PREFACE

It is difficult to ignore or minimize the fact that the good deal has been written on Ernest Hemingway’s life as well as on the various aspects of his writings. At the same time, it is also difficult to ignore or minimize the point that several editions of Hemingway’s works have been published from time to time. All these publications of Hemingway’s books, besides the critical books and papers on his writings, establish the fundamental fact that Hemingway has been very popular writer and that his books have attracted readers in a large and still larger number. His popularity is not conditioned so much by his descriptions of sex and violence, travels and adventures in his books as by something that lies hidden behind the descriptions. Truly enough, Hemingway is a writer of a ‘lost generation’, of an era of chaos and disillusionment, but his approach is neither defeatist nor negative in nature. Instead, it is something dynamically optimistic and positive in spirit.

As we go through his writings, his novels and short stories in particular, we do find that there is a writer who looks upon life as a kind of struggle and challenge and who believes that in spite of all adverse situations, it is always better to get destroyed than to accept defeat. Moreover, this import of Hemingway’s works is heightened and made richer and more meaningful and significant by the manner in which he brings it out. As I went through his books, his novels and short stories in particular, I did realize that there was much to be explored and considered in order to be able to make a proper and adequate assessment of his adherence to the tenets of naturalism, which played a vital role in the twentieth century American fiction.

The focal point of the thesis is to bring to light, the extent to which he was the practitioner of naturalism in his fiction. The present work
has been woven from the fabric of naturalism. It has a philosophical base with
the belief that man is no more than the highest order of animals and that his
character and destiny is moulded by his heredity and environment.

This work could not have been possible without the cooperation
and blessings of my mentors and well-wishers. I take it as my bounden duty to
acknowledge their contribution in the completion of the work.

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(Kamal Kishore Maurya)