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THINGS FALL APART IN GOLDING'S "LORD OF THE FLIES"

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ABSTRACT

Things fall apart in turning of the gyre when the centre is not in control. Yeats in his *The Second Coming* "talks both about the spiritual and material aspect of life where things are in control under one unifying force. Even Golding, a prolific writer presents a view that everything is out of control when the centre cannot hold. He establishes the deserted island as a clash between two different conceptions of pre-civilized humanity. Things here are more disturbed when it is given for granted. The bliss that the boys enjoyed in the beginning becomes bitter as days go by. The set of principles they have evolved for themselves to follow and lean on turns their world environment into a paradise, but when they backslide from holding on to the principles they create a kind of pandemonium where the human world and the nonhuman world moves from an orderly to a disorderly state. Later, when Chaos had taken toll of their lives and peace, the boys become personally disturbed and they feel how important moral rules are for life.

The characters are well portrayed; their strength and weakness are well analyzed. The character of Jack himself is the manifestation of evil. His motive of hunting itself is to disturb peace. This immoral act of Jack collapses and disturbs things. Peace is displaced by power and power over rules and corrupts them. Morality is displaced by voluptuous hunger for everything. The serene nature of the boys is dislocated by the hostile feelings they develop for each other. Trust is displaced by suspicion. Thus all these good virtues which symbolize the centre when not cherished and adored, therefore cannot hold things in tack and hence the paper shows how things fall apart in the world of *Lord of the Flies*.

Keywords: Humanity, Evil, Morality, Nature.

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How things fall apart in Golding's "Lord of the Flies"?

'Things fall apart, the centre cannot hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
- Yeats

Things fall apart in the turning of the gyre when the centre is not in control. Yeats in his poem *The Second Coming* talks of this as when the centre

cannot hold, mere anarchy is loosed upon the world. Chinua Achebe an African writer in his novel talks about how there is no holding and how things are scattered in his first novel *Things Fall Apart*. He has taken the title from Yeats. Even Golding, a prolific and an accomplished writer present an outlook about the things which is out of control.

William Golding, who was born in 1911, Cornwall was a writer who grew up in the years before the Second World War. This war, which he witnessed made him think of man's essential nature. His father was a schoolmaster and his mother was in the women's movement. He took up teaching as his father. During the Second World War, he entered the royal navy and served on destroyers and rocket launchers. The horrors of the Second World War taught him that, evil was always present in human beings and manifested itself in the right time. But it was not just his experience of the war; it was also his experience as a schoolmaster that molded him the more.

Lord of the Flies is the first novel published by William Golding in 1954. It is a hypothetical treatment of particular scientific concerns; it is the first extensive narrative work. There is an air crash on a deserted island where a group of schoolboys is isolated. They are free enjoying everything on the island, but when the conditioned overall centre of morality was disturbed and was collapsed they were not in control of the centre.

The boys were separated into groups without an elder to take care of them. Golding establishes this isolated island as a clash between two different conceptions of pre-civilized humanity. The boys formed two groups, one headed by Ralph as a leader and another group commanded by Jack. But, the school choir leader, Jack soon becomes obsessed with hunting the pigs on the island and loses sight of Ralph's democratic vision. Golding portrays the nature of mankind through the metaphor of the boy marooned on the island.

He believes that civilization is pure and human nature is evil. We need civilization and it is ordered that keeps us from throwing stones at each other. Without these things we would all be savages. If we are but once stripped of cultivation, the beast surfaces out. When the civilized living is disturbed, things are discarded. We need to be part of civilization and away from our innate nature in order to exist. Survival itself becomes a question when we are not able to clutch on to one's own civilization.

Things here are more disturbed when they are taken for granted. They considered themselves

to be away from the society, studies, mechanical living absence of grownups, the world of cricket, homework classes and all the extracurricular activities in school. Whatever they thought as bliss in the beginning becomes bitter as days go by. The clash between them, the way of dominating one another, fighting for distinctiveness all these made them feel. The boys have a set of principles for them to follow and to lean on when they are as a group they enjoyed rules to do it together. The land of the constructive rules they had made and had the environment in the island as the paradise. As days passed by, the boys started backsliding from holding to the principles this at last becomes a pandemonium to them. Here the human world and the non-human world move from an orderly state to a disorderly state.

Later chaos takes toll of their lives and peace, the boys are personally disturbed. They begin to feel how important rules are for life. The character of Jack himself is a manifestation of evil. "We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages" (42). His motive of hunting itself is disturbing. Immoral act of Jack collapses and disturbs things. The laws and rules are necessary to keep the darker side of human nature alive. Where this concept sleeps away or ignored, human beings revert to a more primitive part of their nature.

They had peace in their stay in the island. But suddenly power crept into their mind and discarded the peace they had. They enjoyed all the pleasures in the island as a group being free from all the worldly activities they had a peaceful living over there the nature around them made them happy and let them to relish being there. The stay was with peace, but, when the evil power entered them they were all separated. Through Jack and his company of boys power over rules them. It is Jack, who takes up the power to rule them, but his aptitude over rules even him. It corrupts them like hell. The whole life on the island is collapsing because of the bent of evil inside them, fighting with each other, killing one another. The innate nature of assault comes out. Even their personality is surmounted by supremacy and he loses his name. He has begun to adopt ritual and oracular speech, he is thronged 'like an idol', waited on by acolytes,

and 'power lay in the brown shell of his forearms; authority sat on his shoulder and chattered in his car like an ape'.

Power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely-Lord Acton. Because power corrupts the boys demand for moral authority and their character of violence increase as the importance of the position which is not given but taken poisons them. This control leads men towards arrogance.

Morality is there within them, but when immoral living and act started filling them it displaced morality and took over. The moral living kept them in control they were all under one roof. They fail to think over for the cause which will happen. Like Hitler, they were only concentrating on the contemporaneous living. The Boys do things with all their effort which worked out so well in the beginning days. When they were able to distinguish good and bad their living there was perfect. Things were structured by themselves in the new surroundings. With all their effort they believed that this 'Signal Fire' would help them for sure. It can attract any passing ships. But the effort to hold a democratic assembly fails to take off because the boys lacked the self-restraint required to do so. The boys kept on burning it some sparks came from the nearby trees. Suddenly, "A tree exploded in the fire like a bomb. Tall swathes of creepers rose for a moment into view, agonized, and went down again." (Golding 236) discipline is breathing down struggle between Ralph and Jack is sown. Irresponsibility and ignorance literate a authority that is more and more savage, the secular turns into a jaguar, and that power appeals to something savage in the boys themselves. This was Eden, with their moral living, but now it has been destroyed; and there has been a 'snake- thing' manifest, not the creepers, but the children's immorality.

Moreover-Roger's civilization is in ruins itself because its morality was not sufficient to stop men throwing atom bombs at each other, while he remains conditioned, Roger's incipient hostility is shameful to him: 'a darker shadow crept beneath the swarthinness of his skin' (Golding 55).

Piggy possesses intelligence and a degree of morality; he is vulnerable because he has no sense

of mystery underlying all things. Life... is scientific, that's what it is... I know there aren't any beast-not with claws and all that, I mean-but I know there isn't no fear, either. . . . Unless we get frightened of people. (84)

The boys found pleasure in irritating others. They even hunt pigs for hunger, but later as a sport they had fun with this as the days went on they did for the sake of killing to show their authority over it and their strength on it. This hunting process the desire they had for hunting brought evil. The evil in our blood and soul comes out right in a right time.

The boys started giving importance to their sensual pleasure. They had a hunger for everything there. Ralph showed concern towards all the boys. The very human nature is seen in him. Other boys were also concerned, about the way to rescue, about the stay Jack has this violent rage and he breaks Piggy's' glasses. He breaks the ceremonial conch. He kills Simon, who was so innocent, knowing that it was Simon. But to the boy he was a 'beast' and with all their chanting at the end of the day the strike him and kill him. The chant moved from the beast to Simon now. The expedition of knowing the beast was swept away with the dead body of Simon is being pulled out from see in a graceful sweep of ocean waves the human and nature all they are good behavior is completely displaced by voluptuous hunger. Piggy possesses intelligence and a degree of morality: he is vulnerable because he has no sense of mystery underlying all things.

The twins, still sharing their identical grin, jumped up and ran squealing into the centre, and the hunters, circling still, pretended to beat him. As they danced, they sang. Kill the pig. Cut her throat. Bash her in. Ralph watched them, envious and resentful. Not till they flagged and the chant died away." (Golding 81)

The character of kindness, mercy and the concern the boys had for the kids Sam and Eric turned very stubborn to the end.

Ralph has a liking for Jack and he gives the responsibility to him to be the leader of the hunters, he encourages him to bring food for all the boys. He takes Jack along with Simon to explore the island. Piggy and Simon too had love for Jack in the

beginning. But the unfriendliness of Jack made them dislike him. The kids Sam and Eric loved Ralph. They expressed their love for him till the end of the novel by trying their best to be true towards Ralph.

The water rose further and dressed Simon's coarse hair with bright-ness. The line of his cheek silvered and the turn of his shoulder be-came sculptured marble. Softly, surrounded by a fringe of in-quisitive bright creatures, itself a silver shape beneath the steadfast constellations, Simon's dead body moved out towards the open sea.(87)

Ralph weeps over the end of innocence, the darkness of man's heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called piggy. The death of Simon precipitates the worst element in the tribe there is nothing now but power, war against outsiders, and a darker threat behind. All this is displaced by the hostile feeling they develop for each other. Towards the end they dislike each other to the extent of taking 'friendly' lives.

The calm and serene nature the very peaceful atmosphere was totally changed when their attitude towards one another changes. Reality; is really a wild nature. The boys begin to hurt Robert who is acting as a bore. Robert cries with pain excites them still further. Ralph also feels the "sudden thick excitement and as the chant rise ritually, Robert screams and struggles the move the desire to squeeze, and hurt is overwhelming" (12). There is an impulse of abusive power both in lust and in the killing, which seeks the obliteration of the 'other' as the most complete expression of the self. The first murder he has satisfied his bloodthirstiness like a long drink; and his bloodlust is fulfilled in the metaphoric 'killing wedding'. Jack thinks that evil and destruction are live forces. Simon's view declares that blaming bad men and the devil is both right and wrong, there is evil, but it is not either outside manor confined to certain men, it is in everyone. But as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins it reigns the hope of adventure seems as far removed from reality as the hope of being rescued. Cry of the hunters' pictures the self-destructive quality of the boy's action, the boys are not only destructive to their enemies but to themselves. The Boys start a fire that

night, which overpowers them and destroys the fruit essential for their existence.

The boys trust nature where they built a hut with all the branches of the trees. The hurricanes like wind which blew destroyed all their construction work within a night. The boys trusted Jack but Jack couldn't help them. The marching choir, and the way Jack treats it recalls an army world of authority, arrogance and callousness, rather than the holy choral singing that their uniform suggests Jack's angry blue eyes and his habit of driving his sheath-knife into a tree trunk hint at a competence for latent and dangerous violence.

Thus all the good virtues which symbolize the centre when not cherished and adored, cannot hold things in tack first, it was marked by an emphasis on humanistic values and concerns. The character of kindness, mercy and the compassion the boys had for the kids Sam and Eric turned very obstinate at the end there is a state of harmony characterized first. There was lack of violence in them, there was no conflict and there was freedom from fear of violence. Things here don't fall apart but are broken into micro pieces and at times are even washed out when the center is disturbed. It shows the harmful effect of the removal of civilized restraints, which results in a complete regression to a brutal and savage state.

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