

Artificial Insemination by Advanced Science in Aldous Huxley's  
*Brave New World*

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Aldous Huxley 1894-1963

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**Abstract**

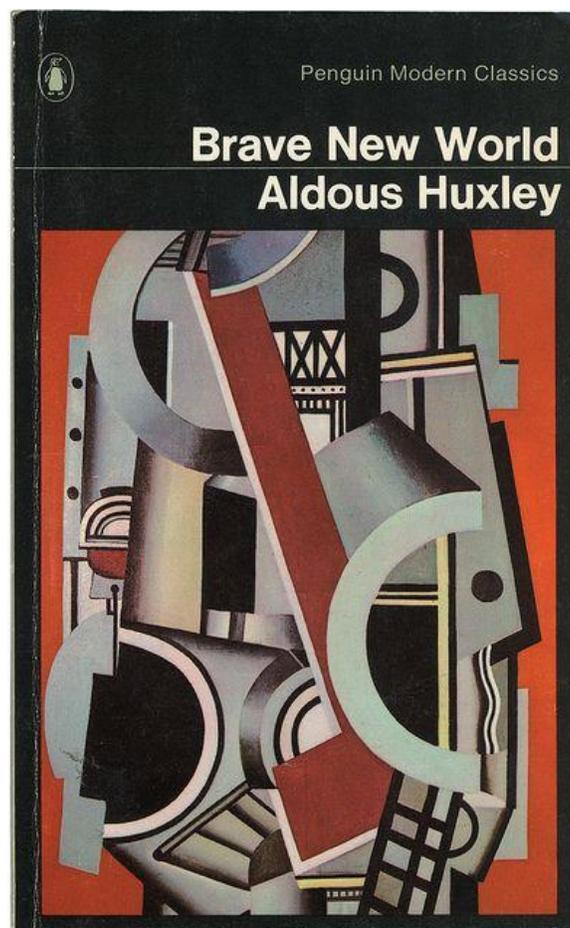
In Aldous Huxley's science fiction entitled *Brave New World* (1932) presents a Utopian future based on science and technology. He presents the future world governed by the progress of science and its discoveries. In this world babies are produced in laboratories and are so conditioned that they are devoid of emotions and morality. He warns us by presenting the

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production of babies in laboratories, who grew without any moral values in them. In this world, there is no crime, no immorality. Science has destroyed all the evil elements in man. The novel presents two worlds. One is the ideal scientific world and other is the ideal primitive world. Man has to choose between these two worlds. The novelist seems to be on the side of the primitive world and opposes the scientific world.

### **Life and Works of Aldous Huxley**

Aldous Huxley was born on July 26, 1894 in England. He was born in an illustrious family. His grandfather was the famous Victorian scientist, Thomas Henry Huxley who was the disciple of Darwin. Because of his family background Aldous Huxley was interested in a variety of subjects. His novels are *Time Must Have a Stop*, *After Many Summer*, *Ape and Essence* and *The Genius and the Goddess*.



### **Characters in *Brave New World***

**i. John:** the savage is the hero of the novel. He acts as a bridge between the two cultures and as he knows both the ways of life, he is able to compare and comment on them. When the choice of the new world and the old world is laid before him, he prefers only the old world with all its offerings.

**ii. Mustapha Mond:** is one of the ten all powerful World controllers. He is the representative of the new scientific world, is one of the world controllers. He is the resident controller for Western Europe. He contributes much to the development of the plot in the novel *Brave New World*.

**iii. Lenina:** is one of the women characters in the novel and she is the product of the new world. She works in the embryo store. Her work is to inject the embryos with typhoid and sleeping sickness, so that they may be immuned from these diseases when they go to work in the tropics.

**iv. The Director:** he is very strict in enforcing the principles of the state. He believes in the ideals of the new world and the new scientific technique that controls human birth and human behavior.

**v. Bernard Marx:** He is an unorthodox and unhappy Alpha Plus. He is dissatisfied with the whole system. He is an abnormal character, small and ugly. When he was still in the bottle, somebody made a mistake by putting alcohol into his blood surrogate, thinking him to be a gamma. He cannot conform to the social, political and moral code of the New World.

**vi. Helmholtz Watson:** is also an Alpha plus, a friend of Bernard. He suffers from excess of intelligence and ability. Conditions in the New World kill all his individual initiative.

### **Introduction**

The title *Brave New World* is derived from Miranda's speech in Shakespeare's play *The Tempest* Act V, Scene I:

'O wonder!

How many goodly creatures are there here!

How beauteous mankind is. O brave new world!

That has such people in't. (423)

The novel opens in the building of the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, run on the World States **Motto, Community, Identity and Stability**. It is a 34 storey building. The Director of the Centre is taking a group of new students round the various rooms in the hatchery and explains the work that goes on in the various departments. He believes in the ideals of the New World and the new scientific technique that controls human birth and human behavior. He is proud of the achievements of the new world.

### **New World**

In the New World, there is no love, no marriage, no children and no family life. Sexual life is free. A woman can go with any man. There is no restriction. Bearing a child is disgraceful to women. They are free from tension and suffering and happy. No one grows old in the New World. Mustapha Mond, one of the ten all powerful World controllers gives a lecture to the students, he tells them that in this controlled society, there is no individual feelings as love but there is communal spirit and casual promiscuity. Words like Father and Mother that denote personal relationship are prohibited.

In the modern age the institution of marriage and family are abolished. There no sexual restraint. Life is emotionally easy. The children are prevented from having any emotion at all. All these are intended to further the cause of stability of society. The concept of caste-system, democracy, liberty and religion are rejected but consumption is encouraged so that industry may prosper through manufacture. Right from the beginning class consciousness is instilled in peoples mind and the concept of old men returning is discarded. They now live an active and healthy life like the young. Soma, the universal drug is used to release the mind from mental tension and physical fatigue. On the whole the disorderly life of the world has been replaced by the orderly and planned life of the new world, where people are happy and contented.

### **Life in the New World**

The *Brave New World* appears to have achieved ideal perfection in terms of science. But it is subject to all the errors and short comings that over- shadow human sciences. The society of *Brave New World* is a failure. In this brave new world, Marx, an Alpha Plus, is not satisfied with

the system and his friend Helmholtz Watson, another Alpha Plus, feels restless and they are made to feel disgusted and bored by a fleshy girl called Lenina. Marx suffers from physical defect. Helmholtz suffers from excess of intelligence and ability. He has something to say and has the power to say but as he cannot make use of his power, he is restless. All his individual initiatives are killed by the conditions of life in the new world. Both Marx and Helmholtz feel lonely and consider themselves to be misfits in the world state as they could not conform to its social, political and moral code.

### **Artificial Insemination**

The Director explains the students how mass production of babies has been made possible by means of artificial insemination and fertilization of eggs. He shows them the incubators, that is, the test-tubes containing the ova or female germs. The male gametes or sperms are kept in separate containers. The eggs in the ovaries are fertilized through contact with sperms. Normally, one egg produces one embryo which grows into one adult.

### **Five Types of Human Beings**

Five types of human beings are produced in the Hatchery. The superior ones called as **Alphas** and **Betas** are kept in the incubators until definitely bottled. The inferior ones called **Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons**.

### **Bokanovsky's Technique**

**Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons** are bought out after 36 hours to undergo **Bokanovsky** process. By **Bokanovsky process** a single egg is divided into eight to ninety six buds, and every bud will grow into a perfectly formed embryo and every embryo into a full sized adult. In the old days when the baby developed in the mother's womb, sometimes identical twins would be born. But by **Bokanovsky's** process ninety six identical twins can be produced. The advantage of this process is social stability. The hatchery produces standard men and women in uniform batches.

### **Podsnap's Technique**

The process of ripening is speed up, so that it has become possible to produce eleven thousand brothers and sisters in a hundred and fifty batches of identical twins all within two years of the same age. As the director explains all these, the students take down notes. He says that London center has produced 16012 adults from a single ovary. Singapore has produced 16500 and Mombasa has produced 17000.

### **Bottling Room**

The students are then taken to the bottling room, where the eggs are transferred from their test tubes into bottles which are labeled with a card index in which the information like details of heredity, date of fertilization, membership of **Bokanovsky** group etc. are given. The bottles are then sent to the social predestination room, where the predestinators make calculation. After that the bottles go to the embryo room and are kept in darkness on moving racks and on the 267<sup>th</sup> morning the babies have seen the daylight in the **Decanting Room**.

During the process, the embryos are conditioned and predestined. Babies are born as socialized human beings as scientist and intellectuals are as labourers and savage workers. The lower the caste the shorter is the oxygen supplied. Lack of Oxygen affects the brain and produces inferior kind of human beings, the **Epsilons**, who are predestined to emigrate to the tropic countries to be miners, silk spinners and steel workers. They love heat and cold and that is the secret of happiness and virtue. All conditioning aims at making people like their inescapable destiny.

### **Neo- Pavlovian Conditioning Room**

The Director and the students come to the infant Nurseries or **Neo- Pavlovian Conditioning Room**. The Director gives a demonstration to the students how children are conditioned since the infantile stage of eight months. In a long row flowers and books are placed. The Director orders to bring in a group of Bokanovsky babies. They are eight months old and are dressed in Khaki. These babies joyfully crawl towards the flowers and books. Suddenly the head nurse presses a button and there is a violent and shrill explosion. Alarm bells are sounded madly. Hearing this noise the children scream and their faces are filled with terror. When the noises are

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subsided, the children are gradually relaxed. At the Director's command they are again given flowers and books. But this time they shrink from them in horror. The Director said that they are so conditioned as to be safe from books and all their lives because they are Deltas who are destined to do manual labour all their lives and so they cannot waste their time over books. They are conditioned to hate flowers, that is to hate the country because love of nature will keep no factory busy. But they are taught to love country sports, so that they may continue to consume manufactured articles as well as transport. Because of the economic policy of the World State, the children belonging to lower classes are conditioned to hate books and flowers.

### **Hypnopaedia Technique**

The Director explains the principle of hypnopaedia or sleep teaching, by which children are taught during their sleep through lectures broadcasted from a centre and these lectures are made to be repeated so as to implant the facts suggested by the state in the children's mind. Lessons are given in **Elementary Sex** and **Elementary class consciousness**. The lessons are repeated 120 times, three times a week for 30 months and the child's mind becomes these suggestions and the sum of the suggestions is the child's mind. All these suggestions are from the state and Hypnopaedia is the greatest moralizing and socializing force of all time. The infants are produced in the Hatchery by Bokanovsky's process. They are incomplete and mentally retarded. Their life is in bottles and is conditioned in nurseries. They belong to the state that governs them. By Podsnap's technique identical twins are produced more quickly. Through the process of infant conditioning Huxley satirizes Pavlovian and his behavioristic theory.

### **Sexual Games**

The Director and the students go to the garden where children are playing. Boys and girls are playing sexual games freely and unashamedly in the presence of people around them. Anyone who is reluctant to indulge in sex is considered to be abnormal and is sent to the superintendent of psychology for treatment. In the New World everything is done in a prescribed manner, according to the schedule. The State directs and controls religion, sex, amusement and everything.

### **Subservience to Science**

Huxley has portrayed the contemporary social and political realities in his novels. He has keenly observed the immense progress of science and how it tended to suppress the emotional and spiritual aspects of human life. The theme of *Brave New World* is what would happen to man and the world if subservience to science and technology continued.

### **Satire of the Present**

In *Brave New World*, Huxley attacks the modern people on their over dependence on science and its discoveries. The human beings have a tendency to make best use of the advancements of science and technology. This results in man becoming mechanized and losing his individuality and will be dehumanized. He warns the human beings that as knowledge is power, he who uses it becomes powerful. Science and technology should be the servants of man but should not try to enslave him. He satirizes the modern views on religion, God, sex, love, marriage and progress. The vision of scientific progress gives Huxley all the materials for satire which have been effectively made use of in *Brave New World*.

### **Conclusion**

Thus the theme of the novel is science affecting man's life; the process of dehumanization and opposition of the two worlds, that is, the world of scientific progress and primitive vitalism. The novelist attacks men for their excessive dependence on science and discoveries.

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