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心得分享(限用英文書寫，字數 500~700 字)

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The Giver

Jonas is an eleven-year-old boy who lives in a community which seems to be perfect and looks like a utopia. In there, all they know and own are selected and planned carefully, with standard procedures, from sharing feelings among family members to the clothes they wear, the furniture they use and the food they eat. For example, there are rituals for members of the same family unit to share their feelings of the day at dinner and the dreams they dreamt the night before at breakfast. People there do not have to worry about hunger, coldness, poverty, and war. It is so peaceful.

The community made out rules to keep it stable, secure, and under control. As what The Giver said, “We gain control of many things, but we had to let go of others.” All which were not necessary were eliminated; People lost their right to choose. They did not have real feelings for others, their emotions are not strong, and there was no color or music in their life. There weren’t any animals and the weather was the same all year round. In the end, the life in the community turned out to be “where nothing was ever unexpected. Or inconvenient. Or unusual. The life without color, pain, or past.” Only one person is different from all others, being able to feel, to hear and to see things differently, that is The Giver, and Jonas is about to learn these skills from The Giver since he was chosen to be his successor at the age of twelve.

The Giver alone held all the memories of the past, and now it was Jonas’s turn to inherit them. Jonas was trained separately. He and The Giver would share the memories and wisdom descended from people in the past. They are the only ones who were able to experience the pleasures and pains of life. They own this knowledge so that when needed, they can offer help for people in the community. But as Jonas knew more, he began feeling angry and disappointed that people around him were satisfied with the uneventful life and that he couldn’t change anything. To him, it was unfair that people did not have the ability to decide their ways of life and the two of them had to carry the burden for the rest of the people. He was also overwhelmed with feelings of loss since neither his family nor his close friends could understand him.

All the people in the community knew that there was an Elsewhere, far from their reach. And Jonas believed that Elsewhere was far different from the community he lived in and the nearby communities he knew. So he decided to run away, to find the place that held his future and his past, to experience real love and pain.

I was deeply touched by the story. When I first read the story, I thought living such a life would be fun! Sometimes I wish I could live a life in which I don't need to make any decisions because all are decided for me; I won't have to worry about anything so I can concentrate on what is most important to me, for example my career, studies, family, etc.

But when I finished the book, I realized what The Giver had said "life is so orderly, so predictable—so painless" was not so good; it is important that we can feel. Life is all about surprises and experiencing new things, otherwise there is no meaning in living. You will become nothing but a walking dead. That would be terrible. Pain, fear, and pressure are part of life, although sometimes we might feel overwhelmed, but they are the power to propel us to achieve more. We need innovation to make life more interesting. When you have tried and conquered challenges and still gathered the courage to stand up and fight again, although you might be injured in the process, like Jonas was on his journey to Elsewhere, then you can proudly say that you have really lived.

The Giver is a fascinating science fiction. In Jonas's world, the society is so advanced that everybody lives in a painless, danger-free world, yet it is so dull and horrible. Without feelings and connections with others and without challenges in life, human beings are like robots. I don't think that is what we are after for the future. After all, life is full of surprises, hardships and possibilities, and the love of life is what makes human beings different from other species.