

## **Embody Ralph as a leader of the civilizing instinct in William Golding's novel, Lord of the Flies.**

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**Abstract:** William Golding's mature success on Broadway, tell about the conflict between the civilizing instinct and the savagery instinct that exist in all human beings. At the outset of the novel, Golding sets up the parameters within which this civilization functions. To begin with, it is populated solely with boys; the group of English schoolboys' plane is shot down over the tropical island where the novel takes place. Among the marooned boys is Ralph, a seventh grade class boy who was annoyingly good at everything, he is fair and catchy. Ralph is the protagonist of the Lord of the Flies. Elected the leader of the group on the desert island and he is the only a good leader as long as the group agree to live by "civilized" rules. He considered as an innately a good leader and his power relies on civilization

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### **I. INTRODUCTON**

When the lights come up, it is the orbited island where a plane evacuating some English schoolboys after their plane is shot down during the midst of raging war. Among the marooned boys is Ralph, a seventh grade class boy who was annoyingly good at everything, he is fair and catchy. The novel opens with:

"The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. Though he had taken off his school sweater and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead" (1.1-4)

He discovers a conch shell on the beach. But Piggy realized it could be used as bugle to call up the other boys for meeting. Sure, the conch symbolizes power structure and order. Ralph is the protagonist of the Lord of the Flies. Elected the leader of the group on the desert island and he is the only a good leader as long as the group agree to live by "civilized" rules. He considered as an innately a good leader and his power relies on civilization.

Golding's novel, Lord of the flies is a metaphor and allegory, using a story to illustrate a deep moral .this stratifies to Ralph likewise. One of the symbols found on the beach is a conch shell, represents the order and the political power on human beings. And when Ralph establish the rule that the boy holding the conch shell he has the right to speak and the others must listen, he is symbolically representing the function and the rule of the democracy participation in the a civilized society. The innate, circumstance and the nature ability, possibly a set of those elements create and make leader. In William Golding's novel , Lord of the Flies, Ralph is fit to become the leader in the right place at the right time of the plane-wrecked English schoolboys who find themselves on the a desert tropical island without any shelter or any living standards they will face in the temporary next life. As the group schoolboys scout the tropical desert island and the beach, Ralph says:

"We got to do something"

Ralph looked through him. Here at last was the imagined but never

fully realized place leaping into real life. Ralph lips parted in delighted smile and Piggy, taking this smile to himself as a mark of recognition, laugh with pleasure.

"if it really is an island—"

"What's that?"

Ralph had stopped smiling and was pointing into the lagoon. Something creamy lay among the ferny weeds.

'A stone.'

'No. A shell.' ' Suddenly Piggy was a-bubble with decorous excitement. "S'right. It's a shell! I seen one like that before (1. 132-144).

It comes to be known that the conch shell later enables Ralph not Piggy to become the leader of the marooned group boys on the island. But here, Piggy has the experience about how to use this kind of symbol verily to produce sound that is by blowing into it. Ralph conceives that this is the best and the right way to call the boys

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the meeting and to order. Here taking responsibility for actions means you are acknowledged about the role and the leadership in an event and ready to make things right if they have gone wrong. Golding provides a number of instances where Ralph does exactly that. He takes this responsibility with the self-confidence. His acceptance for this responsibility means that he has to lead the group of boys and he has to make some decisions for the group. Soon he assigns some missions and informs Jack that he should be in an answerable for the band or the choir. He then tells the gathered group that Jack and the choir will be hunters and that he has to have time to think things over. One of his that he also tells the choir boys that he, Jack and Simon will go on an errand or an expedition to locate whether they are on an island or not.

It is obvious from his demeanor that Ralph is convenient and relaxing in his role and he has taken charge. Ralph has made obligation and does, his best the rescue the group in the right way. One of his best attitudes when he apologized to his lieutenant, Piggy for having revealed his defamation nickname to the group boys:

Ralph, looking with more understanding at Piggy, saw that he was hurt and crushed. He hovered between the two courses of apology or further insult. "Butter Piggy than Fatty", he said at last, with the directness of genuine leadership, "and anyway, I'm sorry if you feel like that. Now go back, Piggy, and take names. That's your job. So Long" (1.25)

William Golding in his novel, "Lord of the Flies", talks about the apology that it follows by an instruction, clearly marks that Ralph takes responsibility for his actions. In this situation, he expresses repentance and remorse displays leadership features one would to expect or to find in a mature individual. Ralph's feel after Simon's death, indicates that he feels partly guilty for Simon's death. He acknowledges his role and tells Piggy:

"That was Simon".

"You said that before"

"Piggy".

Uh?"

That was murder""

It was an accident"(157).""

Another action for Ralph when he took off his clothes. Ratify us when we say that stripping is never a good sign or good mark: it's the first step to becoming a chaotic savage. Here's how it goes down:

He [Ralph] jumped down from the trace. 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 in a single movement. Then he leapt back on the terrace, pulled off his shirt, and stood there among the skull-like coconuts with green shadows from the palms and the forest sliding over his skin. He undid the snake-clasp of his belt, lugged off his shorts and pants, and stood there naked, looking at the dazzling beach and the water (1.53).

Of course, this is perhaps a rational and reasonable way to run around a tropical island than in black shoes and garters. Sure, when it comes to hunting, Ralph begins to appear even more vicious. The first time he gashes and wounds a sow, he talks "excitedly" and thinks that maybe hunting was good after all: Ralph talked on, excitedly.

"I hit him all right. The spear stuck in. I wounded him!"

He sunned himself in their new respect and felt that hunting was good after all (7).

Golding displays struggle between savagery instinct and civilization instinct. The strife was between Jack and some of gathered boys when Jack and the boys are killing the first hog (69). This situation suggests savagery. Here the boys don't care about killing animals or other beings.

Therefore, because of the boys are being drastic, fierce and offensive when killing the pig. The author uses words like "kill", "cut", "spill"...."blood," and bash " are not expression one would foresee from well-conducted individuals. Sure, these words indicate a feral inclination to wound, injure and maim. The main purpose of the hunt just to obtain food. One of the important topics that William Golding touched on in his novel, Lord of the Flies is the theme of savagery and civilization developed when Piggy's glasses are broken:

'Ralph made a step forward and Jack smacked Piggy's head. Piggy's glasses flew off and tinkled on the rocks. Piggy cried out in terror:

"My specs!"

He went crouching and feeling over the rocks but Simon, who got there first, found them for him. Passions beat about Simon on the mountain-top with awful wings.

“One side’s broken.”

Piggy grabbed and put on the glasses. He looked malevolently at Jack. “I got to have them specs. Now I only got one eye. Jus` you wait-” Jack made a move toward Piggy’s, who scramble away till a great rock lay between them. He thrust his head over the top and glared at Jack through his one flashing glass.

‘Now I only got one eye. Just you wait—’ Jack mimicked the whine and scramble.

‘Jus’ you wait— yah!’(4.71-72). This scene displays that the boys’ uncivil natures set out to abolish their more civilized and cultural sides. At first of the novel Jack not dared touch Piggy, but here he really dashes and goes for Piggy who he aghast or terrified and panic-stricken. It is already noted that William Golding uses the words “cried and terror” to depicts the scene. The intelligence on the island is represented by the Piggy’s glasses but when they had broken we can see that the savagery starts from the boys. And this is the first conflict between the savagery and civilizing instinct on the tropical desert island.

Sure, the theme of savagery against civilization being manifested is when Ralph support Piggy after he is attacked by Jack. Ralph says, “that was a dirty trick” (72). Here Ralph is expressing many various sentiments which may change his relationship with Jack. And when he says this phrase, he is reprimanding Jack for his mistakes he has made. Ralph is actually furious at Jack for what he did to his lieutenant Piggy. So Ralph wants to impose himself as a leader and he says that in an offensive and atrocious tone. This indicates that there are still some glints of civilization on the desert island and there is someone who with a sense of moral goodness ready to fight for justice.

Golding touched on some civilization examples around the symbolism of the conch. The first shell conch symbol is when Ralph found the rules in their meeting:

“If I blow the conch and they don’t come back.”,

“And another thing.

We can’t have everybody talking at once. We’ll have to have ‘hands up’ like at school”(33).

This scene teaches us the role of civilization on the island. And it confirms that Ralph seeks a lot from everyone straitened on the island, the request order and esteem for other people. It displays his democratic view upon handling numerous cases or snags that happen on the island. Here Ralph tries to listen to every motions, thoughts, or views from everyone or a person on the island so long as they have the conch shell. Ralph will hearken to everybody an dignify them so long as they have the conch because everybody must respect the verity that the individual has the conch which means nobody should be speaking while the conch is not in their hands. Ralph uses the conch shell power to gather boys for the meeting and to maintain order of course during the meeting. And this is a good conduct for the boys to treat Ralph and the shell conch in “the same simple obedience they had given to the men with megaphones”(18).the second shell conch symbol is the scene when Jack and the other boys defy the laws and regulations and leave the meeting to hunt the animal beast in chapter six:

“If I blow the conch and they don’t come back, then we’ve had it. We shan’t keep the fire going. We’ll be like animals, We’ll never be rescued” (92). A shell conch is a token and symbol of power and order in the novel. Whoever controls the conch is responsibility of the group and is seen as the leader. In the outset of the book this leader is Ralph because he is elected by the stranded group boys. This democratic process of deciding a leader shows their humanity in the outset because they elect Ralph instead of having a combat to see who is more powerful. However, when Jack starts to defy Ralph’s power the demand of this community starts to disintegrate and come apart. Here the group boys start to lose their humaneness and act like savages. In the quote, blowing the shell conch is a exam to see how far gone Jack’s group boys are from humanity. If they do not get back then all hope of being rescued is gone. They have already been taken over by their savage natures and they “cannot be rescued from that’. The quote above tells us how Ralph’s intelligence perception of the relationship between the conch shell, the fire and the rescue. He links the notion of the maintaining order thought the shell conch to the consistent maintenance of the signal fire. The mentioned notions or ideas above, represent attempts to reconnect to civilization; he scares the other boys especially Jack wish drift toward the savage hunting way of life or the lifestyle as well.

The third conch symbol is the death of Piggy at Castle Rock:

“ By him stood Piggy still holding out the talisman the fragile, shining beauty of the shell, the storm of sound beat at them, an incantation of hatred , High overhead, Rogger, with a sense of delirious a abandonment, leaned all his weight on the lever.... The rock struck Piggy a glancing blow from chin to knee, the conch exploded into a thousand white fragments and ceased to exist. Piggy, saying nothing, with no time for even a grunt, traveled through the air sideways, turning over as he went. The rock bounded twice and was lost in the forest. Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across the square red rock in the sea. (pp. 221-2).

But when Rogger sends the boulder crashing into Piggy, “the conch exploded into thousand white fragments and ceased to exist (180-181).

The use of conch here indicates to the weakness of civilization. We can preserve law and order between the group boys demands accurate balance. Here the death of Piggy and the destruction indicates the end of any endeavor at civilization on the desert tropical island and this thing supports and enhances the predominant role of thuggery and fierceness in the boys' new way of life or their lifestyle.

Ralph is considered as a key figure in the Golding's novel, *Lord of the Flies* for several reasons. He is the protagonist of the novel; he is one of the 'older' boy. He took out for the little boys known as 'littluns' and tries to protect them. In the novel, he represents good and tries to maintain 'civilization' in the camp, establishing rules and laws about shelters, maintain the fire lit. He faced or stands up to Jack and his tribe (hunters) and becomes their enemy and is chased by them through the burning forest and when comes to the shore he fall down in exhausting after being chased, and he is the first boy who sees the man from the ship.

According to the essential elements of survival and rescue, Ralph is considered as a selfless leader. He practices good verdict in the time of distress. Of course, Jack's leadership defends for hunting and enjoyable activities while Ralph's leadership advocates for acting peacefully, non-violence and respecting rules and orders on the tropical island. Here we find a similar relationship between the two characters, Ralph and Jack. Jack has the ability to assemble or rally boys and persuades them to follow his colonelcy. But he has a different schedule from Ralph's as he suggests that the boys hunt, swim and playing games instead of preserving the signal fire, building havens and going on expeditions to explore the tropical island or taking their chance to talk in the holding meeting. Jack uses the style of menace to encourage and motivate his horde. Of course, unlike Ralph, Jack's tribe is model of savage cruelty, while Ralph's horde is the symbol of civility and structure.

The image of tribalism, lethal weapons, fancy, and body-paint is set against Ralph's legitimate assembly, with its slogan of power, the fragile white conch almost, in the total context, the verdict wand of Empire. We are expected to be dreadful of the anonymity and frightening of Jack's tribe because in Golding's expressions and idioms the boys have climbed down the "hierarchies" of communities and folk:

The chief was sitting there, naked to waist, his face blocked

Out in the white and red. The tribe lay in a semicircle before him....

'To-morrow', went on the Chief, 'we shall hunt again.'

He pointed at this savage and that with spear....A savage

raised his hand and the chief turned a bleak, painted face towards him. (p.197).

The grouping is intimidation, inconsequential, and ambiguous, the opposite of Ralph's assembly. The discrepancy give us colonialism seen from the imperialist view point:

White constitutionalism holding up the light of example to bleak tribalism. The children 'understood only too well the liberation into savagery that the concealing paint brought'.(p.212); their history books will have helped them. 'We won't be painted,' says Ralph, 'because we aren't savages' (p. 212).

## II. CONCLUSION

Prone to this, I conclude that Ralph exemplifies civilization as he wishes to reinforce rules and laws and let the boys to take their chance to express themselves using the power of the shell conch. While Jack who exemplifies the brutality and savagery as he governs the hunters and he is not concerned and attentive what the boys have to say. Among the boys, conduct, Golding displays us that we required some rules to make a certain society and community functions properly. He also was trying to teach us a lesson. He considered that civilization, orders and laws are the right way to avoid conducting like savages and barbarians. To the range that the boys' society likes a political state, the littluns might be seen as the public and common people, while the older boys represent here the ruling classes and political power leaders. The relationships that develop between the older boys and the younger ones affirm the older boys' connection to either the civilized or the savage instinct: civilized boys like Ralph and Simon use their power to protect the younger boys and advance the good of the group; savage boys like Jack and Roger use their power to entertain their own wishes, treating the littler boys as objects for their own entertainment or their past time.

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