

A STUDY: APOCALYPTIC AND POST-APOCALYPTIC FICTIONS

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Abstract

*Apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic concept which involves a global catastrophic risk and it mainly focuses on climate change, man-made events and alien invasion. So, based on these concepts, two typical novels have been analyzed regarding technology and human decline. And, this article states about, *The Day of the Triffids* (1951) post-apocalyptic novel, written by John Wyndham who explains a plague of blindness that befalls the whole world, as technology allows the rise of aggressive species of plant. On the other hand, *Planet of the Apes*, which was written by Pierre Boulle, was a story designed to the modern day, through showing a transfigured future, which leads to a complete downfall for human. These two novels depicts the concept that disaster may be natural or man-made but whatever the cause will be, the effect it shows would be dangerous, instead it convey a message predicting the revelation of the world into the new era.*

Key Words: *Disaster, Revelation, Advancement in Technology, Human Decline.*

Apocalyptic and Post-Apocalyptic Theme

Apocalyptic literature was a Jewish genre, which is mainly science fiction with event being climate change such as natural impact event, man-made catastrophic risk like nuclear warfare on the other hand medical impacts like virus or a plague. But in religious contexts it is said as a disclosure of something hidden or a heavenly secrets that can make sense of earthly realities or in other words it is the ultimate victory of good over evil in reference to prophetic revelation. The term 'post-apocalyptic' is derived from 'apocalypse', which is often associated with religious or biblical content. According to the Oxford English dictionary, 'apocalypse' indicates "a disaster resulting in drastic, irreversible damage to human society or the environment, especially on a global scale; a cataclysm" (12).

Approach

Accordingly, based on this concept two distinct novels, John Wyndham's *The Day of the Triffids* and Pierre Boulle's *Planet of the Apes* explains the objective of sociological approach, were the people and their nature eradicating ways during the global catastrophe was found to be unnatural and that too humans distrusted each greedily and wanted to play with God and his nature. Thus, it will be an engineered human solution to problems as they should understand the perspectives to act when something happens as the global catastrophe and should believe that prevention is an important goal.

The Day of the Triffids

The Day of the Triffids was an apocalyptic fiction based on the concept of drastic technological advancement in implementing a new species named triffids was a valuable human engineered plant as they are cultivated on earth which has possessed a rudimentary level of intelligence but it ultimately leads to the effect of conflict with people. In fact, their extracts were found to be favorable to existing vegetable oils, which is why they were eventually turned and cultivated.

The first thing they discovered about it was that it was not fish-oil, anyway: it was vegetable, thought they could not identify the source. The second revelation was that it made most of their best fish-oils look like grease-box fillers. (DT 21)

But the purpose of the invention has been eradicated where, the main reason what we found in that novel was the way to put a man out of action. Thus, these triffids understood that man is superior with the sight, so it has planned of taking away the vision, where man was unable to adapt the situation.

This has been evident from the character of the novel, depicted the mental agony and it also describes the effects of isolation to our mind. It has been proven that the lust for power, human were foolish enough to breed the triffids and create destructive satellites that caused loss of vision, which ended up becoming food for the triffids. According to critic John Scarborough, "One might have expected him to return to his tried-and-true formulas in science fiction after the war, but in *The Day of the Triffids*, published under the name John Wyndham, he revealed a new style and some subtle shifts in his outlook".(5) But, the triffids may be a symbolic representation of our selfish vices and how it can swallow as whole.

Planet of the Apes

On the other hand, the novel *Planet of the Apes* was designed to draw parallels to the modern day, as showing a transfigured future, which had gradually proven a human decline. This novel was basically a science fiction, as plays with the idea of a time warps, where the astronauts who having completed their time travel mission, and crash land on an unknown planet before they can return to Earth.

The novel state about the tale of three human explorers from Earth who travel to a planet orbiting the star *Betelgeuse*, in which great apes are the dominant intelligent and civilized species, whereas humans are reduced to a savage animal-like state:

Jinn and Phyllis were spending a wonderful holiday in space, as far away as possible from the inhabited stars. In those days interplanetary voyages were

an everyday occurrence, and interstellar travel not uncommon. Rockets took tourists to the wondrous sites of Sirius, or financiers to the famous stock exchanges of Arcturus and Aldebaran. (PA 7)

The author who gives a detailed description about the star named Betelgeuse or Alpha Orionis, which was 300, light years distant from our Earth. It also has a remarkable element and features were determined for valuable things. Initially, its size was 300-400 diameters greater than sun, and while stating about its brilliance, where it is the star of first magnitude and brightest star in the Universe. It's rays emits red and orange lights. The author of the novel, Boulle who has a good imaginative and expressing talent through his writing, which also makes the readers to involve into this own imaginative ideas.

The apes treat humans as subject whose brain has been stimulated by electrodes recites from racial memory the events that led to the fall of human civilization. Humans tame apes and eventually use them as servants. Things begin to change. Apes start looking humans straight in the eye. The first ape, a chimpanzee, talks. As more apes learn to talk, a cerebral laziness takes hold of the humans. Apes gradually take over human homes, driving the humans into camps outside of the cities. In the final memory, apes attack the last human camp carrying only whips.

By following the novels' ideas and concepts, this particular article *A Study of apocalyptic and post-apocalyptic fictions*, states about the criteria about the prophets' revelations which show God's justice as taking place in the future or as imminent now. The genre of revelation aims to show God's way of dealing with humankind and His ultimate purposes, and its writers often reveal the meaning of present events in connection with the ending of the present age. It also describes that which shall come to pass in the later days; similarly it also explains to make the understanding, what shall befall people in the later days.

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