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A Figment of One's Imagination?

What may be considered an illusion, falsehood, figment of one's imagination is real, not only that but lives and is part of every living creature. What I am referring to is what is known as the Beast in the book the *Lord of the Flies*. One tries to claim he is a character, not only that but an aspect of all humanity.

However, when do we see this Beast? The Beast is not there until you give it life and that happens when you embody or are affected by the Beast attributes. These properties are tempter, falsehood, hatred and fear of the unknown. An example from the book where a character is affected by this aspect of humanity is found in chapter nine in the *Lord of the Flies*, "' Kill the beast! Cut his throat! Spill his blood! Do him in!' The blue-white scar was constant, the noise unendurable. Simon was crying out something about a dead man on a hill." (pg:152) In this quote, Simon is being beaten to death for trying to tell others about the dead parachuter, however, because they were looking through the lenses of fear and the unknown they didn't see Simon but instead a beast. This inference by the savages is a falsehood, note that this is a beastly property and is the reason for their depiction of Simon.

In addition, hatred and fear are two characteristics that can be seen distinctly and constantly within society. It is very common for fear and hatred to come hand in hand, an

example of this would be discrimination against the LGBTQ community. This group of people has not shown their face until recently because of fear of the hatred they would receive, frankly, this community did receive hatred and acceptance. This hatred was caused because of fear of the unknown, the ideas presented by this group were unheard of and created fear in people. This is an example of how fear on both sides of the conflict can lead to hatred.

Finally, the beast can be part of all of us, it is an aspect of humanity. You can only control in what way this embodiment of fear and hatred will affect you. A wise phrase addressing fear, “Only Thing We Have to Fear Is Fear Itself” -Franklin D. Roosevelt. This phrase summarizes who the beast is. The beast is pure fear which consequently causes the rest of its qualities, in the end, the only thing to accomplish is to learn how to harness your fear for the greater good.