The Old Man and the Sea" has to do with man's ability to find success in failure. Hemingway was fond of creating "chiasmi," or, as he liked to call them, "double dichos,"

In A.E. Hotchner's biography *Papa Hemingway* Papa is quoted as saying:

"There is at the heart of it [*The Old Man and the Sea*] the oldest double dicho I know."

'What's a double dicho?' I asked.

'It's a saying that makes a statement forwards or backwards. Now this dicho is: Man can be destroyed but not defeated. Man can be defeated but not destroyed.'