

for tragedy ... as kings were ". Although Willy is to some extent responsible for his tragedy but the chief villain is society . Willy's downfall arises from his continued misconception of himself . In ancient drama the downfall is caused by fate and tragic flaw of the character but in modern drama , the downfall arises from moral weakness and social pressure . So, Willy , like Aristotle's description of tragic hero , moves from " Ignorance to knowledge " . In this sense Miller's tragic vision in the manifestation of Willy's character is extremely modern . Despite Willy's difference from classical tragic protagonists like Sophocles' "OEDIPUS" and Shakespeare's "HAMLET" , his struggle with his situation , the destiny that surrounds him and the choices he makes , make Willy a tragic hero in the contemporary sense of term .

Firstly , an important feature of the tragic hero is that the character must inspire " pity " and "terror " in the audience . Willy Loman could be said to fit in this criteria as the audience can clearly see what he aspires , such as popularity and material wealth . The audience may not be compelled to pity his situation as the source of all his problems arises from his excessive greed (HUBRIS) . As a tragic hero , Willy is a victim of what is known as