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A Deadly Tradition

In Shirley Jackson’s “The Lottery”, traditions lead to the destruction of a society by desensitizing people so that they become apathetic towards one another. For instance, while preparing for the “Lottery”, the town’s people behave like any other day, “Soon the men began to gather, surveying their own children speaking of planting and rain, tractors and taxes.” (1 Jackson). Disregarding the importance of the lottery symbolizes a casual view of event. As a community of insensibility and individualistic ideals, a casual view of murder reflects. Moreover, after Bill Hutchinson drew the marked piece of paper, "There's Don and Eva," Mrs. Hutchinson yelled. "Make them take their chance!"(5). Mrs. Hutchinson does not demonstrate true love and has no real love for her daughter. The lottery causes individualism which destroys the fundamentals of family and love. Additionally, when Tess was getting killed, “A stone hit her on the side of the head” (7), Old Man Warner said, “Come on, come one every one.” (7). Participants of the lottery view the killing as thrilling, exciting, and perhaps fun. These thoughts emerge because the tradition of the “Lottery” makes the killing of a person seem ordinary. Traditions force people to turn a blind eye to their own faults resulting in the destruction of one’s society.