



## THE MARTIAN CHRONICLE: AN EXPLORATION OF RAY BRADBURY'S 'VISION OF MARS' AND HUMANITY'S 'FUTURE'

ABHISHEK KATAKWAR<sup>1</sup>, Dr. KALPANA PAUL<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Research Scholar, Department of English

Email: [abhikatakwar123@gmail.com](mailto:abhikatakwar123@gmail.com)

<sup>2</sup>Professor, Department of English, D.B. Girls' P.G. College, Pt. Ravishankar Shukla University, Raipur  
Chhattisgarh

Email: [kpaul@dbgirls.org](mailto:kpaul@dbgirls.org)



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### Abstract

The Martian Chronicles by Ray Bradbury is a masterwork of science fiction that presents a sophisticated and vivid vision of humanity's future on Mars. This research paper examines how Bradbury portrays Mars and the human civilization that lives there, as well as the novel's recurring themes of colonisation, imperialism, and human nature. This article examines Bradbury's portrayal of Mars as a lifeless and bleak planet through a close reading of the book. This portrayal is both a reflection of humanity's unsuccessful attempts at colonisation and a metaphor for the human condition. The paper looks at how the Martians in the book act as a counterpoint to the human colonisers, exposing the limitations and defects in human nature. Finally, this paper looks at how technology functions in The Martian Chronicles and how it relates to morality and human growth. We can look at how Bradbury's use of cutting-edge technology in the book highlights issues on the nature of human progress and its effects on society and the environment. This research paper analyses The Martian Chronicles in depth in order to shed light on Bradbury's futuristic view of Mars and humanity as well as his critique of imperialism, technology, and human nature.

**Keywords:** colonization, imperialism, human nature, technology, nuclear war.

### Introduction

A collection of interconnected short stories and vignettes make up The Martian Chronicles. Although some personalities are mentioned more than once, the American colonists of Mars as a whole are what the novel really focuses on. Bradbury's frontier Mars is also a representation of America: not just the frontier of the nineteenth century, which Mars resembles, but also modern, military America with its rural and suburban areas

that breed the colonists. The astronauts will eventually return to this contemporary America.

### Discussion

The Martian Chronicles does not have any significant characters, and as was already mentioned, the plot does not flow smoothly from one story to the next. But why is the book so well-known? First and foremost, it has to do with the book's ability to appeal to both science fiction and non-fans of the genre. The novel is also highly poetic. Whatever of your opinion of the "poetry," it is

undeniable that Bradbury devotes a remarkable amount of attention to natural beauty, familial bonds, and creepy, unsettling atmospheres for a book about outer space.

There are numerous gaps in *The Martian Chronicles*. Its stories were frequently written as standalones. Hence, any study of the book must start by stating what the complete book accomplishes. It goes without saying that this is a hypothetical description of Martian colonisation. NASA sends teams to explore on multiple occasions; eventually, one of them is successful. The colonisation boom that followed is comparable to the Westward Expansion in American history. Others want to leave civilization behind, but the majority merely wants to bring American culture to Mars. Finally, an atomic war breaks out on Earth, causing everyone to return home. As a few people escape the war and travel to Mars, they avoid the mistake of attempting to replicate American civilisation. They burn their maps of Earth and resolve to become Martians after realising that the outcome of Earth civilisation was conflict. (*The Martian Chronicles* | Book by Ray Bradbury | Official Publisher Page | Simon & Schuster, n.d.) The takeaway from Bradbury is that while some forms of colonisation are appropriate, others are not. It is incorrect to attempt to recreate the ancient civilisation, but it is correct to value the culture you have discovered.

Bradbury is not just telling a tale about the American Dream of the frontier, but also a warning against rash exploration and growth. He creates thrilling tales that make one think of cowboys and Indians as they describe the perils that the early explorers must encounter. He writes on the isolation of the frontier and how various individuals view the idea of a foreign environment. He illustrates the diversity of the American Dream by focusing on disenchanting intellectuals like Stendahl, oppressed Black people like Silly, and rambunctious young men like Sam Parkhill. He also illustrates how the American Dream may result in misunderstandings and waste.

"Science is no more than an investigation of a miracle we can never explain, and art is an interpretation of that miracle." (Bradbury, 2012)

In one of her nightmares, a Martian woman sees a rocket descend from the sky carrying Nathaniel York, a creature with pale skin and blue eyes. When the rocket lands, her husband, who is tired, shoots the men. People start humming Earth songs and having odd nightmares all across Mars. The astronauts exit the rocket when a second one landed and begin to investigate. Everyone believes they are crazy people who have hallucinated their rocket despite the fact that they claim to be from Earth. Therefore, a psychologist shoots them all. A lunatic taxpayer tries to board the third rocket to Mars as this is happening on Earth, but he is turned away. The astronauts land in a picture-perfect small American community. Before splitting off to drink tea with their deceased parents and brothers, they meet their deceased relatives. After going to bed next to his long-lost brother, Captain John Black comes to the conclusion that everything was probably a Martian trap. He is murdered by his "brother" before he can exit the room.

A fourth expedition touches down a year later, and it proves fruitful. The chicken pox, which they allegedly contracted on one of the previous voyages, has killed almost all of the Martians. Captain Wilder permits drinking and dancing among his crew, which infuriates Jeff Spender, the crew's archaeologist. Spender urges the rest of the crew to act with dignity since he is humbled by the advanced Martian civilisation. He loses his mind and tries to kill the crew; Wilder talks him down and shows some sympathy, but he must be shot in the end.

Because of the promise of labour, settlers start to come to Mars. Tree planting is Benjamin Driscoll's responsibility. He looks around one morning after it finally rains and notices that the once-arid landscape is now covered in green. When Tomas Gomez, another settler, encounters a Martian in the midst of nowhere, it becomes even stranger. They appear to exist on different time-planes and are unable to touch each other.

Although the early settlers are unruly, they construct churches in tiny shantytowns that

resemble American communities. On rare occasions, their kids sneak off to the Martian wreck sites where endless corpses are still being removed. On the Martian bones, they play music. All the Black people in the American South have united to leave Earth and immigrate to Mars. A prejudiced white man named Mr. Teece tries to stop them as they march through one city in an exit parade, but they come together to settle all debts. The racist man sobs and laments his lack of them.

A replica of the House of Usher has been built by a man by the name of William Stendahl back on Mars. He is enraged because the government has outlawed fantasy literature. He invites the influential politicians in charge of it to a party where they are all brutally murdered. Retirees eventually overrun Mars. Before Tom unexpectedly appears on their porch one day, a couple misses their deceased son. He is actually a Martian who alters his appearance to suit the wants of everyone around him. When he enters a city, numerous people engage in conflict over him since they each believe he is a different individual.

There is atomic war on Earth, according to the news. Sam Parkhill, a member of Captain Wilder's expedition, is pleased with his new hot dog stand. He is suddenly approached by some Martians, but he kills them. He is finally in control. He receives the deeds they performed for half of Mars. Later that night, after seeing Earth catch fire, he finally understands what is going on. People can be seen on Mars in all directions as a radio signal with the words "Come Home" is sent there. Everyone leaves the area. There is only one man left, Walter Gripp, who lives in the mountains. In his desperate hunt for a companion, he discovers Genevieve Selsor, but she is repulsive.

Twenty years pass while Hathaway waits for help in a shack on Mars with his family. The last rocket touches down. Captain Wilder is here after visiting Pluto and Jupiter. As Hathaway suddenly passes away from a heart attack, he concludes that Hathaway's family is made of robots since he cannot fathom why they have not aged.

Despite the fact that the nuclear war on Earth killed the majority of people, daily activities

such as washing clothes, listening to music, and turning on and off lights continue in homes. The father informs his sons that they are now Martians as the family arrives on Mars after fleeing the nuclear wasteland that is Earth. The possibility of raising a new generation on Mars is soon opened up by the arrival of another family with daughters.(Bradbury, 2012)

The Martian Chronicles' main human characteristic include xenophobia and opposition to change. Numerous stories, beginning with "Rocket Summer," which depicts change occurring on Earth, address the theme. That portends the alteration that will occur shortly on Mars. The Martians, on the other hand, are averse to change. Because of his intense jealousy of a character Ylla, another character Yll must murder the earthmen in order to halt the shift. In "The Earthmen," the Martians mistake the Earthmen for lunatics since they are unaware of the transformation and try to stop it by locking them up and killing them. In "The Third Expedition,"(Bradbury, 2012) the Martians demonstrate their resistance to change by posing as the crew's family and killing them. They are ready this time and demonstrate their opposition to change by doing so. Nonetheless, the tone of "And the Moon Still Be Brilliant" is opposed to change—but only a bad change. One of the characters in "Night Meeting" outright declares his belief that reform is required on Mars. The underlying message of "Far in the centre of the Air" is that African Americans must embrace change, and that doing so will be detrimental to society. The need to alter a politically correct society is demonstrated in "Usher II." The effects of xenophobia on Earth are depicted in "There Will Come Gentle Rains," while "The Million Year Picnic" portrays people departing from their pre-industrial lifestyle.(*The Martian Chronicles: Study Guide | SparkNotes*, n.d.)

In cultural aspect Spender forewarns of eradicating all Martian cultures in "And the Moon Still Be as Brilliant." After the fourth mission, mankind conquers Mars and transform the planet into an exact replica of Earth. Martian culture is lost as a result. As invaders impose their traditions on the downtrodden, the loss of culture can have an impact on our own world. Bradbury is arguing that it is bad

for society to destroy culture at its source. We must protect various cultures because the world is a place of great cultural diversity (Forrester, 1976).

In natural aspect, in "There Will Come Gentle Rains," after a nuclear holocaust, nature is reclaiming the human landscape. It demonstrates how nature will always win out despite all of human progress. Even the most cutting-edge automated technology of the time cannot put out the fire that is started when the tree naturally falls on the home, which ultimately results in the destruction of the property. The poem by Sara Teasdale also demonstrates how nature will eventually restore the entire planet even after all of human civilisation has been destroyed (Koch, 1981).

In aspect of imperialism, according to "Usher II," limiting a group's access to information by destroying its primary repository prevents civilization from progressing and even results in death. The story's various elements—including Garrett's ignorance, the setting's three distinct elements, and the amusing yet sombre tone—show that censorship poses a threat to civilization. Garrett is informed by Stendahl that "you adopted other people's advise that [Mr. Poe's books] needed burning before I left you to die. Garrett's death is attributable to his ignorance; otherwise, you'd have known what I was about to do to you when we arrived down here only a moment ago, according to Bradbury (156). Bradbury is implying that ignorance restricts one's knowledge by using the negative portrayal of the book burning. The tone and feelings that one experiences while reading "Usher II" are menacing. Bradbury warns those who want to suppress information by setting books on fire by demonstrating how censorship breeds ignorance and how "ignorance is lethal" (Bradbury 156). The potential outcomes of censorship could make a reader feel scared. One of the rare tales in *The Martian Chronicles* that has humour, notably dark humour, is "Usher II." The humorous deaths of the book burners, which each make reference to a different story by Edgar Allen Poe, provide as an example of the tone.

## Conclusion

This research paper shows the qualities of different people of Mars according to "The Martian Chronicles" that how people can make their own perception towards other people. The same scenario is happening in our earth also; most of the people wants to live their life as superior one where other people must obey their order without asking a single question and also don't want to listen other's advice. this research paper shows the empirical quality in Mars. The future of human is depended on the present behaviour of people that how they want to see their future. "We earth men have a talent for ruining big, beautiful things". (Jeff Spender, June 2001: - and the Moon Be Still as Bright). As it shown in *The Martian Chronicles* people left the earth and begin to live in Mars because of human tendency, it shows the characteristic that people try to live peacefully wherever they get the right place without any force or suppress.

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