

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

III.1 Setting

The element of setting in *Lord of the Flies* plays an important role. The setting here is used to learn the characters' life conditions which support the emergence of evil within the characters.

The setting in the story is an uninhabited tropical island in which the characters are isolated from the outside world. The island is surrounded by the sea "where the snapping shark waited" (53). Hence it is also a prison surrounded by the hostile natural forces in which the boys are powerless until some outside agency rescues them. Therefore, the characters feel desperately.

Initially, the island is described with loving detailed. There is peace and harmony on there; the exquisite coloring of the conch as it lies in the sea, the butterflies in Simon retreat, and the sow nurturing its young. Even, Ralph "to believe the reality of the island, laughed delightedly again and stood on his head" (8).

The beautiful of the island is also felt by the other characters, when they explore it. "They were conscious of

the glamour and made happy by it"(22). Therefore, they express their feeling to the others.

However, the reality of nature in the tropics is profoundly sinister and threatening. The heat of the tropics which "seemed an unusual heat, ever for this island"(101) influences the boys. Under the condition of the island, they undergo physical degeneration. It can be seen through Jack's appearance.

His sandy hair, considerably longer than it had been when they dropped in, was lighter now; and his bare back was a mass of dark freckles and peeling sunburn. A sharpened stick about five feet long trailed from his right hand, and except for a pair of tattered shorts held up by his knife-belt he was naked. (43)

From the quotation above shows that the boys become primitive. Their condition is extremely different from their first arrival at the island, in which they still wear the school uniforms. The fact that Jack is "naked" means he cast off his clothes, the robes of civilized life and turns to a primitive existence. This condition is strengthened when Jack paints his face in which "he hid, liberated from shame and self-consciousness" (58).

Under the conditions of this island, no character remains unaffected by the fear of "the unknown" which descends with the "darkness". By daylight there are social duties to be performed, meals to be sought and cooked, shelters to be built, watch to be kept, but at night, "when the sun sank, darkness dropped on the island like an extinguisher and soon shelter full of restlessness." (53). Many boys have nightmares. They suffer untold terrors in the dark. Even, "the littlun Percival had early crawled into shelter and stayed there for two days, talking, singing, and crying, till they thought him batty." (54). From the story, it is obvious that the darkness gives the atmosphere of fear, and terror. In short, they feel insecure.

As a matter of fact, the "unknown" in which the boys afraid of is the beast. In this mood, it is not difficult for supernatural belief to have rooted among the children. In this case, the children create their own god. Under Jack's rule, they start to worship and to appease it. They place a sow's head on a stick and offer it as a gift to the beast.

And about the beast, when we kill we'll leave some of the kill for it. Then it won't bother, may be. (123)

However, the process of killing the pig and "leave some of the kill " for the beast disclose man's tendency to hurt. It can be seen in the following description :

The sow staggered her way ahead of them, bleeding and mad, and the hunters followed, wedded to her in lust, excited by the long chase and dropped blood.

...Then Jack found the throat and the hot and the hoot blood spouted over his hands.(125)

Here, we can see the atmosphere of brutal and sadism overwhelm the boys.

Furthermore, the atmosphere of sadism can be seen when Jack places a sow's head on a stick as a gift for the beast.

Jack held up the head and jammed the soft throat down on the pointed end on the stick which pierced through into the mouth. He stood back and the head hung there, a little blood dribbling down the stick. (126)

It has been stated that the island is the uninhabited and there is no grown-ups there. Realizing there is no grown-ups, the children are very happy, since it means they are free from the adult's restriction. Then, in

order to keep civilized life, Ralph uses "conch" which is used to call the meeting in advance, as a rule. He announces that only those who are holding the conch will be permitted to speak at meeting and he won't be interrupted except by him. He also proposes that they have a fire high up on the mountain so that rescuers will see it. The rule, as Jack said is to make them civilized.

I agree with Ralph. We've got rules and obey them. After all we're not savages. (38)

However, with no "parents and school and policemen and the law" (57) to apply the rules or to enforce punishment "the old life" has a progressively weaker hold over the children. They do what they want to do and tend to please themselves. They are willing to answer the call of the conch and all will agree to any project, but "when the meeting was over they'd work for five minutes, then wander off or go hunting" (46). Even "when play was good and life so full that hope was not necessary and therefore forgotten" (53).

The absence of the grown-up also makes Roger and Maurice release their evil by hurting the littluns. They destroy the sand castles which are built by littluns. Even, Roger throws a handful of stones to Henry although it misses, and with the same actions Roger killed Piggy.

....Piggy fell forty feet and landed on his back across that square red rock in the sea. His head opened and stuff came out and turned red. Piggy's arms and legs, twitched a bit, like a pig's after it has been killed. (167)

Here, it can be seen the atmosphere of cruelty and sadism.

Furthermore, that condition encourages Jack breaks the rules. In this case, Jack's breaking the rule is his effort to take over Ralph's chieftainship. He wants to be the chief of the boys on the island. As he gets more follower he announces as the chief of the new tribes. Then, when Ralph asserts his chieftainship, Jack attacks him with his spear because he does not admit Ralph chieftainship. Furthermore, he tries to kill Ralph since he does not want his rival exist. Therefore, wherever Ralph's hides, Jack and his tribes hunt him. Eventually, Ralph is saved by a naval officer.

III.2 Characterization

III.2.1 Ralph

Ralph is one of the main characters in the story. He is twelve years old, athletically built, and from middle

class family. His physical appearance is described as below:

He was old enough, twelve years and a few months, to have lost the prominent tummy of childhood; and not yet old enough for adolescence to have made him awkward, you could see now that he might make a boxer, as far as width and heaviness of shoulders went, but there was a mildness about his mouth and eyes that proclaimed no devil. (8)

From the description above, it shows that he is a strong boy and has attractive appearance. This attractive appearance is one reasons why the boys choose him as a chief, besides his initiative in calling the meeting and his possession of the conch.

The first duty of Ralph as a chief is to set out with Jack and Simon to explore the island and determine if it is uninhabited. At the prospect of no grown-ups on the island, he expresses his happiness by standing on his head. Here, the atmosphere of freedom and joy covers the explorer and it is continued when they return. Ralph excitedly explains to the boys that they are on an uninhabited island, and while waiting for rescue, they can have a good time on the island.

Being on an uninhabited island, Ralph has a desire for normal civilized life. He tries to adopt the discipline he has learned at school where in order to attract attention, they "have to have 'hands up' like at school" (19). He also announces that those who are holding the conch will be permitted to speak at meeting and he won't be interrupted except by him.

Ralph first trial as a chief is when a little boy mentions a snake-like beast, he has seen in the forest at night. Ralph has to answer wisely and has to satisfy all of the boys. He says it just a nightmare and there is not a beast. The boys seem unsatisfied, but Ralph reminds them what the most important thing, is that they want to be rescued.

We want to be rescued; and of course we shall be rescued. (33)

Strangely, "the simple statement unbacked by any proof, but the weight of Ralph's new authority, bring light and happiness" (33). In addition, he convinces that his father will save them. This scene shows Ralph's optimism.

Ralph is the only boy who thinks of the ultimate necessity of rescue. He proposes that they must make a fire on a top of the mountain so that rescuer will see it.

The fire is the most important thing on the island. How can we ever be rescued except by luck, if we don't keep a fire going? (74)

However, Ralph soon learns that human beings are not easy to control. He complains to Jack that most of the boys unwilling to help in any important project. They are willing to answer the call of the conch and all will agree to any project, such as building huts, but after working for five minutes, they forget about their pledge and wander away to play or go hunting . Ralph also accuses Jack and his hunters not to help to build the shelters. Here, the conflict between Ralph and Jack emerged.

They were both red in the face and found looking at each other difficult. (46)

Ralph, then explains they need shelters because of the littluns have a nightmare. Ralph thinks the shelters can protect them from the beast. This scene also shows Ralph's responsibility as a chief.

Ralph's frustration is when he and Piggy notice a ship on the horizon and discover that the signal fire on the mountain has gone out. They realize that Jack and the hunters who are responsible for the maintenance of the fire have wandered off and abandoned it. This scene widens the conflict between Ralph and Jack.

As the story goes, Ralph undergoes a process of maturation. He tries to understand the world around him.

He found himself understanding the wearisomeness of this life, where every path was an improvisation and a considerable part of one's waking life was spent watching one's feet. (70)

It can also be seen by attitude towards physical detail; he violently rejects the dirt and decay which surrounds him. "He disliked perpetually flicking the tangled hair out of his eyes" (70-71). The kind of savagery in which Jack seems to relish annoys Ralph too.

Ralph, now, no longer be a carefree youth whose single expressive gesture was to strip naked and stand on his head. Now, he thinks the welfare of the others. In short, he is the only boy who cares in the ultimate necessity of rescue.

Furthermore, the assembly becomes a test for maturing leader. His sincere efforts to put things straight are punctuated with jeers and laughter of the others. He is on the verge of despair when berating the boys for ignoring the essentials of an orderly life; they ignore the admonition to use only one area for a toilet, they don't tend to the signal fire, and they refuse to help in building of shelters.

Things are breaking up, I don't understand why.
We began well; we were happy. And then _.

Then people started getting frightened. (75)

From the quotation above, it is obvious that Ralph knows that the causes "things are breaking up" are the fear.

Ralph realizes that the boys are afraid of the beast. He tries to explain their fear rationally, he says that the beast only exists in the boys' head. Meanwhile, Jack intends that if there's a beast they will hunt it down. Then most of the Littluns run off led by Jack. Piggy suggests to Ralph to blow the conch to call them back. Yet Ralph refuses to do it.

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 rescued. (85)

From the quotation above, it is obvious that Ralph is the only boy who thinks of rescue.

Eventually, Ralph decides to hunt the beast after the fire watchers, Sam and Eric, tell that they saw the beast on the mountain. The hunt is also important in the development of the character.

In this hunt, Ralph once again shows his responsibility to the Littluns. Before they leave, he insists that

"someone get to look after them" (93). Even though Piggy finally looks after them, Ralph still uncomfortable and worried.

This hunt is also important to be noted in accordance with the developing sense of awareness of Ralph. Ralph is aware of he and the other boys' physical degeneration. Therefore, he longs for the past days of normal cleanliness; a haircut, a bath, and a tooth brush. Hence, "he discovered with a little fall of the heart that these were the conditions he took as normal now and that he didn't mind" (102). It seems that he has a desire for civilized life. Nevertheless, he is aware that the conditions of the island make it impossible to apply. His awareness is also enforced by his sense of man's isolation of nature.

...but here faced by the brute obtuseness of the ocean, the miles of division, one was clamped down, one was helpless, one was condemned....
(102)

Furthermore, the hunt also shows the facts that every individual has the seed of violence. Despite some dispositions to be kind and to do good, Ralph has some weakness in his character. It can be seen when a wild boar suddenly appeared and then Ralph casts his spear into the

boar's snout. Although the boar escapes, Ralph boasts of his quality as a hunter. He, then, is filled with fright and apprehension and pride; he "felt that hunting was good after all" (105). In addition, it also can be seen when the ritual kill of a pig is held and Robert pretends as a pig. Ralph carries away by sudden thick excitement, grabs Eric's spear and jabs at Robert with it. "The desire to squeeze and hurt was over-mastering" (106). From that story, it shows that everybody has the seed of evil. Even, in Ralph who is described "proclaimed no devil" (8).

Actually Ralph is afraid in the hunt. Yet, he joins and leads to hunt, because Jack accuses him as a coward. The fact shows that Ralph wants to defend his chieftainship and to show his quality as a chief namely he has to be brave and able to protect the others. It seems successful, when Jack call for vote to reject Ralph as a chief but no one support him. Consequently, Jack leaves the group and forms a new tribe.

However, it is powerless when Ralph attempts to assert his authority to the new tribe who hold a feast to celebrate their success in hunting. Here, most of the boys accept Jack's offering to join his tribe.

The feast is also important to show the evil in Ralph. It can be seen in his involvement in murdering Simon. Ralph feels sorry about what he did. Despite, Piggy says it was just an accident, Ralph's conscience cannot deny that he has been involved in Simon's murder.

Furthermore, the important scene is when Ralph, Piggy, and Eric want to get Piggy's glasses in which it had been stolen by Jack the night before. Although they undergo physical degeneration, Ralph still tries to keep them civilized. So, he reminds them before they leave to Jack's camp.

We'll be like we were, we'll wash-

We ought to comb our hair

...We won't be painted ...because we aren't savage. (159)

Nevertheless, Jack doesn't want to give it back to Piggy. So that the two leaders quarrel and start fighting man to man. At the moment they fight, Roger pushes a great rock down the slopes toward Piggy. Piggy hears the noise, but cannot see the source of danger. He and the conch are both crushed beneath the rock. After that Jack hurls his spear at Ralph, it tears skin and flesh, then

the boys of the tribe hurl their spears at Ralph, but he manages to escape into the forest.

In his hiding, Ralph tries to understand the strange events on the island. He knows "that these painted savages would go further and further" (178). Ralph doesn't believe that man is capable to do evil.

No. They're not as bad as that. It was an accident. (170)

They were savages it was true, but they were human.... (171)

At the end of the story, Ralph is saved by a naval officer. As he recalls the things that have taken place, he burst into tears.

Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man's hearth. (187)

From the quotation above, it shows that 'the end of innocence' for which Ralph weeps, is the coming of awareness of the evil in man's heart that is present in the boys. Those facts also show that Ralph is not an ordinary child anymore. He undergoes a process of maturation, and though still in years, he has self-awareness that evil is inherent in man.

III.2.2 Jack

Jack Merridew is another main characters in the novel. He is Ralph's antagonist. His physical appearance is different from Ralph.

He was tall, thin and bony, and his hair was red beneath the black cap. His face was crumpled and freckled, and ugly without silliness. Out of this face stared two light blue eyes. (17)

The words "without silliness" mean that Jack is a clever. It can be seen when he suggests to use Piggy's glasses as a burning glasses to light the fire.

Initially, Jack is a leader of the choirboys. Yet, he is a tyrant. It is shown how he rules the choirboys. Although he knows they are tired, and wants to take a rest, he orders them to stand still. Even, when one of the boys is fainted he orders "to let him alone" (17).

Being the head of the choister, Jack thinks he deserves to be the chief of the boys on the island.

"I ought to be chief" said Jack with simple arrogance. "because I'm chapter chorister and head boy, I can sing C sharp. (19)

It is understandable because to be the head of chorister is not easy, unfortunately no one choose him except the

choir. Although, he is chosen as the leader of the hunter by Ralph, he still has the ambition to be the chief of the boys on the island. It shows that Jack cannot accept his defeat sincerely.

As a leader of the boys, Ralph urges the need for rules and disciplined. He announces that only those who are holding the conch will be permitted to speak at meeting and he won't be interrupted except by him. Yet, Jack breaks the rule by interrupting Piggy's speaking.

I got the conch, you let me speak.

"The conch doesn't count on top of the mountain," said Jack. "So you shut up." (37)

It is obvious that Jack tries to attack Ralph's authority. It also shows that Jack always bullies Piggy.

However, when Ralph proposes that they ought to have more rules, Jack enthusiastically supports him. "I agree with Ralph. We've got to have rules and obey them. After all, we're not savages." (38). Moreover, Jack and the hunters will be responsible for keeping the fire and for keeping a look out if there is a ship. On the contrary, when a ship appears, Jack and the hunters who are responsible for maintain the fire have gone hunting and wandered off and abandon it. This scene shows Jack's

irresponsibility and also his selfishness. He just does things that can amuse himself and leaves the important thing, the fire.

Meanwhile, when Piggy reminds him of irresponsibility, Jack is angry and "stuck his fist into Piggy's stomach"(65). So, this scene discloses Jack's character that is he is cruel and tend to hurt other people.

The uninhabited island in which Jack and the other boys live also gives great influence upon the development and change of the character. Under the circumstances of the island, Jack undergoes physical degeneration. "His sandy hair, considerably longer than it had been when they dropped in, was lighter now, and his bare back was a mass of dark freckles and peeling sunburn"(43). Furthermore, "Jack planned his new face. He made one cheek and eye-socket white, then he rubbed red over the other half of his face and slashed a black bar of charcoal across from right ear to left jaw"(58). Those facts show that Jack is not the same as he was, he becomes primitive and savage.

The primitive and savage conditions are strengthened when they succeeded in killing a pig. Along the way they chant "kill the pig. Cut her throat. Spill her blood" (63). Here, it can be felt the atmosphere of brutalism.

Even Jack proudly says that he "cut the pig throat"(64). This fact shows the cruelty and sadistic within the boys.

Furthermore the next important scene to disclose Jack's character is when the assembly discuss the existence of the beast. Jack insists that there is not a beast because he has hunted all over the island and never seen it. Meanwhile, when Jack speaks, "he had not got the conch and thus spoke against the rules" (980). He also does as Piggy speaking. Even, when Ralph reminds him, Jack angrily asks his capability as a chief.

And you shut up! who are you anyway? sitting there telling people what to do. You can't hunt, you can't sing --.(84)

Here, it can be seen that Jack wants to take over Ralph's chieftainship.

The efforts of Jack to take over Ralph's chieftainship is continued when they hunt the beast. In this occasion Jack thinks it is a good opportunity to test another's prowess as a leader. It can be seen when Ralph casts his spear into the boar's snout. Although the boar escapes, Ralph boasts his quality as a hunter.

I walloped him properly. That was the beast, I think!. (105)

On the contrary, Jack underestimates him and states that is not a beast but a boar. Afterwards, Jack shows his wound which is caused by boar's tusks with pride. Although the pig has gotten away, the boys are in state of excitement. They reenact the hunt in a savage dance, and then when Robert pretends to be the pig, "Jack had him by the hair and was brandishing his knives" (106). This scene shows that those boys tend to hurt.

In that moment, Jack attracts more attention than Ralph. It seems that Jack has "defeated" Ralph. Therefore, he tries to take over Ralph's chieftainship. He accuses Ralph as a coward and unfit to be a chief.

He is not a hunter. He'd never have got us meat. He isn't perfect and we don't know anything about him. He just give orders and expects people to obey for nothing. (117)

Then, he calls for vote to reject Ralph as a chief. Yet, no one support him. Then Jack leaves the group and announces that anyone who want to hunt can come with him.

Furthermore, some of the boys set off to follow Jack. Then Jack proclaims himself as a chief. Afterwards, the tribe set out to hunt the pig. About the beast, he proposes that when they kill a pig, they will leave some of the kill for it.

The hunt is important scene to see the evil within the characters. In this hunt they are soon successful. Jack and his tribes derive pleasure from their cruel and bloody slaughter of the pig.

The spear moved forward inch by inch and the terrified squealing became a high-pitched scream. Then Jack found the throat and the hot blood spouted over his hand.(125)

Here, it is obvious that Jack and his tribe is release from the civilized life. The quotation above shows that they are savage, cruel and sadistic. In addition to this atmosphere is when Jack gives the head of a pig as a gift for the beast where he jams the soft throat down on pointed end of stick which pierced through into the mouth.

The next important events are when Jack holds the feast after they are successful in hunting. In this feast Jack offers the other boys to join his tribe. Many of them accept Jack's offering. Afterwards, when darkness begins to fall, Jack orders the tribe to do dance. All the boys leap up and step wildly around the blazing fire, waving their weapon, and chant "kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood!" (141). The chant of the boys rise as a black shape comes crawling out of the forest.

The boys do not realize that it is Simon. "At once the crowd surged after it, poured down the rock, leapt on to the beast, screamed, struck, bit, tore. There were no words and no movement but the tearing of teeth and claws" (141). Those facts show that cruelty and sadism are part of the boys.

As the writer said before, Jack is a tyrant. Being the chief of the boys, he also rules as a tyrant. It can be seen when he punishes Wilfred without a reason. Although he doesn't make any mistake.

He's going to beat Wilfred.

What for?

I don't know. He didn't say. He got angry and made us tie Wilfred up. He's been tied for hours waiting --. (147)

Here, it seems that Jack wants to show his superior attitude. His position as the chief of the boys has given him chances to carry out his desire which sometimes appear to be unfair for others.

Furthermore, the next important scene is when Ralph, Piggy, Sam and Eric want to get Piggy's glasses back. Jack doesn't want to give it back to Piggy. Afterwards, Jack and Ralph quarrel and fight man to man. In this

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case, Jack doesn't want any rival in his chieftainship. Jack sees Ralph as a rival in his position. He attempts to kill Ralph by viciously hurls his spear to Ralph. The point tears the skin and flesh over Ralph's ribs. Ralph escapes in the forest. However, the savage still 'hunt' him until he is saved by a naval officer.

CHAPTER IV

THE EVIL NATURE OF HUMAN BEING