

Ursula K Le Guin

Relevance to US

Omelas is not an exact analogy for our world, but there are enough similarities that it makes sense to say that we live in some form of it. Our comfort and our well-being as privileged (to some degree or another) inhabitants of the world's richest country depend on the exploitation of not one child, but many children.

Omelas is an anagram for Salem Oregon, spelled backward

Ursula Le Guin (nee Kroeber)
1929 Born Berkeley California
2018 Passed Portland Oregon (age 88)



- Dad: professor/anthropologist at UC Berkeley
- Mom: author starting about age 60; had a graduate psychology degree
- Ursula had three brothers
- Family knew many well-known academics, including Robert Oppenheimer
- Grew up in Berkeley, with some summers spend in Napa Valley
- Wrestled with math, and in so doing turned away from her early interests of biology and poetry

- Berkeley HS
- Harvard: BA in Renaissance French and Italian Literature
- Columbia University: MA in French
- 1953, met future husband on a ship while traveling to France for Doctoral studies
- Married, left the PhD program. 3 kids
- She becomes a professor. Teachers at Portland State University.
- Lived in Portland from early-1960s to the end of her life.
- Passed of a heart attack. Ill health in final months.

- First published work in 1959 (age 30)
- 20+ novels and 100+ short stories
- Most science fiction/fantasy, some political-bidden-as-fantasy, some gender based and feminism.
- She is the first women to receive many literary awards
- Influences on her work: cultural anthropology, Taoism (Chinese philosophy), feminism and Carl Jung