

CHAPTER FOUR

In Chapter Four of "Lord of the Flies," titled "Painted Faces and Long Hair," the boys adapt to the rhythm of island life, marked by the transition from bright mornings to oppressive midday heat, leading to restless evenings. The littluns, a term for the younger boys, begin to accept their new existence, often tending to their basic needs like food and play while dealing with their fears, especially in darkness. While some of the boys engage in trivial games, others, like Percival, isolate themselves, showing signs of distress and confusion.

As the chapter progresses, specific characters like Henry, Johnny, and Roger interact during their playtime near the beach. Roger's malicious tendencies begin to surface as he disrupts the littluns' sandcastles. The chapter paints a vivid picture of the innocence juxtaposed with the emerging darkness within the boys. While Henry feels a fleeting sense of power over tiny sea creatures, Roger, lurking nearby, begins to exhibit predatory behavior, a foreshadowing of future violence.

Meanwhile, Jack's growing obsession with hunting culminates in him painting his face with clay and charcoal, signaling a descent into savagery. The act of disguising himself with paint leads him into a frenzy of excitement and a sense of liberation from societal norms. Jack's transformation is crucial, as it marks his embrace of primal instincts over civilization.

The holistic approach of the boys' existence is highlighted when Ralph attempts to maintain order and civilization through a fire intended for rescue. However, Jack and his followers, driven by the thrill of the hunt, neglect this duty. The tension escalates leading to confrontation as Ralph confronts Jack about allowing the fire to go out during their hunt, emphasizing the struggle between civilization and savagery.

Ultimately, this chapter serves to illustrate the tension between the boys' innocence and the chaotic instincts emerging within, a microcosm of society's fragility when stripped of structure and authority. The once-unified group begins to fracture, indicating the themes of loss of innocence and the inherent darkness of humanity.