

Concept of Science and Religion in Asimov's Fictional World

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Abstract: Science and religion have connectivity relationship. But some of humanity's greatest minds have found in science itself a rich source of spirituality. In which Science can also be about alien invasions, geological changes, groundbreaking inventions and interplanetary warfare. They are often fantastic though they may be rooted in reality and stretch the imagination. Because of this highly imaginative character, science fiction is not considered as serious art and has for many decades been stigmatized as a genre literature that adults need not bother with. The concept of 'science' and 'religion' are a recent invention that in which Religion emerged in the 17th century in the midst of colonization and globalization, In the 19th century, science came to light in the midst of attempts to narrowly define those who studied nature. Science and religion have been Portrayed as conflict harmony, complexity, or mutual independence. Both science and religion are complex social In which humans are curious about environmental events since pre-historic times before they took it either as an outbreak of God or as a result of their own misdeeds, but as scientific inventions emerge it is felt that these are simply the consequences of some natural process in the Universe. Asimov's fictions are woven round science and religion. In his fictions these episodes are considered as a natural phenomenon and tried to put forward scientific reasons to it. He tries to unveil the superstitious beliefs, which do not believe in reason. His fictions depict natural environmental phenomena as a natural happening. He argued that men may not consider the phenomena as any inauspicious event or superstition, rather these events are based on some scientific facts. Thus this paper tries to analyze the concept of science and religion in Asimov 's fictional world.

Key words: Scientific, Superstition, Phenomena, Invention

Date of Submission: 14-01-2020

Date of Acceptance: 01-02-2020

I. INTRODUCTION

There is considerable divergence of opinion regarding the domain of science and religion. The Christian church, both protestant and catholic holds the view that religion is the guardian of certain unchangeable truths and committed to it by the creator of the universe. They revealed that truths are sacred. The idea of any kind of investigation of their accuracy with the possible result of rejection is intolerable. Religion has been protected, because it has proved the most effective of all instruments for the perpetuation of the subjection of the so-called lower classes. As George Burman Foster, Professor of religion in the University of Chicago, has well said, "Rulers have ever availed themselves of religion as a mighty agency in keeping under their unruly subjects-an agency more effective than brute force, since it aroused less violent reaction." In the same paragraph the professor quotes a German who said, "How are the people to be saved from the social Democrats if they stop going to church.?"

The attitude of science is the exact opposite. Science does not place any so-called truth beyond the reach of re-examination, and the very law of evidence is the sole justification for positiveness of affirmation . The science of astronomy has rendered magnification service to the cause of progress by completely overthrowing what were alleged for centuries to be revealed truths about the universe. The church has always maintained that its sacred college and especially its popes had the advantage of divine co-operation and enlightenment. The history of astronomy has completely destroyed this claim. It is no longer possible for an intelligent man to believe that an organization which for two hundred and nineteen years forbade the reading of books teaching the revolution about the sun could have had, during that entire period, access to divine source of knowledge. During that period, the double motion of the earth, now known to every schoolboy, was denounced in eleven bulls solemnly issued by eleven different infallible popes. Great as have been the service of astronomy in shaking the foundation of ecclesiastical authority, they are likely to be eclipsed when the real implication of the theory of evolution are thoroughly established in the general mind. Unfortunately for religion, science has not been satisfied with the investigation of stars, rocks, animals, and other visible and material phenomena. It has gradually assumed the right to turn its gaze in any direction, and has not hesitated to direct its searching upon, and apply its methods to, the phenomena of religion. One of its most striking and reliable discoveries is that every religion represents the intellectual condition of a certain people of a certain period. What the modern religionist seeks to accomplish is to fasten upon the human mind for forever the

conclusion reached by the men of a certain age. When this is understood, as it will be when the evolutionary theory is generally assimilated, the death knell of theology will have sounded. To seek to impose upon the modern mind the petrified blunders of primitive men, is as hopeless a task as would be the administration of a great modern city by the regulation which prevailed two thousand years ago in a Syrian village. It has become the custom of religion's conventions to bewail the irreligion of the proletariat, which is largely due to the clear perception of thousands of the most intelligent of the working class that the ecclesiastical forces have always been mustered against them. There is a marked disposition on the part of an increasing number of working men and working women to revolt against all oppressors, be they royal or priestly, or economic. The theological concept and the evolution concept are irreconcilable enemies, and either can only live in peace by the extermination of the other. Like religion of other religions, Hinduism does not see contradiction between itself and science, in fact the concept of Hinduism has not yet come into conflict with science, be it Heliocentrism, Evolution, Quantum Mechanics, or the theory of Relativity.

The Hindu belief of cyclical time is exemplified in *Night Fall* by the creative-destructive cycles of Lagash. In contrast, *Nightfall's* cultists accept their book-ordained fiery end without question and implicitly reject Karma - a mindset that could have potentially changed the end result for the population. They believe that the stars that show up on doomsday are a historically divine intervention from elsewhere (duality). These stars provide a collective salvation for the Lagash population at the risk of insanity who see them but not others who are damned and thus individual Karma is not associated with either religion. It is clear that *Nightfall's* cult is not based on a Dharmic thought system but is history-centric, and nearly exact models of any Abrahamic religion.

Science and Religion in Asimov's fiction

Asimov's science fiction focuses on the Science and Religion. This story is built around the concepts of darkness and light. It presents an interesting theory about the effects of darkness on people, who have never experienced it. This Theory believed that in such event people would go mad due to darkness. On a planet of Kalgash where darkness is unknown to its people. The expectation is that everyone will go crazy with fear and claustrophobia. Even though the stars would become visible. Asimov's short story "Nightfall" Where all the people were supposed to go mad by being suffocated by the darkness yet in the end they were overwhelmed by the vastness of space and numerous numbers of stars they had never even dreamed of before. In "Nightfall" tries to show that it is the case. But we are not aware of the reality that there was not even a hint that there were actually thousands of stars out there in the space so it overwhelms the Lagashians into becoming agoraphobics until nearly the last page. The people suffered from both claustrophobia and agoraphobia. But ultimately went insane from the stark vastness of the universe. "Nightfall" is a prime example of how pathological fears can subconsciously influence a person to do something due to such changes.

In this paper take aim on eclipse how to save civilization when comes eclipse for every 2049 years and this time night is very horrifying and no available any light source. We frantically starting fires which burned down and their successive civilization end and only people of Kalgash that survive the eclipse without going insane.

In the end, neither the farmer who is a religionist but the principle is the plaintiff nor the atheist secular is limited to incomplete understanding by his senses. Adharma vidya is capable of developing the inner science enlightenment technique needed to transcend the limits of human emotion and the main abbey of darkness to do so should give them time to pass through a few hours due to solar eclipse. knowledge of the past helps us to understand the present and, in a measure, to anticipate the future. Clearly all religions are not equal, not in 1941, when the global war started, not now on earth or at some future interval. Every year, there are many predictions of the end of the world. Every year the main reason for the nightly fear is that many so called rational and intelligent people believe that it is possible and the collective holds of hands can be called upon to fight the terror of darkness. This is how cults operate. Science merely laughs. Religious faith is like Hinduism. On the other hand those who have no conflict with design by science speaks of timeless cyclical time and empowers you to overcome your fear of infinite darkness.

Dealing with Science and Superstition, Asimov got the idea for his most popular science fiction *Night Fall*, which primarily deals with from the quotation from the opening of Ralph Waldo Emerson's essay "Nature".

He reprimanded if stars would appear in sky once in thousand years men would be in a peculiar situation. The main concern is how do they preserve this incidence for the following generation.

It appears that sudden appearance of majesty of the stars would inspire fear instead of wonder in Asimov. People who after two millennia of constant sunshine on Lagash filled them with terror of complete darkness. It was the "soul-searing splendor" of the mysterious stars it is enough to make the citizens mad. In search of light the whole civilization is consumed in the hungry flicker of the only means for making light: fire.

Asimov answers Emerson's transcendentalism by setting up an opposition between the scientists (good), struggling to understand celestial mechanics without being able to see much in the way of heavens, and the Cultists' Book of Revelations was woven from "the confused incoherent babblings of half-mad morons". It foretells about a cave which will devour Lagash and send down heavenly fire in the form of stars to rob men of their souls. The important question is, Will the astronomical truths discovered at Saro University survive the apocalypse and update the survivors of the next cycle, or will the obscurantism of religion prevail? It's a confrontation that prevails more urgently now, as climate scientists struggle to make their warnings of catastrophe heard above the voices of the deniers.

The mind, which is habituated to continuous light finds it absolutely necessary to create light In the presence of total Darkness, The focus in this paper is on the struggle between science and superstition in Asimov's science fiction, In the short "Nightfall" the main story is related to the varying belief of scientist and cultist at the time when eclipse comes. The Cultist believes that it happens due to the justification of God but scientist shows through the science that it happens because of orbiting of earth. It is a natural phenomenon rather than superstition. Through this story Asimov discusses and analyses how the two opposite and sometimes similar facts come to struggling terms because of their approaches between science and superstition.

The planetary System considered in the story consists of a planet, a moon along with six dazzling suns. These six suns cause the wider universe to be invisible to the inhabitants of the planet. The author investigates the consequences of an eclipse and the resulting darkness which the Kalgash people experience for the first time. The task here is to imagine that if this system is feasible. If from the duration of the eclipse and the invisibility of the universe may be possible in the complex orbital dynamics.

Nightfall appears to depict Emerson as the cultists in Nightfall who see the divine in the once-in-a-thousand-year stars but at the same time, also exposes the limitations of science in solving society's most difficult problems. In the end, the scientists of Lagash are shocked to see thousands of stars that they never expected would fit into such a small sky, and as they begin their descent into terror, lose their coherence, and remain unable to find a rational explanation for this final phenomenon. On the other hands, the cultists did have an explanation, however inadequate.

A Planet in the universe far away from our world is always bathed in broad daylight, will soon come at night and it will bring tremendous destruction. Asimov got one thing right: The conflict between the scientists and the cultists is absolute. Both agree that night is coming; but the cultist believe that it is the coming judgement of God upon unbelievers, the scientist are convinced that it is simply an eclipse. Asimov's conceit was to imagine a distant planet lit by so many suns that most of its generations never experience a moment's darkness. Those that do live through a rare, complete sundown descend into total madness, leaving their ancestors to pick up the pieces and rebuild civilization from scratch until the next nightfall.

While the cult care less about the reason they believe it because the book says so, they share valuable data with scientists and in this deal scientist will confirm or confirm that farmers were in fact prophets. Scientists go on to provide a rational explanation for the phenomenon that coincides with that creed, but as a result of this scientific interpretations since the growing number of logging desert cults, Too much of a cult. Scientists unaccepted this dislike for the farmers and eventually the farmers attempt to destroy their observatory trying to photograph and analyze the final scene out of fear that the scientist were interfering with their salvation. As the night sets in, the Lagishan go mad and burn their civilization as predicted.

Asimov's introduction to Nightfall

Asimov says that he wrote Nnightfall after being introduced to Emerson's quote by John Campbell:

"... If the stars should appear one night in a thousand years, how would men believe and adore, and preserve for many generations, the remembrance of the city of God which had been shown!

Campbell's opinion to the contrary was: "I think men would go mad." "

Asimov makes these following observations:

- A. A cult that is at its core does not address the problem that causes the ill of society.
 - a. Religion or science is a classical binary choice approach that characterizes the Western frame of reference.
 - b. Science was successful in explaining why Lagash would burn down, and in that process were able to rescue many cultists from their dogmatic existence. But in the end, neither science, nor the cult were able to save the people from self-destructing, thereby indicating the inadequacy of the cult and science in providing timely and practical solutions for a critical problem.

Kalgashes live in a world where darkness is unnatural where there is always light. They are used to light so that they cannot imagine life without i was surprised when i read this excerpt in which a Kalgash astronomer discussed the possibility of life on the world with the sun.

Beenay's comment:

"there's the catch that life would be impossible on such a planet. It wouldn't get enough heat and light, and if it rotated there would be total Darkness half of each day... You couldn't expect life — which is fundamentally dependent upon light — to develop under such extreme conditions of light-deprivation." ("Nightfall,") page-187

The Light on the Kalgash is so constant that no one keeps an eye on it. When there was a religious upon called Apostle of Flame warns, the mystery of his book, According to the opening, warns that on a certain date the next year the gods will extinguish the sun and punish everyone there Kalgash soaking into the darkness. Not only will everyone go crazy, the sky will also be filled with some thing called the instruments of the stars gods, which will set the world on fire and will set everything on fire. The story takes place, like a one-act play, in the observatory set up to record the fall of night and the appearance of the stars. Most of what happens is related in the form of questions by a reporter, answered by the director of the university and a psychologist. The only action is when a cultist attempts to destroy the astronomical cameras set up to record the event. The cult has accumulated mythological writings and religious interpretations of the rise and fall of previous civilizations every two millennium and believes the stars are sacred and that they would be profaned, if not destroyed, by being filmed. At the end, a mob from the nearby city gathers to storm the university, night falls, the stars appear, and everyone goes mad.

As Asimov observes:

"Humanity has the stars in its future, and that future is too important to be lost under the burden of Juvenile folly and ignorant superstition." (" Science and Nature Quotation") page- 229

The Main Point of View that Every 2000 thousand years, something happens that further destroys the existing civilization, causing a new order to be slowly rebuilt. The book of the secret inauguration of a religious organization creed claims that from time to time there has been a great darkness. The Cult, claims that periodically a great darkness engulfs Lagash and then things called Stars appear in the sky that cause men to go mad. In the current scientific age this theory has been greatly maligned but Aton and other members of sara observatory have been claiming for the last few months that such an event will happen. They have built a hideout and are now preparing to record the arrival of darkness for the use of refugees. Short story Nightfall science struggle against superstition in the portrayal of Isaac Asimov's award winning drama the presence of a star to describe a population would be a rare occurrence. Asimov created the planet Lagash where there are six suns perpetual daytime stars cannot be seen with night time and therefore it is not known astronomical science has not yet reached the point of being able to see beyond the sun. The concept of darkness is mysterious and frightening, although all university scientists and predicting and all eclipse to the sun at once. They know that on the basis of archaeological studies it seems that civilization has been destroyed every 2000 thousands years. If both are related to the same time period of the eclipse event, will darkness once again create a frenzy that will destroy the world. As scientists prepare for the disaster, they are linked to a newspaper reporter and hope to protect all future generation from fear through records of factual knowledge. However a religious cult also predicts the event as a verdict against evil. Nightfall is a psychological thriller as scientists fight ignorance just madness and their fear of the unknown.

The major difference between Isaac Asimov's planet Lagash and Earth is that Lagash orbits around a star that is part of a complex system of six stars. Regularly alternating nights and days are unknown on Lagash because there is almost always at least one sun in the sky. Lagash's scientists have only recently analyzed this situation, beginning four hundred years previously, when Genovi discovered that Lagash orbited the star Alpha, replacing the older geocentric cosmology. Since then, astronomers have been plotting the orbits of the six suns until the Law of Universal Gravitation was applied to account for their motions. Recently, unaccounted for variations have been observed. Using data supplied by the Cult, Aton has discovered a moon orbiting Lagash that had not been noticed because the light from the suns had rendered it invisible. Further research has shown that this moon will eclipse the sun Beta, a small red companion to Alpha, when Beta is the only sun in the sky and when the relative distances of Beta and the moon are such that the moon completely blocks out all light from Beta for more than half a day, so that all of Lagash is deprived of sunlight. These eclipses will coincide exactly with the collapse of Lagashian civilization.

Initiative

Aton and his team of astronomers take the initiative to save those in the future rather than just succumb or concentrate on personal survival. Aton also takes the initiative to ask the Cultists for their data that might help his research. The scientists also show initiative by inventing the torches to provide light once the darkness came, thus possibly helping to prevent the terrible consequences of total darkness. Initiative is an important theme to Asimov who believed strongly that humans create their own problems and are therefore the only ones who can solve them.

Madness and Sanity

Obviously, the preservation of sanity and the avoidance of the products of madness is the main concern of the characters in "Nightfall." You will go mad, completely and permanently! There is no question of it. The presence of a psychologist in the story allows Asimov to discuss how the mind works and why it can lead to dark madness. Shireen says your brain is going to present with an external event or has a wider range.

Darkness and Light

The story presents an interesting theory about the effects of darkness on a people of Lagash who have never experienced it. Asimov says about "Nightfall" this whole story, it is built around the concept of darkness and light. On a planet with perpetual sunlight, darkness is inconceivable. Asimov's editor believed that such people of Kalgash would go mad in darkness, even though the stars would become visible. The editor of Asimov believed that such people would go mad in the dark even if stars would appear. So, Asimov wrote a story based on that supposition.

Deprivation

The inhabitant of Lagash how to face from darkness when comes darkness suddenly and how to save their civilization. Being deprived of light is the worst fear of the people of Lagash. After 2,000 years of light, they are genetically in need of light. Darkness is an unthinkably terrifying concept. Thus, the conflict in the story is the problem of how to respond to a crisis when one of the most basic needs of existence disappears. Cleverly, Asimov provides a psychologist as one of the main characters in the story in order to discuss and analyse the situation.

Style and Technique

In "Nightfall," Sheerin furnishes for Theorem the information that is the crux of the story, because the actions of the story simply dramatize what Sheerin says will happen. Thus, the structure of "Nightfall" is like that of a lab experiment report within a highly dramatic context. This structure reinforces the main theme of the value of scientific inquiry. Nightfall creates suspense with exciting curiosity about what is happening and why Nightfall is a story that creates a sense of intent that is the core of all good science fiction. This sense of wonder lifts that story above its trite dialogue, weak characterization, and numerous scientific improbabilities and justifies its place as one of the finest American science-fiction short stories.

Setting

A common method of writers who want to comment on their culture without making direct references is to provide an otherworld setting. Asimov may be describing a situation on the planet Lagash, but he intends for the lessons in the story to be taken to heart by the readers on Earth. This task requires inventing the elements of the other place in appearance, dress, activities, technology, and so forth. In a short story, Asimov did not have to go into any great detail, so the only truly differentiating factor is the perpetual daylight caused by six suns. After that, Lagash could be Earth, but that one factor is what causes the unique catastrophe facing Lagash.

II. CONCLUSION:

This Paper discusses on the concept of science and religion in Asimov's science fiction that how to do Asimov's fictions are woven round science and religion. In his fictions these episodes are considered as a natural phenomenon and tried to put forward scientific reasons to it. The first stab on the science and religion in the short stories "Nightfall" the stellar system of Isaac Asimov's science fiction and have come up with a defensible configuration, shown here. However, we have only focused on a planet of kalgash where darkness is unknown, the expectation is that everyone will go insane from fear. We now have to move on the more difficult task of the details. Is or it possible to match the actual motion of the sun described by Asimov and that will cause an eclipse every 2049 years and such a system will also be stable. The premise of the story seems ridiculous. The cultists are a religious group founded around the worship if darkness and stars come, The people of Kalgash that long for the eclipse as they believe that starlight will cleanness their immortal souls. Whatever the truth, can say that the people of Kalgash are unknown about light and darkness now till.

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Priyanka Kumari, et.al. "Concept of Science and Religion in Asimov's Fictional World." *IOSR Journal of Humanities and Social Science (IOSR-JHSS)*, 25(1), 2020, pp. 32-37.