Scythe

Purposely killing another morally good human being is one of the worst things someone can do. Scythe, written by Neal Shusterman, is a novel set in the future where mortality is conquered, and people live forever unless they are gleaned. One of these and the one mainly focused on by the book is “gleaning” where one of the scythes choose and kill someone from society who they deem fit to die who also do not get revived when killed. The book follows 2 teenagers who get selected by the scythe Faraday to become new scythes to glean people and the cycle continues. Killing in this sense is given a moral pass by the narrator as in the book it is seen that the reason is a good cause by helping society at large by attempting to curb the population growth and help retain aspects of when mortality existed. Murder can be defined as the unlawful premeditated killing of one human being by another. Although in the book these killings are not unlawful but, in the world, we live in now these would clearly be illegal, and they are certainly premeditated by the scythes doing the act. Although counter to Shusterman’s vision of the world in the book, the Scythes in the book dedicate their lives to committing immoral acts and are morally misguided.

Many scythes in the book are seen to abuse their powers to “glean” people in a fashion that is clearly morally abhorrent. One of these scythes and the scythe that the book mostly follows is scythe Goddard. Scythe Goddard plays the main antagonist shown by his actions such as mass gleaning, taking the high blade’s daughter hostage, and forcing Rowan to disable his pain nanites to inflict suffering on him. The stance the author takes is Scythe Goddard is immoral and terrible. The new age scythes and the traditional scythes both fundamentally killers. There is no fundamental difference between Goddard and the traditional scythes in the book as they do essentially the same immoral act. The author seems to emphasise that Scythe Goddard is eviller because he enjoys his gleanings, but the “better” scythes do not enjoy gleanings. Why would the approach one takes to killing someone change the morality of the killing as the same death is brought regardless? Regardless of how the scythes kill their victims they are all evil.

The Scythedom is an organisation which ruins the utopia the book it set in. The death of an individual can be a very traumatising event and causes suffering not only the individual dying but the people around them such as the family, friends, and peers. The death and destruction of selected individuals is the crux of the Scythedom. Having an organisation based on the Death of humans essentially chooses at random or chosen at random depending on the persons choice is fundamentally a terrible organisation. Death is not something to be taken lightly violates rules and laws in almost every culture.

In this world it is inappropriate to call gleaning killing. The use of this ephemism

The thunderhead is the ai responsible for the utopia seen in the book. It is the entire government, justice system and manages the entire in the fairest and just way theoretically possible. It is designed as a god with the purpose of helping humanity in every possible way by maintaining a one-to-one relationship with all of earths citizens. All except a few, criminals and scythes. The thunderhead in the book is hard coded to never interact with the Scythedom or interfere by its creators, but why would this possibly be the case. The real-world god if this world, the personification of good in this world cannot be wrong. It is clear that the creators of the thunderhead knew that the all-knowing thunderhead would see that the Scythed is evil and stop it so the creators excepted the Scythedom from the thunderheads rein. This is just another reason why the Scythedom is clearly a terrible organisation.

To conclude the Scythedom is clearly an awful organisation predicated on the idiotic idea that death must be preserved when mortality has been conquered. This organisation uses logical fallacies of tradition and brings it to the extreme by keeping the tradition of one of the worst things in the world, death.