

Lord of the flies: a grotesque view on human behavior



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Savagery is Mankind's Instinct When Taken Away from Consistency William Golding's *Lord of the Flies* casts a pessimistic and grotesque view on human behaviour in the world. Through the novel the symbolism we see how quickly humanity can be changed. It shows the gradual downfall of democracy and the up roar of a power-hungry dictatorship, proving that; when man is strained from civilization it leads to savagery and loss of morals which results in inability to self-regulate. During Simon's vision in the glade, the Lord of the flies approaches him and says; There isn't anyone to help you.

Only me. And I'm the beast... Fancy thinking the beast was something that could hunt and kill! ... You knew didn't you? I'm part of you? Close, close, close! I'm the reason why it's a no go? Why things are the way they are? " (Golding 158) In chapter five Simon has a hunch that the beast is really the boys themselves and the words spoken by the Lord of the flies confirms that hunch. The idea of the evil on the island being within the boys is control to the novels exploration of innate human savagery. Simon says " What I mean is... maybe it's only in us" (96).

The lord of the flies proclaims itself as the beast and admits to Simon that it does exist within all human beings. Simon is shocked and petrified by his new discovery so he tries to go back and communicate with the other boys but their bewildered savage attitude over whelms them to the point where they mistake Simon for the beast itself which result in them killing him. Overall these quotes represent the boys enhanced personality traits from good to evil. A little after the boy's arrival on the island the boy's outer appearance became more wild-like.

Jack concealed from the sun, knelt by the pool and opened the two large leaves that he carried. One of them contained white clay, and the other red... he smeared on the clay... ' For hunting. Like the war. You know—dazzle paint. Like things trying to look like something else—' (65-66). The boys start using clay as war paint to blend in more with their surroundings, in the hopes that they would be able to catch their prey using the element of surprise. Jack said " Come on! I'll creep and stab—" (67). This is signifying the boy's loss of remorse and innocence that was shown at the beginning of the novel.

When the boys first got to the island they would not even think about killing a pig, even for survival. Now the longer that they are here and away from the morals, they are dressed in camouflage to disguise themselves from their prey before they attack. Due to lack of regulation they have looked at their surroundings as a new way to live. Power is a key idea throughout Golding's novel, having the conch means you hold the power, to speak and also prevent potential chaos. " If I blow the conch and they don't come back; then we've had it we shan't keep the fire going. We'll be like animals. We'll never be rescued. ' If you don't blow, we'll be animals anyway" (99). This quote is foreshadowing the boy's future. We'll soon be like animals anyways, living in the wild, no clothes, killing other animals for survival and believing in rituals. The conch is the symbol of power and order in the novel. Whoever has control of the conch is in charge of the group and is looked upon as the leader. In the beginning of the book Ralph is the leader because he is elected by the other boys. This shows a sense of democratic process of picking a leader and the boy's humanity during this time because they chose a leader in a civil manner.

It is when Jack begins to challenge Ralph's leadership and power where this small society starts to crumble. The young boys are beginning to lose their human like qualities and start to act like savages. Within the quote, the blowing of the conch is a mere test in order to see how far gone Jack's group is, from humanity. If they do not return then all hope of being rescued is gone. The fire symbolizes this. They have already been taken over by their savage nature and they cannot be rescued. The boy's morals and rules are fading away the longer they are on the island and away from a civilized environment. The world, that understandable and lawful world, was slipping away" (98). Things are starting to get out of control and things that were once important to the boys no longer matter. Things such as keeping the fire going have lost the much needed care for. Without fire the boys decrease their chances of being rescued. Ralph's statement shows that he has realized that his style of government and the last bit of civilization will soon be corrupted and the islanders will soon break apart into anarchy or the different sides.

One side being Ralph's group who have the last bit of civilization or Jack's group, where he does not really care about staying in some-what proper manner, but instead just power hungry. Having power gives you full control of a situation and it is among thyself to do something with the power, or abuse it. After reading Lord of the Flies it becomes quite noticeable that; when man is strained from civilization he loses his sense of morals and falls into savagery. With the loss of morals it creates a dysfunction in which we can apply to our own lives. The novel also touches upon current events that are going on today.

For example the dictatorship showed in the book can be linked with today's dictators such as; Kim Jung Un of North Korea and the few others in and around the surrounding areas. These leaders are power hungry and don't have their followers interest in their minds. It is all about what they see fit; whatever is best for them will get done first. Although most of today's societies have moved away from dictatorships and moved into other forms of government, there are still those few that remain. It is time we take charge and change those governments. It leaves the people unhappy. Giving one person all the power leads to destruction and chaos.