

Ray Bradbury - A Magician and Teller of Tales.

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Science fiction is a genre in which scientific knowledge is used as a basis for imaginative fiction. The 19th century French writer, Jules Verne, is often seen as the father of science fiction. Later in the century H.G. Wells explored the themes of time travel as well as space travel and wrote about an invasion from Mars. From the beginning of the 20th century science fiction started to become popular. Ray Bradbury the very person and the writer who contributed to science fiction as much as he could. His name would appear at the top of any list of major science fiction writers of the 20th century besides Isaac Azimov, Arthur C. Clarke, Robert A. Heinlein. Martians, robots, dinosaurs, mummies, ghosts, time machines, rocket ships, carnival magicians- they are all can be read in Ray Bradbury's valuable works. He is one of the first writers who urged the students to use fantastical metaphors to describe everyday human life that's why his books are still being taught in schools. Ray Bradbury called himself a teller of tales and a magic realist. He also claimed to remember everything- every book he had read, every movie he had seen. All those memories and a big imagination served him as materials for the fiction and poetry he had been writing for more than fifty years. Bradbury's works are full of childhood imaginings, fantasies, and nightmares- portraits of Venus and Mars, time travel, ageless children, never-ending rains. By giving strange colors to everyday objects and events, Ray Bradbury challenges his readers to look at them as if for the first time. As a writer he lets readers see science through the excited eyes of children. [3]

Ray Bradbury had a habit of writing at least one short story a week. More than 8million copies of his books have been sold in 36 languages. They include short story collections "The Martian Chronicles", "The Illustrated Man", "Dandelion Wine", "The Golden Apples of the Sun" and many short stories including "the Veldt", "a Sound of Thunder", "The Last Night of the World", "There will come Soft Rains" etc. and the novels "Fahrenheit 451" and "Something Wicked This Way Comes". Ray Bradbury also published several poetry collections, including "When Elephants Last in the Dooryard Bloomed". He worked often in television and film writing teleplays for Alfred Hitchcock Presents and the screenplay for John Huston's 1956 adaptation of Moby-Dick.

He is also well known for his short stories. The short story "All summer in a day" is about the meanness and jealousy of children and about the girl who can't reach her dream. But if we try to understand them because of their unfulfilled wish to see the Sun they try to hide their dissatisfaction behind their behavior. This story also describes the importance of nature and its effects on us. The Sun symbolizes emotion, love and attention that are why it is described as an important thing in people's life because every person needs attention and love even in another planet. By reading this story you realize how much valuable your life and your days and you thank God for your every passing days. [1]

“The flying machine” is another short story written by Ray Bradbury in 1953. This story takes place in 400 A.D, with Emperor Yuan of China inspecting his dominion. One morning, his servant enters his chambers and tells him he has seen a miracle. The Emperor names numerous ordinary things- such as the color of the sea, the sweetness of the air, or the taste of his tea. But it was another thing, the servant reports that he has seen a man flying in the sky. When the Emperor insists that he was dreaming, the servant asks him to come with him and look up at the sky.

When the emperor went outside and looked up at the sky, he did in fact see a man flying. He had large paper wings and the man looked like the largest bird he had ever seen. After a while, Emperor asked his servant to call the man down. When the man lands on Earth, the Emperor asks the flying man “what have you done?” and the man responds, “I have flown in the sky, Your Excellency”. He asks the flying man who knows about this, and he finds out that this man is the inventor and the only one who knows about the creation. After hearing this, the Emperor leads the man into the palace, and there he calls his guards to seize him and executioner as well. The inventor is terribly confused. He does not know why he is being killed for doing something so beautiful; especially something that the Emperor also believes is beautiful. The Emperor explains to him that he fears that somebody who “has evil in their eyes” and will seek to use it for purposes other than enjoyment of flight. For this reason, the inventor is executed, the flying machine burned, and all who saw it are silenced.

Ray Bradbury’s story explains us to think about advantages and drawbacks of technology in our life. Emperor Yuan is a wise Emperor and he does not react to a situation before careful reflection. He thinks deep into the cause and effects of how the flying machine can affect his country. The Emperor thinks that it can get into the wrong hands and the person would destroy The Great Wall of China. The inventor’s life is sacrificed to save the lives of millions who could be killed by the flying machine. The Emperor sees the advantages and drawbacks of the machine but makes the decision to destroy it because of its potential threat to take lives. This attitude can be compared to contemporary scientists who often create things without ethics (for example, nuclear technology, cloning...).

We should think our every action before doing it considering its good and bad effects to our life and sometimes little things can cause great problems. Nobody knows what happens tomorrow or after a week, but the main thing is thinking about good intentions and trying to spread kindness over the world.

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