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The Cost for Comfort is Freedom

Life is full of meaning, miracles, and diversity, but if that was all stripped away for our safety would that be a world that was living in. In the utopian story of *The Giver* by Lois Lowery they explore how in the comfort of ignorance without memories, there can be no true emotion and a lack of wisdom.

The entire community that Jonas lives in is a content community. They enjoy their special celebrations, school, and being with their guardians. Everything is the same and that is how they wanted it. As the giver but it “Our people made that choice, the choice to go to Sameness”. The people were scared of how the world used to be; full of starvation, war, and differences that made people feel bad. What the community does not understand is that being different is amazing and that no matter what you do you can not protect everyone’s feelings, because feelings are what makes us people and grow us. Wars and starvation may be reasons to call for a more unified government but the lengths that they went to were unrealistic. Making any form of conflict similar to that of war.

These content people that state they are happy, have never felt true happiness. They state that they are sad at the dinner table but show no true emotions, They apologize over the littlest things but their actions were just a part of living or not knowing, and not wanting to know. They compress every emotion from pain to love to make sure these strong emotions do not lead to disorder. After Jonas finally started to notice this he saw remarked on his sister’s anger and how

she had never felt anger just “Shallow impatience and exasperation, that was all Lily had felt. He knew that with certainty because now he knew what anger was. Now he had, in the memories, experienced injustice and cruelty, and he had reacted with rage that welled up so passionately inside him that the thought of discussing it calmly at the evening meal was unthinkable”. Yet his parents agree with her childish anger and because they have no wisdom and have the same childish mindset.

The parents have no way to adequately preserve anything that goes on in the world they have no experience and they have no reason to question. Like how the father, the nurturer, has to occasionally release children and has no real problem with doing so. He may state at the dinner table that he is burdened but as Jonas finds out he has no real problem putting them in the trash bin. Now, however, Jonas has this burden and guilt for both his father and himself as well, because his father no real idea what he is doing, besides his job. As Jonas put it his father lives a “life where nothing was ever unexpected. Or inconvenient. Or unusual. The life without color, pain, or past”. Their whole lives are dulled down so they can stay at consistent happiness.

All these people wanted was their comfort and in order to do that they gave discomfort to the receiver. When giving up discomfort though they lost growth, emotions, wisdom, and their overall freedom to do what they wanted. So when put in uncomfortable situations that make you want to flee, instead stick with, grow wisdom, and experience the emotion.