

Chapter IX

Notes

S - wakes from faint, starts to climb mt
- discovers parachutist, is sick from the smell
- unties lines of parachute from the rocks
- realises he must tell boys there is no beast, only dead man
- starts to go down mt

R,P decide to go to J's feast

J – looks like ,idol', gives meat to R,P
- invites all boys to join ,tribe'

R,J conflict about leadership, conch
Storm getting worse, starts to rain, R asks J where his shelters are
J orders boys to dance, chant – R,P partly join in

S arrives from mt, dancing boys think he is beast, attack him
S trying to tell boys about dead man
In frenzy, boys kill S

Parachutist taken out to sea
S's body taken out to sea, under stars, surrounded by creatures etc

Things to Notice

1. Simon stays true to himself and is determined to tell the boys what he has discovered, even though the LotF warned him not to. Freeing the parachute strings is another act of humanity which means the parachutist's body is now ,free'.
2. Ralph and Piggy partly understand the consequences of going to Jack's feast. They tell themselves they are going ,in case there is trouble' but it is obvious they do not believe this..
3. The point when it starts to rain and Ralph asks Jack where his shelters are is the very last time Ralph has any chance to influence the boys. Jack's response is to order the ,dance', a more primitive way of dealing with natural ,enemies' such as bad weather.
4. Ralph and Piggy partly join in the dance. We learn that they are ,eager to take a place in this demented but partly secure society'. This tells us about the ,psychology of the crowd'. In a crowd, we lose our individuality, perhaps even our mind, but we feel safe. The only boy who completely retains his individuality and moral sense is Simon ; and what happens to him?
5. There are several ironies in Simon's death. He is trying to tell the boys there is no beast on the mountain. They take him as the beast. In the way they attack him, 'with teeth and claws', they simply prove that he was right all along ; the ,real' beast is them and their behaviour.
6. The author devotes a page to a very poetic description of Simon's body going out to sea. This could mean many things ; one possibility is that Simon loved nature and, in a way, is going back to it.