

SL

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The Identity of the Beast and the Conch

I. Introduction

- A. The Lord of the Flies, by William Golding, is a frighteningly brilliant novel where what you can't see becomes the most tangible. For instance the Beast, a creature in the boys' mind turns out to be the cause of the chaos.

II. Body

A. The Beast

1. First "sighting"
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B. The conch

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The Identity of the Beast and the Conch

The Lord of the Flies, by William Golding, is a frighteningly brilliant novel where what you can't see becomes the most tangible. For instance the Beast, a creature in the boys' mind turns out to be the cause of the chaos. Another example is the conch. The conch, a simple shell, holds the power of an entire group of uncontrollable boys in the beginning of the book.

This beast figure is introduced in the 2nd chapter on page 35 when a quiet little boy speaks out. He told the group about a beastly creature, which was most likely a pig or animal, but his wild imagination formed the harmless animal into a ferocious beast.

How ever boy's story causes confusion, and the unknown can turn to fear, which it did. Fear can easily be overwhelming. The fear of not knowing if the beast is out there or not led to a hunt. There was so much fear by the time the hunt was active that they actually perceived a vivid image of the beast.

The boys now fully feared the beast because they were misguided by their own mind. Simon's death was a result of this overflowing terror. The boys were so afraid that they beat him to death over a hallucination. " Simon was crying out something about a dead man... The beast struggled forward... 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 movements but the tearing of teeth and claws... Even in the rain they could see how small a beast it was; and already it's blood was staining the sand." (pg. 153). The

beast in this quote was truly Simon, a compassionate boy who was trying to warn them, but they were deceived by their imagination.

The conch, on the other hand was not a symbol of fear, but rather the opposite. The conch showed order and peace it helped maintain what sanity was left within the group.

In the beginning Ralph and Piggy first find the conch, and this gives them a sense of hope and security. The Conch also brought everyone together which led to the leadership role. In doing so there was now order and the balance of fear and safety was equal for a time. Eventually the antagonist of the story was able to break the balanced and gain control through fear. In doing so the conch was left powerless which meant the group had descended into complete chaos, and ultimately led to the destruction of the conch and its last believer.

In conclusion there is a balance to the world between sane and insane. You can let your fears drive you to insanity if you do you and others can get hurt. Just like what happened in the story.