**Religious imagery in the Novel *The Old Man and the Sea***

In order to suggest the profundity of the old man’s sacrifice and the glory that derives from it, Hemingway purposefully compares Santiago to Jesus Christ, who, according to Christian theology, gave his life for the greater glory of humankind.

Crucifixion imagery is the most noticeable way in which Hemingway creates the symbolic parallel between Santiago and Christ. When Santiago’s palms are first cut by his fishing line, the reader cannot help but think of Christ suffering his stigmata (bodily marks or pains resembling the wounds of the crucified Christ).

Later, when the sharks arrive, Hemingway depicts the old man as a crucified martyr, saying that he makes a noise similar to that of a man having nails driven through his hands. Furthermore, the image of the old man struggling up the hill with his mast across his shoulders recalls Christ’s march toward Calvary (place outside ancient Jerusalem where Jesus was crucified).

Even the position in which Santiago collapses on his bed—face down with his arms out straight and the palms of his hands up—brings to mind the image of Christ suffering on the cross. Hemingway employs these images in the final pages of the novella in order to link Santiago to Christ, who exemplified transcendence by turning loss into gain, defeat into triumph, and even death into renewed life.

**Questions:**

1. What is the religious imagery used in the Novel?
2. Described the use of religious symbolism in the Novel?