



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE, LITERATURE
AND TRANSLATION STUDIES (IJELR)

A QUARTERLY, INDEXED, REFEREED AND PEER REVIEWED OPEN ACCESS

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

<http://www.ijelr.in>



RESEARCH ARTICLE

Vol. 3. Issue.4.,2016 (Oct.-Dec.)

ISSN

INTERNATIONAL
STANDARD
SERIAL
NUMBER

INDIA

2395-2628(Print):2349-9451(online)

REPRESENTATION OF SIN IN LORD OF THE FLIES: AN OVERVIEW

NAADIYA YAQOOB MIR

Research Scholar, Department of English, University of Kashmir

Nidamir786@gmail.com



ABSTRACT

The novel *Lord of the Flies* sends a moral message about the innate evil in human being and explains that humans are protected by the rules and principals of our society and when we live in isolation and in a bad situation we may act as barbaric. William Golding used social ideas and historical-religious references in this novel. The novel is an allegorical microcosm of the world that he lived in.

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Discussion

The novel *Lord of the Flies* depicts a group of British schoolboys who were taken far from war and who were shot down by enemies. Those boys were lost in a tropical island. Therefore they suffer from thirst, hunger and fear; thus they descended into savagery and some of them became criminals. Jack is the antagonist, his group descended into savagery and work in hunting pigs. The group is led by Ralph who remained civilized and aims for finding a way for rescue by maintaining the signal fire to alert the passing ships. At the end, they were rescued but they lost many important things as their friends and their innocence. Golding took an experience from the war that deeply influenced his ideas about the capacity of evil within humans. During a period of war, there was a plane taking a group of British schoolboys. The plane crashed by enemies and it landed into a deserted tropical island. Most of the boys survived and they found themselves without an adult leader. They faced thirst, hunger and difficulties of building shelters. Ralph, the protagonist insists on maintaining the fire. The signal fire is the only way for rescue because its light will be noticeable for the passing ships. One day, Ralph and Piggy found a conch near the beach; they decided to use it as an instrument for gathering the boys and for giving them rules. Piggy used the conch to verify if there are other survivors. Ralph used the conch for meeting to advise his friends and to find solutions for their problems but Jack the antagonist was not satisfied. With the course of the novel, the boys discovered the entire of the island and they found fruits, also they built shelters. Jack wants to be a leader to impose his orders because he is hater of authority and power. The antagonist and his followers were happy, they want to hunt pigs as a source of food. Smilingly, the hunters forget the idea of rescue. Most boys want Ralph to be their leader but Jack imposed his power and became the leader of the hunters whereas Ralph with piggy and the twins and the littluns were apart from Jack. The hunters tended to savagery but Ralph with his friends remained civilized, they want to return to their homeland by maintaining the signal fire on the mountain to alert the passing ship. Many boys want to follow rules until they are rescued.

Once day, a small boy said that he is afraid of a beast and others said that they saw a snake and others saw many nightmares. This fear refers to the beginning of savagery. In that case Jack wanted to profit from the fear of the boys, he insisted on the presence of the beast to impose his power and to show them that he is the one who will rescue them from the beast. Ralph ignored that idea. Piggy is the smart boy who never wants to change his appearance or his ideas as a civilized British schoolboy, and he is always against Jack's impulses. Piggy participated by his glasses to get a fire. When Ralph and Simon spend their time building huts, the hunters spent time searching for pigs and the fire was neglected. Then both Ralph and Jack were angry because Ralph insists on maintaining fire and Jack busy on finding pigs. Ralph calls for a meeting to advise the boys to follow the rules so they can be rescued. During this meeting, Jack promises them that he will find the monster. The only one who knows well the truth of the beast is Simon who told them that the beast is inside them. The rumours of the presence of the beast are increased by the finding of the dead parachutist and the nightmares of the littluns. Jack decided to find both the pig and the beast. Sam and Eric are loyal to Ralph but Jack took them as prisoners for their mistakes. One day, Jack was celebrating with his friends for the kill of their first pig. At night they were dancing in a form of the pig's run. Roger was acting as a pig. They saw Simon far from them shouting about what he found; Simon wants to reveal about the reality and the truth of the beast who is just a dead man. The hunters mistake him for the beast and kill him in cruel way. Piggy and Ralph were sad for Simon's death. Simon represents goodness whereas the hunters represent the evil and a sin. After that, Jack decided to steal piggy's glasses to create fire for cooking the meat. During a night the hunters destruct Ralph's shelters and steal piggy's glasses. The following day, piggy and Ralph went to Jack's castle to blame them and remember them about their first behaviour and appearance. When piggy blow the conch and started speaking, Roger react cruelly and throw a big stone over piggy. Piggy is died with the destruction of his conch. Ralph shocked and run away because he knows that he is the next one. Where after, Jack and his choir decided to kill Ralph, they smoked the island to catch him. The fired island alerted the passing ships who came and rescued the boys. The naval officer was confusing about their appearance. Ralph was happy because he is rescued moreover he was crying for the death of piggy and Simon. The end of the novel reveals the win of civilization and the end of savage.

Conclusion

The novel studies the inner evil that resides in every human being. Evil with Golding's view is an internal force, he insists on the inherent evil as there is no goodness inside humans and that humans are poorly covered by rules of society. If they lived without laws they will out that evil which affects the way of thinking and actions and changes an innocent into a savage. The society has a great role in shaping good and well behaved individuals because it provides rules that affect on us positively. The problem is that the boys submit any thing on themselves not on God, and when they fear the beast their unreasonable fear led them to act crazily. The confrontation between the head of the pig and Simon refers to the evil which is an internal force, thus the most ethical characters is Simon and Ralph. The novel presents a continuum of evil from Jack to Roger, and Ralph and piggy struggle to defeat these bad impulses. In conclusion the novel evaluates our society in its role in shaping humans. When the society is bad organized socially, politically and religiously, the human's reaction will be abnormal, in contrast, when the evil grows inside humans this latter leads to a bad society. Golding insists on the innate evil of humanity and ignored its good quality and rejects the fact of human's external evil since the first fall with Adam and Eve. The novel is not an examination of the idiosyncratic nature of small boys but of the essential human depravity. The island becomes a microcosm of the adult world. The grim account of propitiation and murder on the island is re-enacted in the greater world continuously. This book reveals that every person has an evil in his inner nature that is poorly covered by society. If there is no society and laws the chaos will spread and the bad inner nature will out and prevail. Everyone has an evil nature and is capable of committing horrible crimes, except those who see the truth of evil.

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