

William Golding's Lord of the flies ... Continues...

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Abstract:

This article analyses how the central theme (Civilization Vs. Savagery) in the novel, Lord of the Flies, is still prevalent to date. This article gives a brief note of the book and also relates it to the present scenario. It presents the fact that the primitive instincts of man come to the surface when the man is not bound to civilization (according to William Golding) and also provides the worst consequences to be faced if we act according to our impulses without using our intellect and reason.

Key Words: Civilization, Savagery, Impulses, Intellect.

Literature is the reflection of life is what I believe all the time. Suppose someone asks me to give an example of my statement, the novel Lord of the Flies. This novel was prescribed for us in the second semester of the M.A. English program, and it was taught by an efficient research scholar, Manjusha. Her detailed explanation of the novel made me relate to the current scenario, and every day events remind me of this novel. The very impulsive and horrible actions that always leave people in deplorable conditions are faced by us, and all those inspired me to write this article. The novel, Lord of the flies, is about the 1950s scenario, but I could certainly relate this to the present era. I mean to say that there has been no change from that day to this day, and many people are behaving like savages even today and acting according to their impulses.

The novel Lord of the flies was written by William Golding and published in 1954. He is a British novelist, playwright, and poet. He worked for the navy and saw the horrors of the war. He saw destruction, chaos, loss of hope, humanity, and people becoming like savages. AND HIS HANDS WROTE WHAT HIS EYES SAW. Like many other writers in the post-modern period, William Golding also tried to portray the scenario that prevailed during

his time, i. e. a pure reality. Lord of the Flies is a pure portrayal that if a man is not bound to any civilization, the man may tend to behave like a primitive man. To be precise, precisely like savages ... like a wild Beast.

This novel is a perfect example of the fact that literature reflects life. To present the scenario, Golding fabricated a story of a group of boys who unfortunately landed on an uninhabited deserted island. With this story, he tried to say that the adult world is no better than the situations on the island. The boys' story is nothing but a microcosm of the adult world. Due to a plane crash, a group of boys 6 to 11 years old land on an island, and it is significant to know that they are not under adult supervision which is the main reason for them to behave according to their impulses.

The characters in the novel are Ralph, Jack, Piggy, Roger, Simon, Sam n Eric, and others. They are divided into littluns and biguns according to their ages. They behave in an organized manner at the beginning of the novel. Some of the instances that show their civilized behavior are: They divided work among themselves, thought of building a shelter which is a basic need to live, conducted elections to choose a leader among them, which presents the democratic idea, some of them are assigned to gather food (hunters), Ralph says to lit fire on the top of the hill so that passing by ship may see that and save them which shows their ultimate aim is to be held and get out of that island at any

cost, they use glasses to lit the fire, they use a conch to call the boys. All these are civilized ideas and behavior which portray that they have used their intellect and reason. But things turned upside down over time.

The peaceful scenario did not last for a long time. Jack feels superior to the other boys as he is the leader of the boys who hunt and provide food. He feels everyone should be submissive to him as he provides food for the boys. Initially, he doesn't feel like killing a pig which is a sign of civilization, but gradually he feels excited and finds joy in hunting animals. Since then, we can observe the transformation of boys from a civilized state to a state of savagery. Some of the littluns happen to see a man stuck in the trees along with his parachute, and he appears like a beast to them. In fear of beasts, they started behaving like BEASTS.

However, this fact is only realized by Simon, a Christly figure in the novel. He feels like the pig's head offered to the beast is talking to him, and he realizes that the boys behave like beasts. He tries to convey the same, but he is killed by the other boys who think he is the beast. They painted their faces with pig's blood. Their slogan to motivate themselves was to Kill the pig, cut her throat, and spill the blood. This itself shows their apparent transformation. The evil side of the boys is symbolized by the lord of the flies, a pig's head on a stick with its intestines outside and flies around it. This was an offering to the beast. The lord of the flies

is the translation of the Arabic word Baal-zebub, the name of a devil. The head represents the evil of unreason, and the flies that buzz over the guts of the sow are intuitive beings and represent the impulses that dominate the boys.

The effect of evil or the primitive instincts that naturally exist in humans starts. Some of the boys failed to use their intellect and began to act according to their impulses. Roger throws stones at littluns and feels that as there is no one to supervise him, he can do whatever he wants to and whatever he feels to. Jack and some other boys start to live separately, and Jack tortures and kills the other boys if they utter a single word against him. He behaves like a king, and the other boys are his slaves as Piggy's spectacles are the only source for lighting up the fire; Jack and his group attack the other boys (Ralph and Piggy) for the phenomena. In the fight, Ralph and Piggy's shelter and Piggy's spectacles are destroyed, which is a clear indication of the loss of the connection with civilization. It also symbolizes that they are entering into a state of primitiveness. Piggy says, "they could have asked me instead of attacking us," I could have given my spectacles, but their wild act is because they fail to use their intellect. Roger tortures the littluns and other boys against Jack and does whatever Jack says. One such merciless action is killing Piggy by throwing a big rock at him.

As days pass, situations get worse, and Jack plans to kill Ralph by setting fire to the entire island without even thinking

that this act can take his life too. While the forest is set to fire and the boys chase Ralph to kill him, a passing ship notices an officer is stunned by the boys in such a scenario. He turns back, and the boys sob for their cruel transformation to a state of savagery. This is how the novel ends.

Through this story, William Golding tried to present the scenario of the outside world or adult world where one could find only destruction and chaos. The island is the microcosm of the outer world. He depicted the scenario very clearly with his incredible creative skills. AND NOW MY HANDS ARE TRYING TO PRESENT WHAT MY EYES ARE SEEING...

As said by William Golding that the boys are acting according to their impulses, and the present world and people are working according to their whims. In his poem, Passage to India, Walt Whitman said that he could see a day when all the oceans, climates, and continents come together and connect through marriages without any distinctions. Still, I could not know that day that Walt Whitman dreamt of because there are differences based on one's community, and people will kill if an inter-caste marriage is witnessed. For example, an inter-caste couple who got married against their families were murdered brutally by the bride's brother at Thulukkaveli in Cholapuram near Kumbakonam, Tamilnadu. Both families have lost their dear ones, and they cannot even live in mental peace. They could have understood them or tried to persuade

them not to marry but killing them and ending the young lives is not a solution that could be thought of. A little thinking is lacking nowadays, and humanity is completely lost. In earlier days, people used to discriminate against people based on caste. Many people were not allowed into the temples or even to walk in sandals in front of the land lord's houses, which was very insulting and humiliating. Such kind of practices is still intact. This discrimination doesn't make any sense. They would not have behaved in such a way if they had used their intellect.

In addition, much more evidence shows that many people are still acting according to their impulses. Some instances are: A woman's throat is cut by her husband just because of their disputes. They could have discussed and solved it, but he failed to use his reason and acted according to his impulse, which was nothing but a significant loss. Recently a woman in Kerala was killed in the name of sacrifice, which shows that they have failed to use their intellect just like the boys on the island. They humiliate Piggy, torturing littluns and other boys who oppose their rules and decisions. And they even went to the extent of killing their friends without considering it. Similarly, in the present scenario, there are assaults, abuses, murders, discrimination, honor killings, human sacrifices, humiliations, and so on.

Acting according to the impulses portrayed in the "Lord of the flies" is still prevalent. It is essential to understand that impulsive actions only leave us with

a significant loss. The scenario will change only when people use their intellect and reason and act accordingly. But this is not understood by the people, who still behave like savages torturing others and losing their mental peace. And that is why the central theme in the LORD OF THE FLIES... IS BEING CONTINUED FOR AGES.....!!!!!!!!!!!!

But this can be changed when we analyze things, empathize with others and build an optimistic attitude. We should bring the change. We are in the twenty-first century. We are much ahead in science, technology, and many other fields. We can learn many things and develop an optimistic attitude, and there is an excellent chance of inculcating values and morals to upgrade our mindset and attitude.

For instance, we can learn a lot many things from literature. There is a lot to derive from literature, which brings humanity back and helps us use our intellect and act accordingly. But it is not an easy task, and things cannot be changed in a day. We can't even enter the minds of others and make them wise. But all we can do is take a step ahead, try to change ourselves, and hope for a better society to live in. This novel brought a significant change in me and taught me to use my intellect and act accordingly, and I vigorously tried to reflect the same through my writing.

A change can be brought only when we try to bring it out. If our freedom

fighters had not thought of an independent nation, there wouldn't be an Independent India. Similarly, in this context, nothing will be changed until and unless every individual makes up one's mind to bring a change and strive for it. A great nation like ours needs

people who can act accordingly and make this nation a better place to live in.

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