

caves, Edwin comes in contact with a man named “The Extremaduran”. The man goes on later to say that he hates all foreigners, especially Russians. He later explains his hatred towards foreigners is rooted by an incident involving one of his soldiers. Extremaduran tells Edwin about a one of his foreign soldiers, Paco, who was tremendously terrified to fight. Paco shot himself in the hand to avoid going into battle, resulting in the amputation of his hand. Later on in the story, the Extremaduran visits Paco at the hospital. When asked about his health, Paco states, “Everything’s alright, everything’s good except this” (Hemingway, 467). Paco flashed the officer his amputated hand and resents his cowardly decision. Paco states, “That was a cowardly and foolish thing. I will do what I can with one hand for the cause”(Hemingway, 467).

While the reader expects this development of accountability, maturity and acceptance of responsibility through Paco’s action to be Hemingway’s claim, the story concludes with the execution of Paco. Hemingway rather exemplifies responsibility through the Extremaduran’s execution of Paco and how his emotions provoked his actions. The Extremaduran brought Paco to the battleground he ran from before ordering a soldier who spoke mostly Russian to shoot him. The Extremaduran had to shoot Paco to make an example in front of his brigade. Besides the fact that Paco is now more of a liability with only having one hand, the Extremaduran needed to assert his power to reinstall confidence in the rest of the troop. As the leader of the troop, he cannot have his soldiers considering running away or second-guessing the loyalty of those in the brigade. While this story is a grimmer depiction of Hemingway’s claim, the constants between the two stories continue to stress how emotion can effect how we take control of responsibility.