Human goodness corruption

In the novel, *Lord of the Flies*,written in 1954 by William Golding, a British novelist, little boys are left alone on a desert island, bringing their bad side to the surface. They end up being savages, killing each other. Through his book, Golding argues that humans are born evil, but as Jean-Jacques Rousseau, a Swiss eighteen-century philosopher says, humans are born good and society is the one corrupting them. **Research has proven that humans are born good; it is money and their environment that makes them bad.**

A few researches prove that “our intuitive responses, or *first instincts*, tend to lead to cooperation rather than selfishness” (Ward). Humans are born altruist. When babies have the choice between a nice or a mean person, they pick the good one. This experiment shows how babies know what is good and are attracted by it. In another context, most criminals turn evil because of their childhood: “Research showed that as children they suffered significant abuse, sometimes psychological, sometimes physical, often sexual” (Max Serio). Being abused when they are kids influences how they behave in the future; without these experiences they may not become bad. Human beings learn a lot and fast when they are growing; therefore, it is important for them to have a proper education in a healthy environment. Growing up in a bad environment, with abusive parents, for example, really impacts the kids. This kind of background stays in the child’s head for life and affects how they behave in their life.

Money is also a big factor in one’s behavior changes. Being wealthy makes people less empathetic and compassionate. The more money one has, the more one wants. People always want more and become obsessed with this quest, so they start to care less about other people, focusing on themselves and their fortune. This search corrupts how they react; some of them would be inclined to do the worst things to their peers to gain more. Political corruption is a common situation, showing that humans would be ready to do anything for money. The whole concepts of money and wealth are some of the biggest society inventions. By living together, humans find the need to facilitate their exchanges and give worth to their belongings. Humans invented money and with the course of time, let it destroy some of their interactions.

In the book, the boys, left alone without rules or laws, become savages. Their inherent evil comes out. They are afraid of a so-called “beastie”. At one moment, Simon, one of the boys, realizes that “maybe there is a beast… Maybe it’s only us” (Golding, chapter 5). Golding strongly states that evil is within us, human beings. But if was so, why would not all the boys turn to savages? Why did Ralph, Piggy, and Simon stay sane and fight for the good side? Another incoherent element that the author incorporates in his novel is the lack of female characters. There is absolutely no female figure in the book, except a sow, that is killed in a hypersexualized way. Half of the human population is women, but Golding does not use a single girl in *Lord of the Flies.* It is very daring to make a generalization about the human race when speaking about only half of its population.

A lot of novelists and authors have written on whether humans are born good or bad. The two most famous are Golding and Rousseau. Golding’s idea that humans are born evil is strongly refuted by Rousseau. As we can see, a lot of researches about babies and criminal’s nature have shown that human is naturally good and is really influenced by the surrounding society. Also, money has been proved as one of the most corrupting sources in the world, letting people make bad and mean decisions regarding their peers. Even Golding himself leaves flaws in his well-known novel. How can you argue with a cause if your work contradicts your saying? In the end, Rousseau got it right, humans are born good and are corrupted by society.

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