*Brave New World*:Chapter notes, quotes, summaries – CHAPTER 18

Summary & what we learn:

* Mond doesn’t let John go to an island, but wants to ‘continue the experiment’.
* John feels an increasing urge to ‘purify’ himself
* He retires to an abandoned air-lighthouse
* Where he makes like a penitent – (a zealous/radical form of religion where devotees inflict pain on themselves in order to free themselves from their material body, and to become closer to Jesus through what he suffered (similar ideas abound in eastern religions)).
* He lives a natural life, gardening, making weapons to hunt, and actually becomes happy
* He cannot live with being ‘happy’ (due to his own upbringing, and that he equates happiness with the BNW).
* His behaviour is filmed and turned into a feely (in 12 days) which is so popular that scores of people come to visit him.
* He is still trying to cleanse himself of his ‘impure’ feelings of attraction to Lenina (probs had a wet dream) when they arrive.
* Lenina arrives and he starts to whip her, and himself
**Note: Lenina’s name is never actually mentioned, but we *assume* it’s her… wonder why!**
* The people all together, chanting rhythmically, and at the sight of pain (a foreign sense of sensuality for them), start chanting orgy-porgy.
* A mass-orgy takes place, John is caught up in it, and indulges all of the sins he is trying to purify himself of.
* The next morning, ashamed of becoming everything he hates, he hangs himself.

Characters:

* **John is a flawed character**: **while he rails against all that is unnatural in London, he also cannot bring himself to live out his own natural impulses.**

**He also cannot bring himself to love Lenina, because to love her, is to love the life of BNW.**

Style & Textual Features:

* The descriptions of nature are well described to create a contrast of natural beauty to the artificiality of the BNW.

18.1: find one quote that describes the beauty in nature.
* Readers are encouraged initially to see John’s environment as beautiful and idyllic, but not his self-punishments, which the reader is encouraged to feel, and to sympathise with.
* **Jake – read it:**
The final description of John’s suicide is a very powerful piece of imagery (great writing) – of his feet unhurriedly twisting in the air – he is finally able, in death, to stop fighting against everything, and let himself go/flow with the movements of the world.

Quotes:

* 199 “There was a silence. In spite of their sadness – because of it, even; for their sadness was the symptom of their love for one another – the three young men were happy”

18.2: explain this quote, and the alternative vision of happiness it presents.

KEY IDEAS:

* The theme of difference and discrimination is key in this chapter: John is filmed by a wildlife photographer, is fed peanuts “as to an ape”, and gawked at like an animal in a zoo.

QUESTIONS:

18.3 p.199 – Why do you think Mond wants to go on with the experiment?

18.4 Why do the people start an orgy? *Bit of a tricky question*

18.5 Why does John kill himself?