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William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" in Search of a Third Society: Neither Utopian nor Dystopian

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Abstract:

William Golding's novel "Lord of the Flies" as thesis novel portrays a typical theme of evil nature of human beings. He tries to create a Utopian society out of rules and authority. But that society also turns into a Dystopian. So my journal article tries to emphasize Golding's another motif to create a third type society that is neither Utopian nor Dystopian but that must be an a-Dystopian. The novel is able to search out a possible impossibility of the third society. It is in between the existing and dreamy world.

Keywords: *Utopian, Dystopian, a-Dystopian, third society, dreamy world*

1. Introduction

The English Nobel Laureate Sir William Golding's first novel "Lord of the Flies" came on the stage in 1954 being influenced by the annihilation and destructive outcome of the Second World War. The novel elicits a story of a group of marooned English schoolboys, probably aged between six to twelve. The setting of the story has been chosen a deserted tropical island in the middle of the ocean where a microcosm is able to be established. This is a fictitious coral island far off in the Pacific Ocean. Actually these boys had been set here due to the crash of their airplane during an evacuation of the boys from the Nuclear War that had broken out in Europe. They became the only inhabitants of the unnamed and uninhabited island. They begin to make their life social and succeed in organizing themselves on the island. At the outset of the novel we find that the boys become crazy to make a civilized society of their own. The protagonist, Ralph blows a conch on the advice of his companion Piggy to gather all the boys and hold a meeting. Ralph is elected leader though another boy Jack crazily wanted to become so. And as a result, at the cradle of the construction of the society there creates a rivalry and division in between two groups. One group is led by Ralph supported by Simon, Piggy, Sam and Eric. On the other hand, the other is led by Jack supported by Roger, Maurice and Robert. Ralph is proved the real leader initially very soon. He inspires the boys to live a fearless life; makes shelter; ensures no existence of any beast; emphasizes the lighting of fire on the top of the hill to make the rescue team understand their presence on the island. But Jack begins to prove himself antagonist. Led by intrigue, envy, and revenge, he begins to try usurp the kingdom of power, glory, and position. Very soon the real prospect of the novelist to create a Utopian society comes into ashes. Utopian turns into Dystopian.

2. Body

William Golding's "Lord of the Flies" is a sociological thesis novel. Through the thorough reading of the novel it seems that Golding tries to dig out the real nature of the human being through some innocent inexperienced boys. But the minute and scrutinizing analysis will help us that the novel tells something more. Through this journal article, I try to search for Golding's another motif that he dives into his heart in order to discover a third type of society that is neither utopian nor Dystopian. He knows well, I think, that the Dystopian society is completely unfit to live a pure life and that the Utopian society will remain a dream for our life. It is an impossible possibility to get a world of complete love and peace in this material cruel, brutal and stony hearted artificial world. This is, in reality, is our romantic product. So William Golding thinks a possible Third society to live a happy, peaceful and full of love society.

At the beginning of the novel, we find that the novelist has chosen a place for the story far away from the civilized society. He brought all his characters to a fictitious paradise. Here what happened is completely a common scenario of a civilized society. Those who are good and virtuous are doomed to kill. Jack's party killed Simon taking him for a beast. This Simon is very Wise person in the novel. On the other hand, Piggy, the most intellectual and scientific minded boy had been killed by smashing down his head by stone. So cruelty crosses its limit. Though they are the inhabitants of the same society, yet it calls our attention to their evil inherent in human nature in particular and in the society at large. As the story moves along, the evil, cruelty and corruptive mind come to the surface in most of the major characters with the exception of Ralph, Simon and Piggy. here the craze for power, greed for position and desire for glory has destroyed the another democratic, humane and honest power. A sort of antagonism and an atmosphere of anarchy prevail the whole society. The inhabitants are here not under control of discipline, supervision of adults or elders, and not under the guide and

authority of their parents. Rather they areas free as birds doing as they like. They are far away from the civilization, administration and judgment and the authority of the govt. This type of society proves dangerous and malignant to control the mind's inherent flame of cruelty. When the mind gets the ultimate liberty, it always prone to respond the dark and sadistic self of itself.

We might argue that the boys believe themselves to be in a Utopia and try find the civilized taste and flavor in a new land. But they fall in to prey to choosing what to do. Without any official rules and authorities, they proceed to establish society. But Golding suggests that civilization promotes our social values. When they go ahead to create another society without any touch of civilization, their brutal and cruel mind and motif come out on the surface. Jack becomes a social rebel. He begins to show deviant behavior, terrorism, chaos. Ralph's authority, democracy and discipline becomes defeated by hand of barbarism.

We know that Golding does not support Rousseau's statement that man is born good and society makes him bad. I will also go with Golding. Because man makes society. Society does not make man. So there is no question of making man bad by the society. Man is in real evil by nature. Jack's party 's playing, making it fun, hunting pigs and killing them proves it. Besides some scenes from the end of Ralph's party are also the signs of the cruel mind. Moral and valued destination of life concerns with the society. But if the place and status of the society is not destined, there is no fruit of searching the aesthetic society.

The prominent theme of Golding's "Lord of the Flies" is that man is savage at heart, always ultimately reverting back to an evil and primitive nature. He proves again and again the cycle of man's rise of power and his inevitable fall from the grace. He senses very well that rules and order imposed from without are temporary, but man's irrational argument and urge for destruction are permanent. This novel "Lord of the Flies" shows that how easy it is to revert back to the evil nature.

Initially Golding was a school teacher and so he knew very well the child psychology. The drastic and bleak experience of Second World War and his knowledge of child psychology help him to make the novel into being. He seems to be tired with the material savagery, corruption and devalued experience. So he wants to escape this society embracing the second type society that we call Utopian world. But when he creates this type of society far from the madding crowd, there also he experiences the same scenario. Symbolically he wanted to create this society full of innocence and tenderness. But the deep rooted typical human nature spoils his plan. As a student of high modernism I think that William Golding's real object in the novel is to give the notion of a third society that must be real and possible dreamy world. That is neither utopian nor Dystopian. It seems to be a- dystopian society. He cannot deny the evil nature of human being. So the dream of having the Utopian society will never be possible in this material world. The final arrival of the naval officer and the final departure of the boys from the coral island symbolize the waiting for third type society that Golding wants to create where people will live peacefully with their basic nature maintaining the civilized culture.

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