

## CHAPTER IV

### ANALYSIS

#### 1. Jonas' Needs Fulfillment

Living in a well-structured community, Jonas had been striving to fulfill his needs from early ages, but he might not realize the urge to fulfill it yet for they had been taken care of by the Elders. Jonas' might have taken his needs for granted ever since. When he trained as the Receiver, he became aware that the fulfillment of his needs was not satisfying enough, therefore he had to struggle to complete the needs. The struggles he did to fulfill his needs according to his new comprehension as The Receiver was through overcoming conflicts that occurs on the process of his needs fulfillment.

##### 1. Physiological/Basic Needs

When an individual is still in the beginnings of the satisfying hierarchy, the needs for survival are the ones that are first to come into consciousness. Jonas included, he did not see other things as necessary as the physiological needs, consist of food, clothes, and shelters. These basic needs are actually have been provided by the community, but there are times when Jonas' consciousness alert him of his own needs.

##### a) Food

“He was not starving. He was hungry. No one in the community was starving, had ever been starving, would ever be starving...” (p.70)

It happens when Jonas was still a Four, he strived to fulfill the most basic needs. The interesting thing was that he unintentionally uttered that he is hungry – even starving, in the middle of a mealtime, which was when he would get fed. The food in the community were distributed by people from the Food Delivery

Department everyday, so they were always available on each mealtime, either in the family units or school, or other places.

“The boy stared at him. “Water,” he begged again...” (p. 119)

On his training as The Receiver, Jonas also saw the importance of the physiological needs. Jonas became aware that if an individual could not satisfy his or her basic needs, he or she would not be able to survive.

b) Clothes

The community had provided clothes for its members, even they are set from early ages, as quoted: “...the jacket with its row of large buttons that designated her as a Seven. Fours, Fives, and Sixes all wore jackets that fastened down the back..” (p.40). Jonas also thought that it was a good thing to come up every year because each of the clothes signified responsibilities a child was expected to keep up with.

c) Shelter

Jonas lived in a place called “dwelling”, which was provided for family units. He went to school from there and after school he had to do the Voluntary work before going back to his dwelling. His sister Lily and other children, who had not done the Voluntary work yet, spent their after-school hours in the Childcare Center. If by the time Jonas and Lily grows up and form their own family unit, their parents are still working for the community, they will be sent to live with Childless Adults until they finish their responsibilities and then go to the House of Old to spend the rest of their lives there, until they are released.

Jonas has been living on the same cycle of life for Twelve years, and it is all he knows as quoted from page 103: “*Didn’t life consist of things you did each day? There wasn’t anything else, really...*” It is normal for him to feel hungry and then get feed on meal time,

and feeling full. He does not feel anything strange when he finds The previous Receiver wears the same special robe like other Elders, just like how his sister, Lily, wears the same front-buttoned jacket like other Sevens. Therefore, Jonas took his needs for granted as they were already provided by the community. When fulfilling needs, the nearer something to the basic needs, the more it will likely to appear into consciousness.

On his early days of training, Jonas acknowledged a conflict triggered by a basic need, that he realized that an apple and also his clothes were lacking the quality of color.

“...If everything’s the same, then there aren’t any choices! I want to wake up in the morning and decides things! A blue tunic or a red one?”

He looked down at himself, at the colorless fabric of his clothing. “But it’s all the same, always.”

(...)

“But now I can see colors, at least sometimes, I was just thinking: what if we could hold up things that were bright red, or bright yellow, and he could choose? Instead of Sameness.” (p. 97-98)

To choose what color to wear is included in a type of *sheer choice*, which any alternative applies to the conflict does not affect much to the individual because the goal is relatively unimportant. However, Jonas came to the point of frustration because he did not have the capacity to choose either way because what the community provided was merely colorless clothes. Jonas basically faced a set of alternatives risen from his new consciousness, and it began to frustrate him. This conflict later leads him to another thought, that is why isn’t he provided by choices from the first place, which is actually a part of safety needs.

## 2. Safety Needs

Jonas had never felt to be in danger in his entire life. The community provided safety for its members through sameness. Living in sameness means oppressing differences as much as possible. This policy was made to guarantee the safety of the community.

“Our people made that choice, the choice to go to Sameness. Before my time, before the previous time, back and back and back...” (p. 95)

Sameness began with the physical shape of the community, through Climate Control that making everything else easier to transport because there was no imbalance landscapes, there was also no risk of hunger or accidents because of unpredictable weather. Even the scientists made the innovation to keep everyone generally looks even, as quoted: “Almost every citizen in the community had dark eyes...” (p. 20)

Jonas does not enjoy differences either, he does not like it when his sister points out his pale eyes –which is different with the commonly dark eyes in the community. It was not in the rules but it is considered rude to directly called out the differences in people physically or their achievements. There are also some rules are made to keep the community’s behavior in place, and they are taught since early ages, such as the precision of language. Jonas has been carefully selecting his words to obey the rules for he had once caught using the wrong word to describe his feelings.

Moreover, the community also is watched over through cameras, and offensive or absurd acts that is considered not safe will be reminded by the Speakers. Jonas has once caught playing with an Apple and reminded from the Speaker, although his name is not mentioned but he feels that he deserves them and is obliged to make an apology to The Recreation Director.

Jonas did not think that he was being unsafe in the community where everything was so meticulously ordered and the choices were so carefully made. Jonas also believed, that he must not break the rules to keep himself safe, as quoted:

“...Jonas has, like all of us, committed minor transgressions. (...) We expect that. We hoped, also, that he would present himself promptly for chastisement, and he has always done so.” (p. 62)

Therefore, Jonas made the same choice with the community, which was to go with Sameness, to keep the order in the community and maintain its safety. Jonas decided that in this *choice between two paths to the same vital, basic goal*, which is the fulfilment of safety need, there were indeed other alternative ways but in this point, he would go with the community and keep it as they were.

“He might make wrong choices.”

“Oh.” Jonas was silent for a minute. “Oh I see what you mean. It wouldn’t matter for a newchild’s toy. But later it does matter, doesn’t it? We don’t dare to let people make choices of their own.”

“Not safe?” The Giver suggested.

“Definitely not safe,” Jonas said with certainty. (...)

“...We really have to protect people from wrong choices.”

“It’s safer.”

“Yes,” Jonas agreed. “Much safer.” (p.98-99)

Unfortunately, even though Jonas had decided to go with the Elders’ choice and accept the way things were, no matter how his visions showed him, something still bothered him, as quoted from page 99: “But when the conversation turned into things, Jonas was left, still, with a feeling of frustration that he didn’t understand.” Jonas still held onto the conservative principle of the community to accept the ways things were and believed in the Elders of the community. This also showed that once again, Jonas needs was not a hundred percent satisfied, yet fulfilled enough to bring the consciousness of the higher needs.

### 3. Belongingness and love needs

Jonas had lived up to that moment building many affiliations with his family and friends and he cherished all of his relationships. Jonas’ mother worked in the Department of

Justice where she had to make decisions regarding people who broke the rules in the community, while his Father worked in the Nurturing Center, so although his mother had higher intelligence but his father had calmer disposition, making them a balanced couple. The family unit in the community never failed, they were all set up by the Elders. After a pair of spouse was approved by The Department of Matching of Spouses and went under surveillance for three years, they may apply for a child, whom would be given in the Naming Ceremony. These children had been taken care and tested gradually in the Nurturing Center, those with underweight would not be given to any family units and will be released instead.

Jonas' family unit also adopted an infant whom they are agreed upon not to become attached to, in order to prepare him to be proper enough to get to the Naming phase. Despite of Jonas who did not hover so much upon him, he still kept a form of sympathy towards the infant, Jonas felt relieved knowing that the Elders gave him another year and did not release him for his lack of weight.

When he trained as The Receiver, Jonas saw a different kind of family. Jonas had already had a family, but somehow he saw the family in the memories more special. Each of the family members did not hesitate to show their affections through kisses and hugs. He learned that it was love that radiated the warm and comfortable atmosphere. Moreover, they were also bond by blood. The grandparents still lived with their children, and their children's children and they seemed to treasure each other. They are in opposite of the family units in the community, in which each of the family members are selected and will be separated when the children get married. Even the rules of inappropriate touching between an individual and others is also still applied between family unit members.

“It seems to work pretty well that way, doesn't it? The way we do it in our community?” Jonas asked. “I just didn't realize there was any other way, until I received the memory.”

“It works,” The Giver agreed.

Jonas hesitated, “I certainly liked the memory, though. (...)

“... But anyway, I was thinking, I mean feeling, actually, that it was kind of nice, then. And that I wish we could be that way, and that you could be my grandparent. The family in the memory seemed a little more—“ He faltered, not able to find the word he wanted.

“A little more complete,” The Giver suggested.

Jonas nodded. (p.125-126)

Jonas was faced into an alternative of choice of a family concept. The family units in his community were created in order to raise children in proper ways to create an ideal society as quoted: “Each such error reflected negatively on his parents’ guidance and infringed on the community sense of order and success.” (p. 45) So basically, a family unit was the basic of the discipline of the community. They were set in such ways in order to support the community’s pace. While in the opposite, the family he saw in the memories were people who live together by the bonds of blood and took care of each other because of love. Both of the choice situations have their own goals which are equally necessary, however choosing one of them means to give up the other which can cause the sense of conflict not properly settled. It is included in *threatening conflict*.

Clearly, Jonas liked the feeling of love and wished for it to linger in his life. It was shown when he kept pointing out the positive points of the memories, no matter how much it was impractical in his community. However, with the situation of the community he lived in now, he could not grasp the real feelings of love. He wondered if his family units, too, had the bond of love. Therefore, Jonas sought consolation by asking his parents whether they love him or not, but their answer turned out to be a disappointment, as quoted:

“Jonas. You, of all people. Precision of language, please!”

“What do you mean? (...)

“Your father means that you used a very generalized word, so meaningless that it’s become almost obsolete,” his mother explained carefully.

“Jonas stared at them. Meaningless? He had never before felt anything as meaningful as the memory. (...)

“Do you understand why it’s inappropriate to use a word like ‘love’?” Mother asked. (p.127)

Jonas did not agree with his parents, therefore he ended the conversation with a lie suggesting that he went along with them. Jonas never thought that he would need to lie, as it was a quite serious violation of rules, so when Jonas finally did it, meaning that there is a rebellion starts in his unconsciousness.

Jonas needs of affiliations and love is also reflected through his relationship with his friends. Jonas did not feel comfortable when he keeps hearing that being assigned means that he would be apart from his friends. He had been in good term with Asher and Fiona and he was sure that they would still be friends even after got separated by the Assignments. His affection towards Asher showed when he also gets worried upon how Asher would be assigned in, for he had been an unique individual. His worries disappeared when Asher looked satisfied assigned as The Assistant Director of Recreation. The same went with Fiona, although he was sure about Fiona’s Assignment and it turned out right. Unfortunately, they could not see it the way Jonas did for he had a new perception of love which had never been in the community for so long, as quoted: “He felt such love for Asher and for Fiona. But they could not feel it back, without the memories.” (p.135).

Regarding the conflict he faced when fulfilling belongingness and love needs, Jonas chose the one which is not provided in the community, meaning that he had to struggle to be able to fully satisfy it. Jonas’ dissatisfaction for belongingness and love needs satisfier that was available for him cause the satisfiers to devaluate and triggers him to search for new set of needs. Therefore, Jonas had transcended all the deficiency needs and moved onto growth needs.

#### 4. Esteem needs

##### a) Self-esteem

“Very soon he would not be an Eleven, but a Twelve, and age would no longer matter. He would be an adult, like his parents, though a new one and untrained still.” (p. 51)

Jonas was filled with confidence as his time to receive an Assignment as a Twelve drew near, for him becoming a Twelve and then assigned in the community was a kind of achievement. He was eager to leave his childhood and become an adult who contributes in the community, becoming an adult and eventually living his own life shows Jonas’ crave for independency. Jonas worried about what assignment he would be given for he can not understand his own interest, unlike his Father or some of his friends, he strived towards mastery of a field of expertise.

When Jonas was chosen as The Receiver of Memories, he felt like he finally had the chance to become *something*. Therefore he wanted to master being The Receiver wholefully, this was proven when he asked The Giver to give him more memory of pain as the Chief Elder had told him before that he would experience pain no one else ever had.

“The Chief Elder told me , at the beginning, that the receiving of memory causes terrible pain. (...) What is it that makes you suffer so much? If you gave some of it to me, maybe your pain would be less.” (p. 107)

Jonas felt that if he only experiences nice memories, then he had not fully functioned as a Receiver. In order to be a competent Receiver, Jonas felt urged taking the burden of pain, especially when he found out that the previous Receiver selected ten years ago, failed to do her job. But when The Giver finally showed him the painful memories, such as the memory of experiencing a broken leg, suffer from hunger, and even war, Jonas was terribly shaken. He gradually faced

the ugly truth of his Assignment, and it constantly led him to the choice of carrying on or not. Jonas, at first, chose to keep himself on track, he still obeyed the rules, like when he suffered from great pain because of the training, he chose not to take any medicine for it was forbidden in his rules. Jonas also still continued being The Receiver.

“Jonas did not want to go back. He didn’t want the memories, didn’t want the honor, didn’t want the wisdom, didn’t want the pain. (...) But the choice was not his. He returned each day to the Annex room.” (p.121)

“...And he, Jonas, would never have done it –never have requested release, no matter how difficult his training became. The Giver needed a successor, and he had been chosen.” (p.143)

b) Esteem for others

In the Ceremony of Twelve in which Jonas would be given his Assignment, he was first skipped by the Chief of Elders. This made him feel uneasy as quoted:

“He felt dizzy and couldn’t focus his attention (...) He hunched his shoulders and tried to make himself smaller in the seat. He wanted to disappear, to fade away, not to exist. He didn’t dare to turn and find his parents in the crowd. He couldn’t bear to see their faces darkened with shame.” (p.57-58)

Jonas’ insecurity reflects his needs of recognition by the community, he did not enjoy to be given attention as failure, when everyone else were actually having their status raised in the community. However, when he finally got called and announced that he was not assigned, but selected to be the honorable Receiver of Memories, he got mixed feelings that express his joy, as quoted:

“With the chant, Jonas knew, the community was accepting him and his new role, giving him life, the way they had given it to the newchild Caleb. His heart swelled with gratitude and pride.” (p.64)

On his way of becoming a good Receiver in order to fulfill his esteem needs, Jonas faced another conflict. It started when he was finally able to express his curiosity, not only dropping the courtesy as he already became familiar with The Giver, but also by actually finding out what he wanted to know. He had always been wondering about release, for no one

knows where Elsewhere was, so he demanded to see the ceremony of release of the twins that he had heard before from his father. Before, he thought that 'releasing' someone means taking them to Elsewhere, like transferring them to another community far away, but actually it was to kill them. Jonas who had known death from his memories was terribly shaken after he saw his Father perform an euthanasia to the newborn child.

Jonas was facing a *catastrophic conflict* where all the choices available are followed with equally catastrophic effects. Both choices were no-good for Jonas, he could not bear to go back to the community and lived as he used to be now that he knew the truth, about how cruel the rules could be by covering important matters, but if he left the community and went to Elsewhere, the memories he had will return and it might turn the community into chaos. Jonas' frustration was described in the following quotes:

"...if they lost you with all the training you've had now they'd have all those memories again themselves."

Jonas made a face. "They'd hate that." (p. 144)

"Jonas wrapped his arms around himself and rocked his own body back and forth. 'What should I do? I can't go back! I can't'" (p.153)

"...If he stayed, his life was no longer worth living." (p.155)

Once again, Jonas' values shifted. Jonas no longer cared about the rules, he felt betrayed and therefore angry. He was so disappointed in his community to the point of refusing to be a part of it anymore. He was so irritated that The Giver had to calm him down by suggesting a way out. Jonas finally made up his mind to flee from the community with the plan he and The Giver set all night. The plan was for him to leave at midnight after The Food Collector finish picking up the evening-meal remains and before the Path-Maintenance Crews had not started yet so that nobody will see him. The Giver would set an errand for his driver and hid Jonas in the storage area of the vehicle, then dropped him halfway to Elsewhere while the community might already realize that Jonas was not present in the

December Ceremony. By the time his bicycle was found, Jonas would be on his own journey to Elsewhere. However, The Giver would not be coming with them so that if a chaos rise after the community gains Jonas' memories, he could help them to handle it.

Unfortunately, another conflict rose before his departure. One evening, Jonas found out that Gabriel was going to be released on the next morning, a few days earlier from The Ceremony. Jonas who had been considering Gabe as his own little brother, could not let that happen, but in the other hand, he had the plan to escape, the plan which did not include Gabriel in it. Therefore, Jonas was faced into new choices, which were to follow the plan, meaning to let Gabe to be released or somehow found a way to protect Gabriel and prevent him from being released.

Jonas was facing a *catastrophic conflict* again, and this time he did not have The Giver with him to help him finding the solution. He had to make the decision himself, based on his knowledge, consideration, and guts. In the end, Jonas decided to take Gabriel with him and escape earlier, abandoning the well-made plan, in order to prevent Gabriel to be released the next morning. Jonas' decision to flee from the community was the beginning of his act of self-actualization.

##### 5. Self-Actualization

Jonas reached the opposite side of the river, stopped briefly and looked back. The community where his entire life had been lived lay behind him now, sleeping. At dawn, the orderly, disciplined life he had always known would continue again, without him. The life where nothing was ever unexpected. Or inconvenient. Or unusual. The life without color, pain, or past.

... He thought of the rules he had broken so far: enough that if he were caught, now, he would be condemned.

First, he had left the dwelling at night. A major transgression.

Second, he had robbed the community of food: a very serious crime, even though what he had taken was leftovers, set out on the dwelling doorsteps for collection.

Third, he had stolen his father's bicycle. ...

But it was necessary because it had the child seat attached to the back.

And he had taken Gabriel, too. (p. 165-166)

Jonas, who once was a very obedient boy, broke his own record and violate so many rules for the sake of his own righteousness. He had decided to leave the community and yet he went earlier than the plan because he can not let Gabriel to be released. He relied on his own decision to take such a great risk to be able to be a whole individual, for he could no longer live in the community with the knowledge he had.

Jonas learned that a lot of the satisfiers are lacking in quality, however he was still able to move on to the higher level set of needs eventhough he had to face difficulties to satisfy his needs, because he started to feel that the satisfiers are not compatible with how he wished them to be. By overcoming conflicts, Jonas was able to move toward the highest level of needs. Jonas had realized that he needed to self-actualize, unfortunately he could not do that as long as he lived in the community, since every member of the community was bound to the rules. To self-actualize means to develop the personality, therefore Jonas' self-actualization will be further discussed in the next sub-chapter.

## **2. Jonas' Personality Development**

An individual's personality develops as he or she pursue the growth needs and succeed fullfilling them. As described in the previous sub-chapters, it is clear that Jonas' deficiency needs had actually been fulfilled by the Elders through the system of the community. However, Jonas also did not pay much attention on his already-provided needs until he realized that those satiesfiers are lacking and he had to struggle through conflicts to reach the points of satisfaction of his needs.

Jonas' deficiency needs including basic, safety and belongingness and love needs were fulfilled by the Elders of the community. However, the way they were fulfilled were not in accordance with Jonas' expectation. After receiving the memories, he realized that the fulfillment of the needs could be so much more than how it was, unfortunately it was

impossible to do so because of the situation the Elders had set for a long time. This caused the satisfiers to devaluate and triggers Jonas to reach a higher level of needs. Therefore, Jonas started to penetrate the growth needs, as said before that an individual's personality develops as he pursue the growth needs and succeed fullfilling them.

Jonas' self-actualization was reflected through the characteristics he gained after fulfilling his needs which are in accordance with Maslow's characteristics as follows:

### 1. Acceptance and Realism

"...now he understood the joy of being an individual, special and unique and proud." (p.121)

"Now he understood about animals; and in the moment that the horse turned from the stream and nudged Jonas' shoulder affectionately with its head, he perceived the bonds between animal and human. (...)

"...now he gained too, an understanding of solitude and its joy." (p.122)

Jonas had gained knowledge about the world, and left the old perception that everything should be the same. More than merely knowing, he also understood them. He had grasp the realistic perception of himself, his sorroundings, and the world around him.

### 2. Problem-centering

Jonas' decision to take Gabriel with him proved that he did not only think of himself. He was motivated by a sense of personal responsibility as a big brother to save his little brother, he wanted to prevent the release of Gabriel. He realized that the solution to the problem was to take Gabriel away from the community.

### 3. Spontaneity

Taking Gabriel with him was also reflecting Jonas' spontaneity since he had to make the decision in so little time, with no one to consult to. His internal thoughts of saving his little brother triggers his action to take him and flee earlier than the well-made plan. Jonas had known the rules of the community for long and he was actually capable of going along with it yet he knew when he had to open himself to unconventional ways when needed.

#### 4. Autonomy and Solitude

As has been explained before, Jonas was not an ignorant person, he maintained his relationships well. However, Jonas is not afraid to separate himself from the community and live in solitude, to fulfill his full potential as a human being. How Jonas was so sure to flee from the community confirmed that he valued independence, rather than living an easy life without privacy.

#### 5. Continued Freshness of Appreciation

He felt, surprisingly, no fear, nor any regret at leaving the community behind. (p.163)

All of it was new to him. After a life of sameness and predictability, he was awed by surprises that lay beyond each curve of the road. (p.171)

Personality development takes place when the decision made is subjectively more satisfying than the previous gratification. When self-actualizing, Jonas saw the world in a different way, he was continually awed by even the simplest experience.

#### 6. Peak Experiences

As he approached the summit of the hill at last, something began to happen. He was not warmer; if anything, he felt more numb and more cold. He was not less-exhausted; on the contrary, his steps were leaden, and he could barely move his freezing, tired legs.

But he began, suddenly, to feel happy. He began to recall happy times. He remembered his family and friends, Asher and Fiona. He remembered The Giver.

Memories of joy flooded through him suddenly. (p.177)

“If he had stayed in the community, he would not be (starving). It was as simple as that. Once he had yearned for choice. Then, when he had had a choice, he had made the wrong one: the choice to leave. And now he was starving

But if he had stayed. . .

His thoughts continued. If he had stayed, he would have starved in other ways. Hewould have lived a life hungry for feelings, for color, for love.

And Gabriel? For Gabriel there would have been no life at all.” (p. 172,173)

To self-actualize is to choose growth needs and risk safety over it. The more mature he became, Jonas seeked growth values more than the deficiency values. It is true that Jonas’s higher nature rests upon his lower nature, on the process of self-actualizing, Jonas reflected how much his deficiency needs are important for him, but he still chose to be able to have freedom, and self-actualize. This is also is called as peak experience when Jonas has actually transformed and feel moments of joys upon it.

As Jonas now becomes a full functioning human being who is independent and free.

He has he characterisic of a self-actualized person which arehaving realistic perception of themselves, others, and the world around him; motivated by personal sense of responsibility to solve problems outside themselves, including helping others; spontaneous in his internal thoughts and outward behaviour; has the independence upon himself despite of enjoying others’ company; continually become awed by the world; and has the peak experience which is moments of joy that makes him feel transformed or renewed. Therefore, Jonas has developed his personality and becomes a self-actualized person.