

The Giver

“Suddenly he was aware with certainty and joy that below, ahead, they were waiting for him.” This is the most exciting moment that impressed me in the novel *The Giver*. From then on, Jonas needed not to be restricted and controlled by the community, and neither did the other people in the society.

Jonas, the protagonist of the novel, was a thirteen-year-old boy who was extremely special in his perfectly abnormal community. The community which he lived in was designed and controlled by the elders. There were no real colors, no lively animals, no regular relationship, and even no true feelings in the society; the society was completely separated from the outside world, and the people there, being unaware of the condition, followed the rules blindly day by day. This community seemed wonderful because everything was under control. Everyone, including Jonas, lived a happy and peaceful life; they did not have to experience any pain or sorrow, neither confusion nor depression. Not until Jonas was selected to be “the receiver” did he realize how terrible and pathetic this controlled world was.

As “the receiver,” Jonas had to receive all the memories of the past from “the giver,” the past when there were still a blue sky and different types of people in the community. Throughout the process of receiving memories, Jonas started to face the truth that the world he was once used to was unnatural and unreal. By memories, he experienced real emotion like happiness and fear; he also understood the terror of wars, the sweetness of sunshine, and the love among family. To save the other people in the community from being emotionless, Jonas had no choice but to leave the community so that the memories could go back to people.

After I read this novel, a question popped into my mind. Does living in a perfect world that is controlled by others a good thing? In the community, Jonas needed not to worry about his safety and living, just like the protagonist in the movie *The Truman Show*. Yet they did not have to face the challenges in the real world; they lost the freedom, which in my opinion, was the most important thing in human life. Jonas could not decide his career, failed to have true feelings toward the girl he liked, and even lost the right to taste the pain and joy of life. Napoleon Bonaparte once said, “Nothing is more difficult, and therefore more precious, than to be able to decide.” Deciding your own way to live might

be difficult and dangerous, but the real tragic of human life is losing the right to decide. The Israeli military leader Moshe Dayan said, "Freedom is the oxygen of the soul." Therefore, I think it does not matter whether the things you choose are important or not, it is "choosing" that is important. Maybe people in that community liked to be the same, but they did not choose to be the same. No one can make such a big decision for you. They might think they are protecting you, but they can not blind you. For this reason, I agree with Jonas when he was aware and being angry at his friends and family because they were all satisfied with their lives which were not colorful and pleasant at all.

I want to tell Jonas how I am glad for him to leave that strange and unhealthy community. He not only saved himself from living a plain life, but also the other members in the community. Living in a real and cruel world might be hard, but only when you can control your own life will you taste the sweetness of life that is created by yourself. I hope he could experience the vibrancy that he had taken on through memories in person and enjoy the happiness of having freedom and being different.

The Giver is a novel that inspired me a lot. It is not only exciting, but also giving us a chance to cherish our freedom. We should all be glad that no one is controlling the ways of our lives. Although life is like a drama, life is not a drama.