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## Impact on Human Psyche of Dystopian Escapism

Dr. Neelam  
Govt. College Women,  
Narnaul

Science fiction deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts. It's a genre of speculative fiction. It deals with advance science and technology seems. It explores new ideas that seem a fantasy but it may be a realized truth one day. It talks about space, exploration, time travel, parallel universes, extra terrestrial life, artificial intelligence, cybernetics etc. Atomic bomb, robot, borazon are existed inventions which were predicted earlier, whose names entirely mater their fictional predecessors. It is related to fantasy, horror and superhero and contains many subgenres. It inspires a 'Sense of Wonder'. It is hailed as literature of ideas and has become popular over much of the world. It explores the consequences of scientific, social and technological innovations. Though is a great source of entertainment but also criticizes present day dystopian atmosphere and explores alternatives, where dystopian writer finds solace and can imagine his future in his own way.

Science fiction's rapid rise in popularity during the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is described as "Cultural Wallpaper". It's widespread influence is in trend for writers to employ science fiction as a tool for advocacy and generating cultural insights. Sometimes it has been used as a means of social protest. George Orwell's nineteen eighty four is an important work of dystopian science fiction. It is often invoked in protest against governments and leaders who are son as totalitarian. Mary Shelley wrote a number of science fiction novels including Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus. There is a list of science fiction novels, films, television programs and collections of linked short stories.



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Science fiction's elements take away a dystopian writer in a new world where he can live his or her imagined life which is never possible in reality. Important elements of science fiction include

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- Temporal setting in the future.
- Space travel.
- Aliens, mutants, enhanced humans.
- Predicted or speculative technology such as brain – computer interface, super intelligent computers, robots and other advanced weapons.
- Undiscovered scientific possibilities.
- Future history
- Mind control and telepathy.

Science fiction had its beginnings in a time when the lines between myth and fact were blurred. The satirist Lucian, written ‘A True Story’ contains many themes and characteristic of science fiction. It is the earliest known work of fiction to include travel to outer space, alien life forms and interplanetary warfare. It has been described as “the first known text that could be called science fiction. ‘A True Story’ is written to satirize stories like Homer’s odyssey, or Antonius Diogenes’s ‘Of The wonderful Things Beyond Thule’, which involves human travelling to the moon. Both present fantastic things as if they are real. Lucian wrote the most fantastical story he could and used his new world in order to identify problems in the real world. ‘True Story’ involves encounters with the life forms from the Sun and Moon, as well as life forms created by human technology.

We continue our journey into the origin of science fiction with ‘One Thousand and One Nights’ also known as Arabian Nights, is a compilation of tales. A Persian king discovers that his brother’s bride is unfaithful, so he killed her. He then convinces himself that all



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women are in fact the same, so he proceeds to marry a strings of virgin, only to kill them the next day. The realm runs out of Virgins, so the king's vizier is forced to give him his own daughter, but the girl has a brain, so on the first night she begins to tell the king a story without ending it. Her husband is forced to wait another night to hear the conclusion. She repeats the same game and so on and on it goes for 1,001 nights. Among this plethora of tales, there are some who feature clear science fiction elements. On the 486<sup>th</sup> night the protagonist, Bulukiya, embarks on a quest for immortality and along the journey he visits many places, filled with fantastic creatures. 'The City of Brass', 'The Ebony Horse', 'Third Qalandar's Tale' etc. are another events in Arabian nights having science fiction elements. The hero travels across the cosmos, to worlds in habited by talking snakes and trees.

Science fiction has predicted scientific and technological progress of H.G. Well's 'The Time Machine' and Aldous Huxley's 'Brave New World', warn about possible negative consequences. Writers used science fiction as a tool for advocacy and generating cultural insights. People who read or prefer science fiction may think about or relate to science differently than other people. They tend to support the space programme and idea of contacting extra terrestrial civilizations. Science fiction generates a sense of wonder. It's appeal lies in combination of the rational, the believable, with the miraculous. It can convey bits and pieces, hints and phrases of knowledge, unknown or inaccessible to the reader. Moreover, it paves the way of escapism from dystopian society. There is a feeling of disappointment and even outrage that the outer world or this dystopian society has invaded their private domain that force to travel in a world far beyond all this. Science fiction writers talking about our world by pretending to talk about another. They are sneaky and nuanced like that. As our romantic poets find solace in their own imaginative poetic world, science fiction writers also lost in lots and lots of journeys. People are travelling all over the space. They might zip from galaxy to galaxy or from time to time.



Time travel is a big theme of science fiction. Avengers Endgame is a fine example of time travel. Marvel brought back a character who has been gone a long time for a key moment in ‘Avengers: infinity war’ Super powerful bad guy Thanos quest together six all powerful Stones takes him all over the galaxy. He visits no fewer than three different planets plus the strange space outpost, “Guardians of the Galaxy’ as well.

Marvel Cinematic Universe’s latest entry, Avengers Infinity War raises a question what is the worth of one life relative to many? but avoids offering the usual easy answer. It asks audiences to sit with failure and doubt Thanos’s plan is fairly crude utilitarianism. As World War II showed in the US, Japan and Germany, the aftermath of a mass casualty event can be a period of sustained economic growth. If Thanos succeeds, there will be half as many people they will have access to twice as many resources and will end up twice as happy and the total amount of well being in the universe will increase.

Technically concept of superhero and science fiction are interdependent. J.R.R. Tolkien reads Fairy Tales and Arthurian Romances, and writes ‘The Lord of Rings’ and every author of epic fantasy from then has a starting point. The Lord of the Rings is an epic high fantasy refers to the story’s main antagonists, who had in an earlier age created one Ring to rule the other Rings of Power as the ultimate weapon in his campaign to conquer and rule all of middle earth.

Super hero films make 50% of the domestic top ten highest grossing films of all time. Near culturally ubiquitous and seemingly immune to audience burnout, super heroes are powerful mythic figures in our culture which simulate the ancient gods and heroes. Then, why do we love super heroes? What psychological and philosophical voids in our culture are these heroes filling? Using Nietzsche’s Ubermensch as a theoretical frame, three



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modern societal trends that correspond with Nietzsche's predictions to necessitate a society in need of superman:

- Falling trust in Govt.
- Loss of faith in religion
- Increasing paranoia and fear about the world due to effects of increased media consumption.

Science fiction is a genre based on many early models but which crystallized in comics. It has infiltrated the Cinema, Radio and Television. Stories involving figures with super powers and whose actions tend to keep the world safe.

These are may be the reasons that created Shaktimaan, an Indian superhero who received powers from seven gurus who trained and blessed him with "yogic shakti" which was natural power. He was the chosen warrior against evil. Shaktimaan was created to destroy Kilvish. But Kilvish can only be defeated after evil is destroyed. Shaktimaan's mission is to destroy the sin within people. Shaktimaan is the first Indian superhero. He is depicted as a human who has attained super human strength and power.

In Gladiator, a science fiction novel by Philip Wylie, a scientist invents an 'alkaline free radical' serum to improve humankind by granting the proportionate strength of an ant and the leaping ability the grasshopper. The scientist injects his pregnant wife with the serum and his son Hugo Danner is born with superhuman strength, speed and bullet proof skin.

Many things that were once science fiction have already become reality. We have walked on the moon, we have created clones, and synthetic life, and many people now have access to almost all human knowledge through a device that can fit in their pocket Technology is



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progressing so fast that it is changing society, leading to unprecedented moral dilemmas and scientific challenges. This means that science fiction is more important than ever. Considering the effect of developing technologies, science fiction can help address long term problems. It can help with the development of space exploration and prepare us for problems, we may not anticipate. One day time travel, teleportation or genetic engineering of humans may happen, we might communicate with aliens, invent simulated realities or build intelligent robots and we will be better prepare to deal with these. Science fiction is the only genre that depicts how society could function differently. It also makes us to imagine the future we want, and consider ways to work towards it. It also makes us aware of future we wish to avoid and helpless to prevent them. Super hero fiction has conveyed to some extent with urban fantasy, but it is convergent evolution.

Some of popular super hero films such as Black Panther, Wonder Woman and Avengers. Super heroes provide us safety and security in place of failing traditional institutions of order superheroes exist not to fright off aliens or super villains. They exist to provide us with a sense of meaning and serve as the ancient gods or heroes.

Dystopian writer finds solace in science fiction, where he can imagine his future in his own way. This absurd society force him to embark upon a new journey to travel or escape in a world of science fiction where no any disparity regarding caste, creed and gender. Sometimes science fiction has been used as a social protest eg. George Orwell's 1984. We may consider science fiction as a social alienation product. A feminist science fiction poses question about social issues such as how society constructs gender roles and role reproduction plays indefining gender and in quitable political and personal power of one gender over other. Science fiction is a world of liberty and individualism. It makes us aware of the future we wish. It can be used to explore our place in the universe. Its



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approach is regional to global: science fiction provides a direction to provide urgent propaganda for a change in direction.

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