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Emotionless New World

To experience strong emotion is an essential human act. Emotions like love, anger, and despair separate humans from automatons which are unable to feel or think. In the world of *Brave New World*, written by Aldous Huxley, people forgo these emotions in favour of collective stability. From disparaging any type of love, whether it be the love of nature or familial love as useless, to the anesthetizing of society through the immediate pleasures of a drug like soma, Huxley's world exerts its control on society by removing the very quality that make these people human: emotion. Emotion is sacrificed through the discouragement of attachment, family, and appreciation of nature to ensure the stability of the Brave New World.

Citizens of the World State undergo social conditioning that urges the pursuit of immediate gratification. This is to ensure that individuals are constantly satisfied and will not seek further relationships that may result in long-term attachments. Although being with only one person is deviating from the societal norm and hypnopaedic teaching, Lenina reveals that this idea is still appealing to some. However, she is able to let go of the sentiment because she lives in a society that believes that "[you] can't have a lasting civilization without plenty of pleasant vices" (Huxley 209). The World State creates many distractions to eliminate all sense of attachment. The immediate gratification that promiscuity is enough to fulfill their desires, which

sufficiently deters them from monogamy. All other desires for anything more is forgotten in the fake euphoria soma creates. The World State maintains control over society by ensuring that citizens will never want anything the state may not be able to provide. Interestingly enough, individuals are willing to abide and give up any deep desires for the instant satisfaction the state is able to provide.

Familial love has a stronger connection than most relationships, and therefore poses the largest threat in undoing conditioning. This is proven through Linda's interactions with John in the savage reserve. She informs him that he is the reason she cannot return to the World State because "That would have been too shameful" but then she "put her arms round him and kissed him again and again." Although she is aware of her conditioning and the shame of being a mother, she still expresses her love towards John. This explains why "the greatest care is taken to prevent [them] from loving too much. There's no such thing as a divided allegiance" (Huxley 237). The world controllers eliminate the possibility of ever deeply caring for anyone by getting rid of families altogether, thus eliminating the risk of developing individualism because all information flows directly from the state. This ensures that no small group of people can form their own beliefs and opinions and that the entire society learns everything as a collective whole. Love between family members is more powerful than the influence of conditioning, which creates the risk of developing individualism. This makes individuals unpredictable, so the possibility was removed completely.

The society in *Brave New World* is sustainable because of the cycle of consumption all individuals must follow. All decisions are made "on the grounds of high economic policy" and every citizen must contribute to the efficiency of the society (Huxley 22). This sustainability is

possible because of the conditioning all members of the World State experience, which destroys their love for nature. Being able to see the beauty in the world is unique to humanity, but it is sacrificed because “a love of nature keeps no factories busy” (Huxley 23). This appreciation, which is part of what makes people innately human, is destroyed because it creates an inconvenience in the function of society.

In the novel, *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley presents a society in which stability is valued above all else; even aspects that make people human. The entire society functions around ensuring security, and individuals are forced to make sacrifices in accordance to decisions made by world controllers. Ultimately, the rejection monogamy, family, and nature, that is taught through conditioning is for the purpose of making individuals easier to control, which is the key to stability. Humanity is lost among the citizens because of the sacrifices made to maintain stability as a collective whole.

Works Cited

Huxley, Aldous. *Brave new world*. New York: Harpercollins Publishers, 1998. Print.