

The book surprised me when the Giver said that Jonas will never return to his community. As bleak as their life must be, I could never imagine someone as prodigious and sensitive as Jonas leaving his people behind to find a better future for himself. The very fact that he was selected to be the next Giver proves that he puts others' wellbeing before his desires, as does his attempt to save Gabriel. Even if it were forbidden, someone like Jonas could make a way back to his community. In reality, people like Jonas leave and later return to help their community. Sometimes, they never leave at all and instead attempt to work from the inside to bring on change. People like Jonas seem like they would be emotionally incapable of leaving people they know to an uncertain fate.

I will differ from Jonas in that way; I will never abandon my community. As our society tries to become 'secular' and 'fair', I swear that I will work to ensure (with my vote and my activism) that our culture is not annihilated in the process. Religion, race and beliefs, however controversial, are what make our world diverse...what make it beautiful. Sorrow, pain, joy, and laughter...they are all a part of life. Just as my Muslim friend continues to fight for her right to wear the hijab, I will fight for the things I believe in.

Your book proved to me, I would rather live with everything than live with nothing. A world without differences is a world without meaning. A world without pain is a world without joy. A world without darkness is a world without light. A world without color...is a world without life.

Thank you, Mrs. Lowry, for showing me the way the world should never be. For showing me that no matter how much life puts you through, it is always worth it. Living is the greatest gift ever given to humankind...I hope I can help a small part of the world remember that.

Sincerely,
Natasha Kumar