



The Confrontation between Reason and Human Instinct in William Golding's Lord of the Flies

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Abstract

War leaves great effects on people's behavior, including that it generates hatred and a love of revenge, as people are divided between good and evil. But not all the changes that occur in people's behavior are due to wars or the restrictions of society. In some cases, the individual becomes the first responsible for his actions if he loses control over instinct in the absence of the law. Here, the individual needs to make a change in himself to save his civilization and principles. Golding discusses this idea obviously in his novel Lord of the Flies (1954). He considers that man produces evil as bees produce honey (Fable, p.87), because the evilness is rooted within every human being. Therefore, this research focuses on the confrontation between reason and human instinct in the absence of law, which is the boundary between them.

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Published: 1-9-2023

Keywords: Confrontation, reason, Human instinct, absence of law

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المخلص :

تترك الحرب آثارًا كبيرة على سلوك الناس ، بما في ذلك أنها تولد الكراهية وحب الانتقام ، حيث ينقسم الناس بين الخير والشر ، ولكن ليست كل التغييرات التي تحدث في سلوك الناس بسبب الحروب أو قيود المجتمع. في بعض الحالات يكون الفرد هو المسؤول الأول عن أفعاله إذا فقد السيطرة على الغريزة في غياب القانون ، وهنا يحتاج الفرد إلى إحداث تغيير في نفسه لإنقاذ حضارته ومبادئه. يناقش جولدنج هذه الفكرة بشكل واضح في روايته *Lord of the Flies* (1954). يعتبر أن الإنسان ينتج الشر كما ينتج النحل العسل (حكاية ، ص 87) ، لأن الشر متجذر في كل إنسان. لذلك يركز هذا البحث على المواجهة بين العقل والغريزة الإنسانية في غياب القانون ، وهو الحد الفاصل بينهما.

الكلمات الدالة: (المواجهة ، العقل ، الغريزة الإنسانية ، غياب القانون).

Introduction

William Golding *Lord of the flies* (1958) presents group of schoolboys who survived in an isolated island as their plan attacked by the enemy. The island serves as an example for the Garden of Eden before the boys arrived. At the beginning, the boys realize that they are left alone on this island, especially after the death of the pilot, thus, they decided to organize their lives according to what they learned from the laws in their country, Britain to protect themselves from any mistake they might make, and be save their life from the possible existence of a beast. That means, those boys determine the way to be rescued, make fun with each other, play games and eat fruits in this big garden. After a while, someboys' show how the island was corrupted and destroyed by their bad behavior by following their desires and instincts that reflected the bad side rooted in them. Automatically the good characters can adopt the misery and hopelessness life in this uninhabited environment happily. The young boy establishes a new society, new life, new system of rules and new shelters with absence of any adults to guide boys in a primitive society, eventually; they turn to aggressive and cruel. Thus, the novel narrates a story of group of teenage boys who became trapped on an island after plane wreck. The boys also serve as metaphors: Jack and Roger stand for evil, Ralph and piggy for low and order, Simon is a representation of kindness, and littleness represents ordinary people. In fact, the first group is good group which is represented by Ralph, Simon and Piggy who are built culture, civilization, progress and development. All the boys were freed from social restrictions, rules, principles, laws, social norms and orders and they should follow their own ways to survival.

The Confrontation of Reason

At the beginning of the novel, the boys choose Ralph as a commander of group to teach them how to keep themselves from different disasters. Therefore, Ralph sought to use the principle of his organized country to lead his group in the island. On the contrary, Jack who wants to use his evilness to control other which

represent the savagery in this novel. In fact, there is confrontation between these two characters due to their different attitude towards the values of society. The novelist obviously shows that when individual's value suddenly disappeared, his instinct will gradually lead him and control his behavior. Therefore, individual unconsciously tends to be savage in a civilized environment.

Ralph is one of main innocent character who is a 12-year-old boy with an athletic build that is very English. He appears to have a natural sense of leadership and seems to be hardworking in the English school. He struggles to use his authority to protect his group; Ralph always remembered them that they are belonging to English society. Besides, he also confirms that the fire is should be lighted, because it is the product of the reason as it is the symbol of hope and the only way to connect with civilization. The confrontation begins between Ralph who represents the reason and Jack who represents human instinct when Ralph was chosen as the leader of the group; it is like the confrontation between civilization and savagery. It all started when Jack and his tribe didn't respect Ralph's order to light a fire, which led them to lose their chance of surviving the island. This made Ralph angry towards Jack as he said, "I was talking about smoke! Don't you want to be rescue? All you can talk about is pig, pig, pig!" (Golding, p.68) Fire is important to Ralph because it is not only used to save them from the island, but also gives them the strength to overcome the fears of evil within them. Thus, Civilization has forced him to use his reason and act rationally and state that "there isn't a in the forest. How could there be? What would a beast eat?" (Golding, p.104) So, by relying on the mind, a person can conquer the evil within him, brutality arises when a person stops using his mind and following his instincts.

William Golding, the World War II combatant, who is famous for exploring themes of the confrontation between good (reason) and evil (human instinct) and who is characterized by his continuous criticism of modern society. Through his novel *Lord of the Flies*, Golding shows how human principles change according to the environment in which he lives, and how a person refuses to follow his mind and follow his evil instincts. Accordingly, this novel highlights the principal psychological changes in people. In this case, children who were thought to be innocent and gullible proved otherwise with their antics on this isolated island. A dark violent era is depicted in the novel; one can observe how the human mind works throughout the book regress and rely just on intuition (Grigouriu, p.1). The writings of Golding were created in a depressed and fair environment and dealt with violence as a universal issue for people of all ages. He displays this brutality, both a conceptual as well as symbolic level, his paintings display brutality. He exposes the hidden brutality that exists in children's world. In the typical world of kids, when kids come together, they should play and have fun. Golding claims that "by choosing children to be the protagonists of his novel, Golding emphasizes the theme that evil is inherent in man's nature and that childhood innocence serves only to evil it." (Demir, p.2)

The confrontation continues between the two opposing forces, that is, Ralph and Jack, each trying hard to prove what he believes is correct, based on what he learned from the environment in which he grew up. The love of power and

leadership has always been the focus of the confrontation of nations and peoples for thousands of years, which was the point of contention between Ralph and Jack. As mentioned early in this paper, Ralph tries to protect his group from harm, using all the rational methods he learned to save them by returning to their homeland with the help of his friends Simon and Piggy.

According to Ralph's courage, he determines that the boys must try to make a fire by using his intelligent (Piggy's glasses) in order to inform passing ships that they are here in this island and want someone to help and save them to leave this island but there is no any way to do this. And another reason behind making fire is to keep them warm in this bad weather. Ralph also orders to use the conch which represents the symbol of power, since everyone listens to the holder of the conch and has to wait for their turn to speak. Once they get the conch, they are allowed to speak and everyone listens. The conch thus provides power of speech, as well as law and order. The conch's power, though, is completely dependent on the recognition by the boys (Fleck, p.34). Golding explains the true power of the conch when he depicts the scene after Ralph's nomination as leader: "[M]ost obscurely, yet most strongly, there was the conch" (Golding, p.22), implying that the boys gain authority by clutching the conch. It's true the symbol is a crucial motif in the novel's commencement. Piggy is the one who discovers it, he's seen this conch before, and he's told others that it should be used as a loud-sounding musician (as cited in Bruns, 2008). Golding gets the idea to make it more than just a musical generator because of it everyone understands that whoever holds the shell at their meetings has the right to speak. Holding the conch gives the boys more power. Ralph establishes this norm through Piggy (Golding, p.33) demonstrating that the conch represents law and order, a key feature of a democracy, as everyone has the right to speak freely when using the conch. Both Piggy and Ralph transform the shell into "an instrument of civilization," it becomes "a symbol of democratic order" (Olsen, 2000). Many of Ralph's clever inventions and ideas, like employing the conch to call meetings is broken at end by Jack.

Piggy with his overweight, intelligent, chatty youngster and asthmatic boy is the other person who follows the reason in this novel, and he serves as Ralph's closest second-in-command. Many of Ralph's clever inventions and ideas, like employing the conch to call meetings and building shelters for the group, were the brainchild of Piggy. In different situation Piggy supports Ralph's signal fires and contributes to island problem-solving as a symbol of humanity's logical and scientific side. Piggy is physically weaker than the rest due to his asthma, weight, and poor eyesight, thus, he is more likely to face ridicule and rejection. Piggy is also the only boy who is concerned about English civilization's laws; Piggy represents the science, intellectual thoughts, knowledge, culture and development. When the island turns into a dark place that reflects human evil instincts, Roger kills Piggy; the faithful believer in laws and orders, and here the good is killed by the hand of evil, and the confrontation continues in the tribute between the two conflicting forces.

Another important character is Simon is an odd, sensitive boy in the school boy's group, unlike them. Simon is a kind good hearted boy who helps Ralph and offers

generosity to the others. He prefers to spend some time alone in beautiful island that take part in the fun activities. He is fair-skinned, has brilliant eyes, and black hair. The others find him unusual or peculiar since he is so reserved and quiet. Form the beginning Golding describes Simon as a saint saying that "Simon is a Christ-figure...a lover of mankind, a visionary" (Niven, p.49) has a quiet, introspective and wise personality, greatly differing from the other boys. He is not physically strong and has a tendency to go out on his own group, which makes him stand out. When Ralph first encounter Simon, he has passed out, which makes Jack look down on him. Golding offers a suggestion that Simon could have epilepsy, which would set him apart from the other boys. But when Simon sets out to find the Beast, he does it with courage. Only Simon among the boys truly understands what is happening and that their actions are being motivated by the evil that is inside them. So only Simon knows the nature of human beings and their struggles inside themselves associate with the evil soul for everyone in the life even when they make mistakes they can feel that they are right to gain the goals and aims by following their desires. And when he discovered that there is no ghost on the island, he decides to tell them to feel safe, Simon is killed by Jack's group, believing him to be the ghost on the island and here Simon's death reflects the extent to which the boys in *Lord of the Flies* succumb to the evil instincts in their biology.

Golding's work *Lord of the Flies* depicted the inner civilization and savagery of British schoolboys. It depicts these aspects of human nature, with an indication of civilized human beings and barbarism. In fact, it reflects our current civilization when it faces numerous challenges and in the end loses the humanity and purity.

The Confrontation of instinct

The human instinct is the first thing that led a person to crime, so we need the presence of the mind to control it, otherwise evil will be the main controller that leads human actions to bad deed. Jack is the antagonist of the novel *Lord of the Flies*, the choir's arrogant leader, asks to become the choir's chief after the accident of burning two boys in the fire (the littluns). When Ralph is selected instead, he is dissatisfied but encouraged by the possibility of keeping control of the choir, who has been allocated the role of hunters. Jack and Ralph become friends as they explore the island together, despite Jack's first failure to kill a pig: as he justifies saying: "I was going to... I was choosing a place." (Golding, p.29) After that, Jack immediately dislikes Piggy and starts shouting, "Shut up, Piggy," (Golding, p.31) which he uses as a phrase. Jack uses a knife to cut the pig's throat as his strength increases, the knife of Jack refers to natural behavior of the boy following their innate desires and instincts so this knife represents evil and dark side of humanity.

Through the novel, Jack has changed into what he is, conquering his fear of failure. His name 'Merridew', refers to those who understand who he is and how this name gave him the quality of strength that made him overcome his fear on this isolated island. The Merridew surname comes from the Welsh personal name

Meredydd or Maredudd. The Old Welsh form of the name is Morgetiudd; experts state that the first portion of this name may mean pomp or splendor, while the second portion is "udd," which means "lord. As "Jack", at the beginning he encounters all sorts of failures such as failing to become a chief of his group and to kill the pig when he first seen it. Jack is the antagonist; the iron-willed, egocentric Jack symbolizes savage instinct, violence and the desire for power. In one word he is the antithesis of Ralph. "...tall, thin, and bony; and his hair were red beneath the black cap. His face was crumpled and freckled, and ugly without silliness. Out of his face stared two light blue eyes, frustrated now, and turning, or ready to turn with anger" (Golding, p.66).

In fact Jack is a sadist and gradually becomes skilled at his trade – a little boy practiced beyond his years in the process of slaughter."He snatched his knife out of the sheath and slammed it into a tree trunk...He looked round fiercely, daring them to contradict "(Golding, p. 69).His desire to take charge and be assertive turns into a love for hunting. His character progresses through phases toward degeneration, just like Satan did in *Paradise Lost*. In the past, society had developed a sense of morality towards as Jack was the choirboy leader at his school but later he proves to be a barbaric garb and succumbing to his bloodlust. His eyes are frequently described in the novel as "mad," "fasteners," and "dark."

Mistakably, Jack uses the fire itself, after being created by Piggy's glasses, is a very important symbol for both the democratic and the dictatorial power systems. It stands as either a beacon for Ralph's rescue and safety, or for Jack's food and war dance but Jack exploits the fire to control the boys and burns the forest because the fire gets out of his control, burning a significant portion of the island. The signal fire has to be lit at all; passing ships can pick up the boys. Golding explains that by saying: "The fire is the most important thing on the island. How can we ever be rescued, except by luck, if we don't keep a fire going?" (Golding, p.80) But the boys find it hard to keep the fire burning. Most of the boys really do not; they understand the importance of the fire and therefore tend to ignore it. The boys learn from this when piggy criticizes them for being careless. Jack's hunters agree to continue the signal fire after realizing their error, however, Jack has growing obsession. Jack hits piggy after that chastise him, his spectacles' lens shattering one of them.

Moreover, the tribe is the most visible emblem of Jack's instincts' totalitarian control structure. As the tribe is responsible for all other emblems of the tyrannical regime, so Jack became powerful as a result of his tribe, which he founded by force and then put himself as a leader over it. He is not merely the tribe's leader, but also its thinker, founder, and string-puller. The tribe needs Jack to survive, and Jack needs the group to satisfy the evil instincts within him (Aldouri & Mohammad, 2011). Jack's tribe will be in perfect rhythm once they've defeated everything that stands in his way.

Later on, Jack likes the idea of war and army by painting his face and the faces of his group for one reason which is to hide their identity in order to express their brutality and to instill fear in Ralph's group. Jack wears this specific uniform to

focus on one idea that his group is different from Ralph's group. Jack always distinguished himself, even when he was wearing a uniform in his school, so he used to distinguish himself by putting a different sign that reveals his instinct to distinguish from others by giving him an important place, as stated in the novel:

D[resses in strangely eccentric clothing. Short, shirt, [.....] but each boy wore a square black cap with a silver badge on it. Square black cap with a silver badge on it. Their bodies [...] were hidden by black cloaks, which bore a long silver cross on the left breast, and each neck was finished off with a hambone frill. [...] The boy who controlled them was dressed in the same way though his cap badge was golden. (Golding, p.19)

Roger has black hair with a fringe that covers much of his forehead, giving him a frightening appearance. He is drawn to Jack's method of doing things because of his excessive cruelty and sadistic nature. Roger is a reclusive, gloomy, and secretive loner who favors using his position of authority as a tool for evil. Despite the fact that all the boys were engaged in Simon's death, but Roger himself killed Piggy, he shares Jack in all his plans of killing and all silly accidents. Simon is incidentally slaughtered by Roger who is one of Jack's important allies who like his leader, is cruel and sadistic character, he is always hurting the others boys. Jack ends up killing Simon; Roger kills Piggy and breaking the conch crushed. Ralph is ousted and chased like a pig, and all other kids changed into savages, the biodiversity and the magnificence of the island authoritatively disturbed (Atarsia, 2018).

Despite the fact that Roger is the one who executes the crime, Jack is still to be blame for the disaster because Roger is Jack's assistant who does what is best for the chieftain, and thus best for the chief's community. Moreover, Jack orders Roger to "Kill the beast, slit his throat, pour his blood," in a fit of ecstasy , which indicates that Roger being seconded (Golding, 1957, p.152).Golding presents Roger as Jack's second-in-command; he is possibly even more brutal than Jack. In fact, Jack values authority and the position of Chief, but Roger despises authority and is obsessed with causing harm and destruction. He is the epitome of brutality. Only one memory of civilization, the fear of punishment, holds him back from his darkest wants at first. He changes into an ultimate force of evil when he learns he will not be punished. Roger is the youngster who murders Piggy in the end, metaphorically sacrificing logic and understanding in favor of unadulterated aggression (Bruns, 2008).

The instinct of killing is a result of the tribal hunts as it presented by Jack's order to Roger to "Kill the Beast, Cut his throat, and Spill his blood" (Golding, 1954, p.152). Jack likes to kill this pig to take away food and hunting for kids. One of his top responsibilities is to maintain control over others in order to maintain discipline, as well as military ideas. If Jack is well aware that no amount of persuasion would persuade a youngster to join his tribe, there is only one option to beat his foe: by killing the boy and eliminating the adversary. This occurs twice in the novel, the first is the murder of Simon and the second is the death of Piggy

which Jack is guilty for: "[Roger's] one hand [...] on the lever. [...] Roger [...] learned all his weight on the lever. [...] The rock struck Piggy in glancing blow from chin to knee." (Golding, p.180-81)

The beast produced by the boys' imagination is a symbol of terror, and it is shown by Golding in a variety of ways, including as a serpent, a beast from the sea, and a monster from the air (Shaffer, 2006, p.66). The beast is first introduced when a little child claims to have seen a "snake like" creature that is characterized as "huge and horrifying" (Golding, p.48).

The two boys, particularly Sam and Erik who terrified with their imagination about the idea of the best, and Jack exploit their fear to further his dictatorial power scheme. Moreover, as the lads become more uncivilized, this feeling develops deeper (as cited in Sadouki, 1954). Hence, the pig's head in this novel represents the instinct of evil who lives inside themselves following the wicked behaviors and barbaric actions " If there's a beast, we'll hunt it down!" most of the boys join Jack's group in the hopes of finding safety, which he guarantees by killing the beast. "We'll close the distance and beat, beat, beat!" (Golding, p.130). The pig's head created by Jack's tribe refers to cruelty and power. "Rescue ?Yes, of course! All the same, I'd like to catch a pig first "(Golding, p.58). After killing the first sow, Jack decides that the sow's head should be on a stick: "Sharpen a stick at both ends" (Golding, p.136). Jack wants to control others in order to keep discipline is one of his uppermost priorities. Another powerful symbol is the beast, which embodies the power of the boys' fears. All the boys can be frightened; they are scared of something that does not even exist. When Jack finally converts this fright into a creature, the boys call it the beast. Especially Sam and Erik are afraid, but Jack uses this fear to make his dictatorial power system stronger. After the boys find a dead parachutist, their fear of a beast from the air makes them even more afraid than before. Jack "uses its existence to make the other boys willing followers of his commands fear is the source of Jack's power" (Li, X., 2009).

After being held captive, Sam and Eric agreed to support Jack's tribe knowing they know what Jack is worthy of. Through this adventure most of children lead to their own moral degradation as they develop a savagery behavior and adopt a brutal nature showing destructive conduct of man. Golding wants to show the deepest and darkest sides of the bestiality of the human being. They realize that they are lonely, for this, they have to get food, find shelter to protect from the weather, determine the way to be rescued from dangerous animals and adhere the rules, laws, and social norms but in fact the boys follow evil side of life. Golding wanted to convey his message that our own society can collapse due to our carelessness selfish purposes and corruptive actions.

The psychological ramifications of Jack's decision to abduct Ralph are often severe. Jack enlists the help of the hunters to overthrow Ralph and create havoc on the island. Simon is inadvertently killed, Piggy is assassinated, the conch is destroyed, Ralph is ousted and hunted like a pig, the other kids are changed into barbarians, and the island's diversity and loveliness are irreversibly destroyed as a result of him (Van Vuuren, 2004).

Democracy is gone when Jack intends to kill Ralph and bury his head in this stick in the ground. Finally, the confrontation between reason (Ralph) and human instinct (Jack) is ended up in a fighting to the death. When Jack decides to burn the island to hunt Ralph, he wants through that to satisfy his evil instinct and his love for power, by overcoming Ralph, who represents reason, goodness, and civilization on the island. With Ralph's death, civilization ends permanently on the island.

The most common barbaric situation was an inevitable indication that the children would return to the primitiveness of a barbaric life, where law and order would disappear in the presence of barbarism, and this was proven by their brutal and cruel actions on the island of killing and sabotaging against each other and against nature. When the naval officer discovers what has happen to Ralph he is astonished about how the sophisticated British kids become ugly with inner and outer appearance, at the beginning the boys spend interesting time together and help one another in different circumstances to face problems and difficulties in different aspects of life but at the end humans fall to such a low level of humanity. According to this situation Ralph wins this battle at a heavy cost.

Conclusion

By using these small characters such as Ralph, Jack, Simon and Piggy, Golding wants to analyze the events, which associate to events of wars between Britain and Germany. According to the novel, the young boys use every possible measure to survive. While some is determined to survive, the other survival is focused on destruction. It is effectively represented by Ralph the hero, and Jack the villain. Golding wants to prove that with the absence of the law it becomes difficult to save the culture, morality, humanity and civilization. The writer sought to know how people behaves if their lives were stripped of civilization, because they are capable of going against morals to survive. The island was the field in which two opposing forces wrestled, namely the reason and human instincts. Through the events of the novel and the intertwining of its characters, the research concluded that the evil instinct is rooted within man and can only be controlled by law.

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