

Afi Koffi

Ms. Pahomov

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One for One and All for None

There are two types of people in the world; those who lead and those who follow. One quality that separates these two groups is the ability of leaders to make and reach goals. Sometimes, short term pleasures shadow long term goals and followers find themselves in conflicts, that generally end in death with their leaders. This is clear in examples like the boys in William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, Jesus Christ in the Bible, and the death of John F. Kennedy. Humans generally value short term, immediate pleasures over long-term, more impactful goals. a causes, in the social realm, for many people to turn on their leaders for the prospect of immediate results.

This idea is further explored in the novel, *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding. In this book, a group of boys is stranded on an island after a plane crash and thus expected to fend for themselves. Shortly after landing on the island, problems with priorities arise. Piggy states, "The first thing we ought to have made was shelters down there by the beach,"(45). Piggy serves as an advisor to the leader, Ralph. Their priority is on building shelters because they could be protected if they stay on the island longer than expected. Ralph, the leader, and Jack, another member of the group, clash with this idea often. Later in the novel, Jack says "We want meat..." to which Ralph answers "We need shelters" (51). This is an example of conflict between the leader and a follower because of the follower's inability to see or envision the big picture. It is

important to note the use of want and need. Want relates to things that are luxuries, while need is used to describe a necessity. Jack relies on things that'll bring him immediate satisfaction instead of things that he, and the rest of the group, need long-term.

Because of the lack of adults in the book, Jack and Ralph, two of the older boys, take charge. Although all the boys were united in the beginning of the book, they eventually separate and are forced to join forces with either Jack or Ralph, who have very different ideologies. After a series of events, Jack's tribe includes all the boys except Ralph. Jack's tribe plans to eliminate the threat of Ralph. The twins, Sam and Eric, are on guard duty when Ralph visits them. They tell him of Jack's plan to hunt him down. Ralph responds saying, "What have I done? I liked him and I wanted us to be rescued ... But I've done nothing. I only wanted to keep up a fire" (188-189). Ralph cannot comprehend why the tribe would want to hunt him. He was the leader that they, themselves, chose in the very beginning. He did all that he thought was right for the benefit of the larger group, like building shelters and minding the fire. The fact that they all turned on him and are willing to hunt him, shows that they couldn't see Ralph's big picture plans and how it would benefit them. This connects to my thesis because it shows how humans beings turn on good leaders because of their selfishness, impatience, and need for immediate effects. If the fire had immediate effects, these events may not have taken place.

This thesis does not only apply to this novel but can be seen in real world examples. An example of this is the betrayal of Jesus Christ of Nazareth. In the holy bible, the sacred text of the Christian faith, Jesus Christ is the savior of the world and is accompanied by twelve disciples, or followers. One of these disciples Judas, also known as Iscariot, betrays his leader in exchange for thirty pieces of silver. "Then one of the twelve [disciples], who was called Judas

Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, ‘What are you willing to give me if I hand Jesus over to you?’ And they weighed out thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment Judas began looking for an opportune time to betray Jesus,” (Matthew 26:14-16). This quote shows that Judas was willing to give Jesus, his leader, up to his enemies in exchange for silver, something that’d bring him short-term but immediate joy. Not only does he agree to betray him, he makes it his duty to do so by “looking for an opportune time to betray Jesus.” Jesus Christ was to bring salvation to mankind. Judas’ need for short-term pleasures distracted him from the long term vision of his leader and lead to his betrayal.

Another real world situation that reflects this idea is the life and death of Benedict Arnold. Arnold was a general during the American Revolution. He has become synonymous with the word traitor because of his actions against the United States during the war. He made plans with British major John Andre where they agreed that Arnold would turn over, or give up, a fort at West Point in exchange for a large sum of money and a high position in the British army. By doing this, not only did Arnold defy his superiors, he betrayed his entire country. In this example, one sees, yet again, someone putting their personal welfare over that of the larger group, or country, and seeking immediate satisfaction.

Betrayal is in some cases inevitable. People will look out for themselves first and choose things that bring them immediate satisfaction even if it means giving up their leader. These tempting things can draw attention away from long-term goals and cause conflicts between leaders and their followers. The death or fall of leaders is only one effect of people putting their well-being before others. This kind of mindset could bring the end of mankind. Human beings have grown and evolved together. So if people continue to think of themselves and short term

satisfaction, the growth of humans will be stunted and this mentality could even bring about a recession of the human race.

Works Cited

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