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The Transformation of Jack

In a state of nature, men are left without laws and government. When there are no laws, men begin to lose their sanity and bad things can happen. Throughout William Golding’s “The Lord of the Flies” Jack is a young boy who reveals the true nature of man by transforming into a savage killer due to the lack of rules and supervision on the island.

In the beginning of the novel, Jack is a young choir boy stranded on the island. Jack is a power hungry person. He always wants to be the one in charge. If he is not in charge he becomes very upset by lashing out at the younger boys. Jack is very controlling. He always tells the other boys around him what to do. Jack is also arrogant. He assumes he would be the best leader even when Ralph is nominated. Although he wants all the power, he is afraid of killing because Jack didn’t even want to kill so he could survive on the island. According to Bernard S. Oldsey and Stanley Weintraub, authors of “The Human Spirit Can Triumph over Barbarism,” Jack is “at first he is even less able to wound a pig than Ralph is.”

Jack soon realizes killing animals is essential for surviving. He kills his first pig. After he kills the first pig Jack realizes that it’s not as hard as he thought it would be. Jack then begins to obsess over hunting and killing. He puts himself in charge of all the hunters, and he puts hunting and killing before any other task on the island. Jack alters his appearance so that he can easily fit in with nature. “‘I painted my face- I stole up. Now you eat – all of you – and I –.‘” He paints his face and his clothes and starts yelling a chant. Jack repeatedly shouts, “Kill the pig! Cut his throat! Kill the pig! Bash him in!” Jack’s personality begins to change and he becomes ruthless.

Jack’s obsession with hunting soon leads to the death of innocent human lives. Jack ends up killing a pig to make an offering to the beast. He cuts off the pig’s head but does not use any of it for food. “Then there was that indefinable connection between himself and Jack; who therefore would never let him alone…” Jack has changed so drastically that he is no longer the boy he used to be. The others see Jack as two separate people. Jack and the hunters become so obsessed with hunting that they soon mistake Simon for the beast. They beat Simon up and end up killing him. Simon was the most innocent boy on the island and he didn’t deserve to die. In an attempt to confront Ralph and Piggy, Jack sets the forest on fire, which leads to Piggy not being able to see and falling to his death. “Ralph wept for the end of innocence, the darkness of man’s heart, and the fall through the air of the true, wise friend called Piggy.” Ralph shows remorse for the death of Piggy because of his innocence. After all of these deaths, Jack still shows no remorse about anything.

In conclusion, in the beginning of the novel Jack is a young choir boy stranded on the island. Jack soon realizes killing animals is essential for surviving and Jack’s obsession with hunting soon leads to the death of innocent human lives. During William Golding’s “The Lord of the Flies” Jack reveals the true nature of man by transforming into a savage due to lack of rules and supervision on the island.