



## Blind adherence to traditions in "The Lottery" by Shirley Jackson

By Ahmet Yildirim

GRIN Verlag GmbH Nov 2014, 2014. Taschenbuch. Book Condition: Neu. 210x148x1 mm. This item is printed on demand - Print on Demand Neuware - Seminar paper from the year 2014 in the subject English Language and Literature Studies - Literature, grade: 1,7, University of Osnabrück, language: English, abstract: The Lottery, written by Shirley Jackson, published in 1948, is a prime example for a society that blindly follows an outdated and harmful tradition without questioning it. Usually, winning the lottery implies that one participant gets rewarded, but in Shirley Jackson's short story, winning The Lottery means getting stoned to death by the other participants, that is, by their neighbours, friends and even own family members. My claim is that traditions which have lost their meaning and are followed blindly can cause otherwise normal people to act abnormally without thinking. Thus, the human nature is not inherently violent, but it is the unthinking adherence to their tradition which is the primary cause of their violence and cruelty. After all, groups of people can easily influence human nature as well as their distinction of good and evil provided that the people uncritically follow a tradition which they do not consider as a...



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