
Quotation Analysis/Application: LOTF Exemplar

Quotation: *"The greatest of faults, I should say, is to be conscious of none."*

Jack from Lord of the Flies is a choir boy that becomes a skilled hunter and a powerful leader on the island. Jack unfortunately becomes so obsessed with hunting and power that he is unaware that the needs of the group should be the highest priority on the island. His greatest fault is that he *thinks* he is doing the right thing and he doesn't realize that his selfish behavior is jeopardizing the survival of all the other boys.

Jack's obsession with hunting pigs leads him to enlist all of the hunters in what becomes their first successful hunt. Even though this leaves the signal fire unattended, Jack does not see this as a problem. To him the immediate need for meat is more important than the signal fire. Even when Ralph points out that they missed an opportunity at being rescued due to Jack's negligence of the fire, Jack is unconvinced that what he did was wrong. He keeps repeating to Ralph, "...but I got meat..." as if eating meat was equal to having a chance at rescue. Jack proves himself to be a skilled hunter and he is right in thinking that meat is important for the boys but his obsession with hunting and his desire to do what he selfishly thinks is a top priority has blinded him to the greater need to be rescued. His inability to recognize his mistake is more dangerous to the boys stranded on the island than his hunting obsession.

Jack's desire for more power also blinds him to the needs of the majority. He is so determined to gain power that he shuts down those who oppose him by any means necessary. When the signal fire goes out because the choir boys are busy hunting a pig, Piggy confronts Jack and points out the fire was his responsibility. Jack's response is to humiliate Piggy by saying "Shut up, Fatty" and then hitting him in the face and breaking his glasses. Jack is unwilling to hear any criticism and attempts to prevent others from challenging him in the future by using violence and intimidation to silence any opposition. Again, it is not the neglect of the signal fire that will turn the boys into savages but Jack's violent response to criticism that will.

Jack's hunting based society lead by a powerful chief is not inherently dangerous; in fact, many Indigenous Peoples have thrived in harsh climates using similar governmental systems. However, a self-absorbed chief that is unable to see his own faults is disastrous and proves to be the most dangerous obstacle facing the stranded boys in Lord of the

Flies.