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Eco-Pathological Repercussions and Holocaust Zombification in the Twenty-First Century as Imagined in Margaret Atwood's *Oryx and Crake*: An Examination

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Abstract

This research article at the outset deals with a book called *Oryx and Crake* by Margaret Atwood that explores the dangers of science and how it can harm nature and people. In the book, the author explores a scenario where individuals turn into mindless creatures, posing an imminent threat to the survival of humans. The author seeks to alert humans regarding to these issues. This article emphasizes the value of individuals having a relationship with nature. According to this article, Atwood effectively depicts the pre-and post-apocalyptic world. The article emphasizes that humans are a crucial component of the earth, but the earth cannot be reduced to being just human possession. Having the correct mindset regarding environmental stewardship is crucial for individuals. It is essential for individuals to coexist peacefully and harmoniously with the natural surroundings. To stay alive and coexist peacefully with nature, he must abide by its laws and regulations. People who fail to show respect and consideration towards this law of nature are responsible for causing immense harm to the environment and its surroundings. They inadvertently jeopardize their own well-being by interfering with their own connection to the natural world. The main focus of this research paper is on alarming patterns that prioritize human concerns rather than the well-being of nature and the environment. Furthermore, it exhibits the global and human damages caused by ecological disasters, genetic engineering, and bioterrorism. Ultimately, this research article suggests that humans should acknowledge their role within the natural world and abstain from seeking dominance over it. It is essential for individuals to make diligent efforts in establishing a peaceful coexistence with nature and thereby fostering a harmonious environment.

Keywords: Holocaust, destruction, science, technology, apocalyptic, world, mankind, nature, world, scenario, zombification, twenty-first, century

Introduction

“I know not with what the World war-III will be fought, but World war-IV will be fought with sticks and stone.” (Albert Einstein)

The Avatar's ingenuity and imagination led to the creation of an enchanting world. He felt a great sense of inspiration and positivity, leading him to create a vivid and lifelike world, filled with flora and fauna. Additionally, he formed a universe for mankind that overflowed with compassion and consideration. God designated distinct habitats for both nature and mankind to inhabit. He established a picturesque setting where the growth and prosperity of flora, fauna, and diverse living entities took place. The place boasted of possessing trees, verdant zones, and the ocean too. God has also fashioned a distinct area for mankind to reside and flourish in the realm. The natural world consisting of plants, animals, and other forms of life holds great benefits for humans. They make use of the gifts of nature to reap profits for themselves.

Nature is being exploited and environmental degradation is being caused by those with an insatiable hunger for money. The positive outcomes that stem from the universe are also disregarded by them. The prime focus during the inception of the universe was on nature. This is also known as a nature-centered world. Nature and its parts are important and valued. Humans need to rely on nature's universe to live and survive. The Ecozoic era is another name for a time when humans and the earth live together and help each other. It was named by Thomas Berry and means that we have to take care of our planet and all the living things on it. Over time, humans with a selfish and harmful attitude have destroyed the natural world. Today, in the 21st century, our actions have a very negative impact on the environment. In simple words, people in the 21st century don't understand that the earth belongs to everyone and not just to humans. The things people do on earth are making the planet sick and causing problems like hurricanes, diseases, droughts, floods, and the loss of animals and plants. Whenever humans do something that harms nature, it can cause a really bad outcome. It could even lead to

a disaster that affects everyone. The word “Holocaust Zombification” refers as follows:

“Only after the last tree has been cut down,
only after the last river has been poisoned.
Only after the last fish has been caught, Only the mankind
find that money cannot be eaten”. (Cree Indian Prophecy)

It's true that nature has endowed us with countless blessings that bring joy and fulfilment, yet we must avoid being overly avaricious and embezzling them excessively. The insatiable greed for Earth's resources among people has caused extensive damage, including harm to numerous individuals and a scary scenario that resembles a zombie apocalypse. The 21st century witnessed the corona-covid19 virus spreading extensively, indicative of this fact. The negative impact of human actions on nature is leading to severe consequences. It can result in issues for both the natural world and the populace. Margaret Atwood, a Canadian author, has predicted and imagined a future where humans do not exist, and the world is in an apocalyptic state.

Among Canada's esteemed personalities is Margaret Eleanor Atwood, who is lauded for her prowess in various fields such as poetry and novel writing, literary discussions, essay evaluations, innovation, education, and environmental conservation. She has written and published a lot of books since 1961. She wrote 18 books of poetry, 18 novels, 9 collections of short stories, 8 books for kids, and 2 graphic novels. Atwood is a very good writer and has won many awards for her writing. Some of these awards are the Booker prize, Arthur Clarke Award, Governor General's Award, Franz Kafka Prize, National Book Critic Award, and PEN centre USA Lifetime Achievement Award. Atwood writes about many important topics like gender and identity, religion, myths, how language is powerful, climate change, politics, civilization, nature, the environment, death, human feelings, and science. She also cares a lot about the Earth and wants to protect it. The things she wrote have a lot of evidence of nature and why it's important. In the words of Mary Irving Campbell about Margaret Atwood's commitment to her professionalism:

“From Atwood's novelist is hard to know what a truly warm, sympathetic and kind person she is. Her patience and courtesy with strangers at look-sings, reading, public appearances are never failing. She will stay on the task till every last reader has been greeted and sent away happy with an Atwood autograph even after a long reading, a longer question and answer session, and probably days of arduous travel before and after. She has an enormous zest for new experience” (47).

Environmental concerns gained more attention among the public in the year 1961. Margaret Atwood began contemplating the link between humans and the environment. Margaret Atwood is deeply committed to protecting and preserving the natural world. She has written about how humans can damage nature, which is dangerous for both nature and people. New and constantly changing scary technology and dangerous scientific improvements can lead to bad consequences that might make the world unsafe for humans. This dangerous situation is described in the novel *Oryx and Crake* as a possible future where there are biological dangers. The novel *Oryx and Crake* is about how humans think they are more important than nature and everything else in the world. Atwood's novel delves into the

notion that the pursuit of science without ethics can create significant hazards for our planet, resulting in a viral outbreak that transforms individuals into undead beings.

At the beginning of the novel, Atwood introduces us to the main character, a man called Snowman. Residing in a world devastated by calamity, he resides alongside the Crakers, who have a human-like appearance. Atwood divides the narrative into two time frames—one preceding a disastrous outcome and one subsequent to it. The snowman's name was Jimmy before everything ended. He remembers this from his past. The Snowman talks about a world where people with power and big companies control everything using dangerous science. This world is focused on humans and their needs. It was like this before everything ended. Employees of large companies live with their families in special areas where they are apart from everyone else.

The story starts in a world after a disaster, where a character named Snowman is very hungry. He goes to look for food and things in a ruined place called "RejuvenEscence". It's hard to find food and things in the ruined place because there are scary animals there. He's trying to stay alive and keep the Crakers alive too by going to RejuvenEscence. While he's traveling, the story goes back to his life before the world ended. The Snowman's name is Jimmy and he lives in a compound with his family. They live there because his parents work for a company called "HealthWiser" as genographers. Jimmy had a smart friend named Glen who was good at science. Jimmy gave Glen a nickname "Crake". Both spent their time together watching bad videos of people being killed and children being sexually abused, as well as smoking and using drugs. Jimmy was very interested in an Asian girl he saw while watching porn. He started calling her Oryx.

Jimmy and Glen went to different colleges after they finished high school, so they were not together anymore. Crake went to a very good school called Watson Crick Institute for bioengineering. Jimmy went to a different school called Martha Graham Academy for studying humanities, but it is not as respected. Crake was once a smart student who became a crazy scientist. He cared only about science and didn't care about being good. He caused a terrible disaster that turned people into zombies. He did all of this on his own. Crake made some humans called Crakers. He made them so families could choose how to make their children look and act. Crake may not have been ethical. The Crakers are different from people because they can only have sex at certain times of the year. You can tell when a female Craker is ready to have sex because she turns blue during that time.

Crake and Jimmy talk to each other using the internet. Crake tells Jimmy about his new project, a pill called BlyssPlus. This pill called BlyssPlus is made to stop serious infections that can be passed on during sex. Crake thinks that if people take a pill called BlyssPlus, their sex drive will increase. He believes this will stop people from feeling frustrated and committing violent crimes. Crake asked Jimmy to promote BlyssPlus to people, but he didn't tell Jimmy that the pill was meant to cause a global sickness. The BlyssPlus pill made everyone die. Everything was destroyed and chaotic, except for the RejuvenEscence compound where only the Crakers and Jimmy were safe.

Jimmy found out that Crake caused the pandemic. These crackers are strong against the virus and Crake gave Jimmy a shot to avoid getting sick. Sadly, Jimmy killed Crake after seeing him kill the girl named Oryx who looked after the crackers. This is how Margaret Atwood finished the story of Snowman (or Jimmy) before the world ended. At the end of

the story, there is only the Snowman left as a person in the world. He takes care of the Crakers like he promised Oryx and Crake. Then, when he came back from the destroyed Rejuvenescence building, he met three people. The people don't see the Snowman, but he is unsure if he should hurt them or make friends with them. It remains a mystery what Snowman decides at the conclusion of the story, as Margaret Atwood does not disclose it.

Atwood wrote a story about a man named Crake who made creatures called Crakers. Regardless of the environment or human life, he was apathetic and responsible for a pandemic that eradicated the entire human population, similar to rodents destroying harvests. Atwood has envisioned the twenty-first era of Eco-pathological scenario through the ravenous insatiate bioengineer Crake. The spread of worldwide pandemic is expressed in the words of Margaret Atwood:

“The first bulletin came in at nine forty-five. At first Jimmy thought it was routine, another minor epidemic or splotch of bioterrorism, just another new item. Then the next one hit, and the next, the next, the next, rapid-fire. Taiwan, Bangkok, Saudi Arabia, Bombay, Paris, Berlin. The Pleeblands West of Chicago. The maps on the monitor screens lit up, speckled with red as if someone had flicked a loaded paintbrush at them. This was more than few isolated plague spots. This was major. Crake told the monitor crew to go to the news channels. It was a rough hemorrhagic. The symptoms were high fever, bleeding from the eyes and skin; convulsions then break down of the inner organs followed by death. The bug appeared to be airborne, but there might be a water factor as well. Oryx was crying, it was the pills. It was in those pills I was giving away. Those pills were supposed to help people Crake said...?” (379-380).

Crake created a way to harm both nature and people's lives. There is a noticeable increase in the incidence of this problem, specifically in 2020. The deterioration of the environment is due to human activities. Covid19, a novel virus, is causing a lot of disruption and complications worldwide. If this illness spreads all over the world for a long time, we might have to imagine a world like the one Margaret Atwood wrote about, with lots of destruction and zombie-like creatures. Hybridization of various creatures such as animals, birds, insects, and microbes can yield both beneficial and detrimental consequences. In Margaret Atwood's book *Oryx and Crake*, there are pills called BlyssPluss and animals such as pigeons and wolfdogs that can harm people. She talks about how humans are causing dangerous illnesses and it could lead to many people dying and harming nature.

It is important to know that COVID-19 is a new kind of virus that has changed through mutations. The virus is made by mixing the Sars-Corona virus with the Bat-Corona virus. Some people think that China created a dangerous virus on purpose and plans to use it against other countries. Though, this news about the Novel Corona-Covid19 may be a rumour or a plain matter of fact but my principal design is to inform you about the man-made illness towards them itself. It also makes nature unsteady, which causes many changes in the environment. Margaret Atwood showed how this technology can harm things in her book *Oryx and Crake*.

To conclude, the effects of eco-path have caused humans to abandon their compassionate nature, which may eventually result in the collapse of our society and eventual extinction as a species. The novel by Atwood narrates the story of Crake and Snowman, two individuals who possess diverse

personalities. Crake is very ambitious but doesn't care about morals, and he ends up destroying humanity. Snowman cares about other people and is able to survive after the end of the world. All individuals are obligated to contribute to the well-being of the planet for the benefit of future generations. A rudimentary comprehension of the universe's philosophy is essential for everyone. The concluding word as follows:

“When the blood in your veins returns to the sea and the earth in your bones returns to the ground and perhaps then you will remember that this land does not belong to you who belong to this land”. (Native American Quote).

Conclusion

The earth used to be in a favourable state known as the holocene world in earlier times. It was a period when the earth and its valuable resources held immense importance. At present, the environment is plagued by significant issues such as global warming, pollution, and deforestation. The current epoch is known as the "Anthropocenic" period, denoting that humans have exerted the greatest impact on the climate and environment. The current state of our planet, known as the "Anthropocenic" era, has led to the destruction of Earth's natural environment and a disregard for the principles of nature. Human values govern all decisions, considering humans as the paramount and pivotal element in the universe. The main concept explored in her novels is the inherent interconnectedness between individuals and the natural world, emphasizing their inseparability. Humans have been utilizing and benefiting from the resources provided by nature for an extended period. This perspective was exemplified by Margaret Atwood in her imagined fictional realm. Her science fiction stories delve into both the present reality of our world and a hypothetical future where the devastation of nature leaves humanity in a state of immense hardship. The concept of humans being the focal point of everything has had detrimental effects on our planet. Through her fictional world, Margaret Atwood has skilfully illustrated the accountability of humans for this tragedy.

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