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Extended Essay

**In What Ways Are the Conflict between Civilization and Savagery Discussed in
Novel “Lord of the Flies” by William Golding?”**

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Abstract:

When the reader faces first with the beginning of the novel “Lord of the Flies” by William Golding, may believe mistakenly that this book is a story that is written for children which tells the story of pack of children crash on a virgin island. It may be seen as the modern application of the R.M. Ballantyne’s well-known children’s book Coral Island. Even Golding names his first two major characters as Jack and Ralph in order to strengthen this belief and resemblance by using apparent names in both stories.

However, the true allegoric and deep meaning cannot be foreseen. Throughout the novel, reader is pulled in to the virgin island that the pack of boys trying to survive in. As the time passes, reader is introduced to the real allegoric dilemma of the novel: the dispute between Civilization and Savagery and how far Savagery can go without civilization.

There occurs my research question. And in the purpose of answering to this research question throughout my study I will analyze the major impacts, themes and motives that lead us to the general assumptions. The scope of my investigation will be the decomposition of the novel in to branches by also focusing on the allegoric elements. Which I will also support with my secondary sources. Fight for leadership and quest and lust for power plays an important role in the novel so that I will try to relate my statements with these facts. Also degeneration of humankind from civilized gentlemen in to wild animals sets the general rhyme of the novel. I will begin my study with the eloquent quotation from Golding and up to conclusion I will try to merge theoretical ideas of the novel with the characters and events happened in the book.

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1) Introduction:

“All defects of the society have to be traced back to the defects of the individual” –

William Golding

Standing alone, to be left alone, despair, stance of human against the wild nature has always been one of the outstanding scopes that is treated by most of the writers. It has been the main the originating point of most of the literary pieces. On the literary half “person’s fidelity to civilization and its demeanor when it is lost” stands as one of the common aspects. Hence William Golding has also processed the tale of boys who has a plane crash on an intact island and be marooned there without adults to look after them and their fight for survival. When; the novel of William Golding which has been put out as a child’s story, is reviewed in detail, it is seen that, original meaning can be revealed by the profound scrutiny of the novel. All allegoric elements operand themes, motifs and references stand as a path to the abstruse meaning of the book. From this point some titles come in to prominence which also covers other elements of the book. These titles can be listed as Loss of Civilization, Nature of Human, Fight between Good or Evil, Notion of Beast and Concept of Fear, Symbols and Allegoric elements throughout the characters.

a) Loss of Civilization:

Civilization today has taken a huge step and with this high-technologic era, it starts to become almost completely reliant to the mechanization, degeneration, dehumanization of human and rasping of incentivizing instincts that originally derive from primordial being. Predispositions are the common essentials of all human beings. Therewithal inherent casuist defects and instabilities are simple component of human. By psychological definition, “*people affected with anti-social disorder have incredible manipulation skills; they also fail to “conform to social norms,” are deceitful and aggressive, and seek to destroy with little remorse.*”¹ Thus norms, moral principles are taken as discordant to nature of individual; therefore society is used in order to maintain enforced order.

Society is a figure that combines everyone together, it plays a connective role. Ideals, values and the basic terms as right and wrong are mislaid without these conditions. Even trying to live without society’s rigid rules, derives a circumstance that anarchy and savagery can come to light. Without rules, savagery takes over. Without rules every person is free to do what he or she desires but not thinking that it may harm others. Which means that the true and may be the real character and nature will be exposed and outshines. That nature is surely savagery.

The issue of Savagery can clearly be exposed in humans in a condition when there are no rules, when there is no civilization around. For an example, little kids intend to be the finest examples of savagery in humankind. As they are not yet molded by the norms of the society they stand as the solid proof of savagery in people. If a little observation is made in playground or in a kindergarten it may be seen that children do anything in order to achieve their goals. When little

kids' playing with each other is watched, it is tend to notice that there are certain children that act as bullies and fight with each other even for a toy. As kids do not have an ability to distinguish right from wrong. They are just exposing the inner mutations and acting accordingly to their instincts which happen to be the real savagery. These examples derive this question to another question which is shaped as: What would have happened if the beloved civilization disappeared suddenly, leaving people with the only things they were wearing, ideologies they were grown in, in a nature that person could only survive with your effort? William Golding's deftly written novel "Lord of the Flies" exhibits a fictional environment that barely outputs an occasion that previously mentioned.

i) Clothes –symbols of civilization

Moving from the allegoric elements in the novel it can be easily said that Golding emphasizes the term of clothes of the children. So that we see that as time passes on the island they start to lose their clothes and in this process they turn in to brutal presences. Clothes are a perfect symbol of civilization in this literary piece, so that it can be said that clothes are used to provide warmth and preserve modesty. They also supply cleanliness and give a protection for human for outer effects. The first description of clothes appears just on the first pages of the novel. Ralph trails his school sweater as his clothes do not suit the climate or circumstances in which he finds himself. Since the beginning of the book when Ralph starts pulling off all his clothes, he stands "*among the skull-like coconuts*" (Golding, 15), which foreshadows the future.

"He jumped down from the terrace. The sand was thick over his black shoes and the heat hit him. He became conscious of the weight of clothes, kicked his shoes off fiercely and ripped off

each stocking with its elastic garter...pulled off his shirt... he was old enough, twelve years and a few months, to have lost the prominent tummy of childhood; not yet old enough for adolescence to have made him awkward.”(15, Golding). As seen in this excerpt a transformation of characters is told over the symbols as clothes and trimmings.

As the book goes on a deterioration of children clothes with their morals is observed. They take off their clothes and become naked in the further parts of novel which can be also explained as an adaptation to the circumstances of virgin island and leaving behind the last pieces of civilizations. Ralph and Jack stand as the two solid figures that provide this harmony. Jack has the desire to get power and hunt. In the very beginning of the novel each kid feels a heat. Irrelevant warmth occurs that creates a sense of push to undress them. Their dresses are the only laggard evidence of civilization. Their school uniform is a sign of modern society. Their getting of clothes may be interpreted as a conformation to their environment. That is why Piggy has some problems in accommodating to others; he cannot take off his glasses that stick his one side to outer world. Until the moment Jack hits Piggy and breaks one of the lenses of his glasses. The longer they live without the restrictions of civilization symbolized as clothes; the mental reaction to autonomy is moral corrupted.

ii) Ralph and Jack; fight for leadership and civilization:

In the novel Lord of the Flies, William's ideas of inadequacy of political systems in staking out the society effectively without first taking in to consideration the defects human nature are proved through two of main characters, Ralph and Jack. Ralph, the elected leader on in the first part of the book, control the pack as long as the remnant of civilization still exists in.

Whereas; Jack stands as the leader of the savage children, starting from the hunters. He is elected to deal with the haunting business which also reinforces his power and significance which is also a foreshadowing in the novel.

Golding intends to give readers a taste of what can happen when societies clash, as the children did on the island. Ralph wants to be rescued and Jack wants to kill. Their personality clashes would later set the stage for an abysmal series of events at the end of the novel. Thus, the main theme of the novel, Civilization versus Savagery was personified through Ralph and Jack.

He designs Ralph as a primary representative of the order of a civilization and Jack as the savagery, anarchy, and the darker side of human nature. While Ralph personifies law, cooperation and democratic choice, it turns out to be Jack's reliance on charisma, brute force and authoritarian rule that wins out on the island at the end.

“we’ve got to have rules and obey them” because “we are not savages. We’re English, and the En.....” (Golding, 98)

b) Nature of Human:

From this point “Lord of the Flies” is a factual substance in order to examine conflicts as civilization versus savagery and how barbarism, vandalism and violence are an indispensable component of human beings. Looking from a general point of view barbarism, violence and savagery in these two books are present to be evaluated such that these fragments are dealt in dialectic between evil against good. Characters and groups are challenged in this phase and social and contour is conducted to it differently in the novel. Inspire the dialectic among these novels characters and fiction never turns out to resemble to the dialectic views of Hegel such that

the different poles never turn into another. Diversities are stressed excessively in order to pose the focus of the novels: savagery and violence as a natural entailment of human.

The focused concern of the “Lord of the Flies” is the huge impingement between two adverse and marginal impulses and that survives within all mankind. It can be basically put out as dialectical simplicity: thesis, antithesis and synthesis. Civilization and savagery are always found in nature as to competing factors. Basing on these basic facts, William Golding and reveal their views of the world and humankind in general and the conflict between humanity's innate barbarism and the civilizing influence of reason through writings. For this reason “Lord of The Flies” of William Golding is fundamental appliances in order to study this issue ground up. Golding seems to be investigating primal factors involved in the establishment of society by isolating the boys on the island. A stark difference occurs in the characteristic traits on the island. Reader is left with the good versus the bad, or the civilized versus the savage in a far virgin island.

i) Barbarism, vandalism of Characters:

It is believed that barbarism, vandalism, savagery are irrevocable elements for humankind. There are found in all human being regardless of gender, age, race, and the society. It may arouse and break out under several conditions. Stir of these in people can differ due to the repression, and frame that there are raised in. William Golding’s “Lord of The Flies” tell us a tale about waking up of these constituents. From the very early pages reader first meets Ralph. His behaviors seem strange and his attitude towards Piggy is raw. He seems to be nimbly

adapted to the island. His not asking Piggy's name and not seem mind Piggy's existence can be examined as adaptation to the nature and animalia.

Also Jack's painted face, the loss of fire represent the return in to primitive tribe lives. Even including smallest children, they become little savages. Jack and the hunters' dance barbarically all in all is a symbol of their becoming young savaged.

People's tour de force against nature and desire to beat natural elements has always been a part of people's thoughts. With the first trigger of Industrial Revolution flaming up in England humankind got ahead in this course. Then he becomes the master of his environment. He started to rule the natural elements and whenever he faces an adversity he beat it with the technique and technology. All boys being British stand out at this point. But with the presence of the situation in Golding's novel, mankind and nature becomes drawn. Even island is the leading force. From this point the kids are put in a rivalry where they have to fight blood for blood and tit for Tate. Everything is related to muscles and how much do you want to survive. Just at this point modern shape of person becomes out of order and awkward. Just at this point traits as savagery engage in.

c) The notion of Fear and "Beast":

Fear and the notion of Beast cannot be thought separately. These two factors intertwine and engage so that as the boys deteriorate and as the time passes, they begin to rely more on their fear to determine danger. That common sense keeps them together, and creates a bond between characters. When they start their frantic dance, they lose their heads, and "*out of terror another*

desire, thick, urgent, blind" (Golding, 152). The fear beats and it turns out to be a behavior and wish for bloodlust. They cannot stop themselves from killing, nor do they want to.

d) Fight between Good and Evil:

Also the struggle between evil and good takes an important phase in the general context of novel. This dualistic system is always found in the nature but there are some times that one side consolidates according to the other one. It is put out that there is an ultimate confrontation between these two facts. But it is also told that no pure goodness or evilness is found in each human. Even in the most saints like figure, there is an evil waiting to be left without his cage. Pure goodness and innocence cannot survive in the nature. When there are no moral values, no law and orders, no rules, not any education and strict disciplines to control social life; evil's coming to surface and taking the control of the smoother of the stream of incidents, is inevitable. Evil always exists deep in mankind. As the boys on the island turns from well behaved, innocent kids waiting to be rescued in to bloodthirsty, animal like, savage hunters who no more wants to go back to their adultery world.

The sense of innocence is destroyed by the boat shaped island. When a comparison is made throughout the novel, it is seen that; the progression of children in to primitive barbaric tribes in each chapter follows a chronological order. The painted savages in Chapter 12 and the brutal kids who kill Simon and hunt more pigs than their needs with a great motivation has no matching points with the children in the early chapters. These brutal kids in the end of the book are a far cry from the kids swimming in the lagoon and enjoying the island in the first 3 chapters. But it must be kept in mind that this savage attitude is not uploaded to every child on the island.

It always exists; whereas these conditions help them to show up. Writer exposes that civilization can penetrate in to one but can never expunge savagery and evil from human. Simon's forest glade is also an example for that. "*Well - What is good*" (Golding, 163); this speech of Simon shows that the concepts as good and bad are lost amalgamate and deceive their abstract.

Simon represents a godly figure in the novel that has pure goodness. He is the only one that enjoys the island and what it gives to them rather than trying to go back. He is the only one who doesn't have offensive trait against other children. Simon is the Christ-like figure with a saint-like vision. As he is the only one that helps Piggy to find his glasses he also stands as one of the figure who doesn't lose his civilized side and senses. Also he is the only person that understands the importance of Piggy's bringing fire to the commune. He tries to protect him. But at last with the great rising of Jack he has been killed because of the speeches about the beastie. Savagery becomes the prevailing figure and evil has a victory against the pure goodness in Simon. All of the boys on the island are responsible for the death of Simon hence all the boys experience the consequences of this disastrous incident. Golding put the characters in position of crisis to make the depth of their characteristics surface. As a result unintentional violence occurs that out of an instinctual panic Simon is killed which also happens to Piggy in the later stages of the novel.

e) Fight for authority:

Throughout the novel the biggest dilemma is the choice between two adverse powers and two different impulses. The competence between Jack and Ralph shapes the general context of the novel. Also the clash between these two marginal forces stands for the theme Civilization and

Savagery. Jack the novel's antagonist character which is one of the boys that survives from the crash. Jack is the leader of the hunters but he also overly longs for excess power. If emotions cannot be balanced; emotion, intellect and spirit one of these powers will start to be the leading factor and also start to dominate and in a way destroy the others. Jack is the solid proof of this statement; so that his egomaniacal behaviors are related to this unbalance. He becomes a barbaric, wild, cruel and brutal kid as the novel progresses. He is very efficient in controlling other ones and manipulating others thoughts.

Mob psychology is a widely seen object in this novel and characters as Jack knows how to use it against Ralph. So that there are sayings as "*walk the walk talk the talk*" (165, Golding) in the novel showing people to do what other people are saying. He puts his own needs above other people. The figure Jack Merridew is the representative of instinct of savagery, brutalism and hunger for gaining power. Even Jack becomes a figure recalling a fascist and hitlerate practice; he doesn't give food to Piggy as Piggy dares to criticize him for losing the fire and for removing the so-called democracy in the island. As the leader of the hunters he also kills pigs with great pleasure and motivation; it may because of his hatred against Piggy and Piggy's defying him

.f) The concept of title "Lord of the Flies":

Fly stands as an ignoble creature that is small. It reproduces by germ and they are known use feces as a material for feeding. Golding's symbolizing boys as flies can be seen as a pessimistic manner. His premise is that if left alone on an island away from the supervision, rules, and laws of adults, boys would revert to a state of total savagery and would proceed to

murder one another. Becoming a lord or ruler or a dictator of these creatures, requires being the most brutal and vicious member of the island. Those in some parts of the book children provide these. This leader rules over insignificant creatures and thus be no true lord at all.

Ralph is not able to maintain a strength to rule other boys as his power is based on his ability to think and forethought rather than physical manner like. He doesn't achieve to be the leader of the Flies comparing with Jack's power. Ultimately Ralph's intelligence cannot overcome Jack's force.

g) The figure of allegory in Lord of the Flies:

The conch shell is a momentous figure here. From the very beginning of the novel when Piggy and Ralph first finds out the conch shell, it is understood that it will have a big motion in the novel. In the very beginning of the novel as a remnant of civilization a system based on democracy is tried to be settled by playing the conch whereas after some time it turns out to be a showdown and melee, so they break the conch. Piggy's glasses are the symbols of civilization. That is also an allegoric figure that has many other synonyms.

Also the littluns stand as an allegoric figure in the novel which maintains an effect of trigger the wild and brutal essence of humankind. In the novel littluns live with little groups that they live with accordance to their wish which resembles to boys, they construct castles and play on the beach all day. Littluns is utilized in order to gauge boys' morality in the novel, as they are

acting cruel and badly to them they stand as savage animals. But littluns also symbolizes the connection between the boys and society. The littluns cry a lot, and they are not scared to admit that they are frightened, and they don't go off and hunt or do anything. More or less they supply a link between boys and their last shreds of normal behavior, and are not caught up in the older boys war. Writer uses the littluns to remind us of the empire waiting for them back home. They act as a gauge, to tell us how far each character has fallen.

There are also other allegoric elements that can be considered as evidences of descents in to civilization. Hunters killing for fun and hunting more than their need is a strong fact of savagery. Because by this act things go in to different phases rather than just a basic fight for survival. Other than that putting faces and painting faces like pagan images are a symbol of loss of civilization and return to primitive classes. The dance and ritual around the fire is also a similar fact. Pig has a vital role in the allegoric phase of the novel so that also serving pig's head as an offering which is suitable for peuplades.

2) Conclusion:

During the study and the analysis of the novel, there are certain themes and objectives which outcomes while examining other motives and synonyms. As committed throughout the study the struggle between civilization and savagery becomes the center of the novel. It drives the reader to the questioning himself whether humankind still keeps the savage part in itself or not. Besides can this brutal, frantic, fierce side of human outcome when he comes face to face with nature. This matter is depicted from William Golding's pen to the novel "Lord of the Flies" and the tale of boys' survival in a virgin island is used as the most suitable circumstance for implementing this treat.

While investigating the research question **"In what ways are the conflict between civilization and savagery discussed in the novel "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding?"** Based on the modern writing of this novel there are certain sub titles that rises out. Loss of civilization is a major theme whereas it is also divided in to sub branches as clothes as a symbol of civilization and fight between two protagonists figures in the novel. This fight is put into different phases.

Apart from that Nature of human as issues as barbarism, vandalism and brutality is valued as an important part in the study to be examined.

Apart from that allegory has an enormous act in the general structure of the novel also deputing the true meaning. The parts that emphasizes this novel as a discussion between civilization and savagery are constructed by allegoric elements that also differ it from a child's novel.

When all the mentioned phases are analyzed, an answer to the research question manifests itself. So that in this study this purpose is envisaged and composed under this strove.

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