

# ESSAY: BEING HUMAN IS OVERLOOKED IN OUR PURSUIT OF BEING DEMIGODS

## OUTLINE:

### 1. Introduction

Thesis Statement: Human nature has an inherent desire to rule and possess power.

However, in pursuit of becoming big gun, he encounters savagery. Therefore, human value is often underrated and put into oblivion in an effort to development.

### 2. Humans undermine their existence to become influential.

### 3. Individual's will of superiority and power, subverting human value.

a- <sup>Man</sup> Becomes cold shoulder to fellow beings' misery in the desire to accumulate wealth and power.

b- Lure of material gains extirpates mental peace of individual.

c- Adoption of artificial technology alters human role and dependency.

d- Power and influence of man inspires enslavement of people.

e- Inclination to sadistic behaviour towards humans.

f- Unhealthy competition ensues inhumane behaviours.

### 4. Profession and society strive to flourish,

beyond limits, neglecting human existence.

- a- Advancement in medical sciences: An innovation of human mind
- b- Introduction of genetic engineering: Masterpiece of human's abilities
- c- Conquest of space exacerbates the idea of confinement and isolation.
- d- Social norms dominates individual's life.
- e- Religious exploitation undervalue men.

5. Local and global endeavours of prosperity, marring the worth of humans.

- a- Individual's attempt to get out of the bounds of time.
- b- Military adventure and wars overlook human wide carnage of mankind.
- c- Power exploitation by political elites underestimate welfare of people.
- d- Efforts to economic stability undermines people interest.
- e- Artificial ways of environmental reinvigoration
- f- Technological innovations supplant human abilities.

6. Conclusion

## ESSAY:

Human nature has an inherent desire to rule and possess power. However, in pursuit of becoming big gun, he encounters savagery. Therefore, human value is often underrated and put into oblivion in an effort to development. The pursuit of power in the novel "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley prompts Victor, main character to surge beyond <sup>the</sup> accepted human limits and access the secret of life. Likewise, Robert Walton, another character attempts to surpass previous human explorations by endeavoring to reach the North pole. This ruthless pursuit of knowledge proves dangerous as Victor's act of creation eventually results in the destruction of everyone dear to him. Also, Walton finds himself perilously trapped between sheets of ice. The quest of both these characters can be related to the man's desire to explore the world and make advancements. Yet, in his efforts to achieve his goals, he attains the role of a demigod. Moreover, he overlooks his fellow beings. Meanwhile, he loses his peace of mind in surpassing his capabilities. In addition to the above, invention of artificial man of work adds to man's comforts as well as his misery. Besides, man shows ~~esses~~ sadistic behaviour and enslave his fellow beings as well as ~~a~~ becomes equal in

competitive world. Broadly, on professional and societal level, man surpasses beyond his limits and tries to become a demigod via medical developments and genetic engineering. Furthermore, his access to space and is laudable, yet endangers life on Earth. Religious exploitation and social norms are also the tools of man to control his fellows and play the role of demigod. On a much broader perspective of global level, man's instinct to wage war, to rule and do nuclear adventure threatens human life. In addition to these, in the fields of economy, environment and technological advancements, man's role exceeds beyond humans reflecting being demigods.

The human race faces its most dangerous centuries yet as progress in science and technology becomes an ever greater threat to one's existence. Most of the issues humans face come from advances in science and technology, such as nuclear weapons and genetically engineered viruses. As rightly mentioned in **Jurassic Park 1993**, "Your scientists were so preoccupied with whether or not they could, they didn't stop to think if they should." This quotation

clearly states that in pursuit of attaining power, advancement and competition in the modern world, man has forgotten the repercussions of his development. Moreover, he dominates over his fellow beings and displays demigod like power. He becomes so cruel and inhuman towards others for his superiority.

Man instinctively ~~desire~~ <sup>desires</sup> for power and wealth. People want power for recognition and status. ~~However,~~ Meanwhile, humans <sup>get</sup> corrupt while attaining power and become cruel to others. **Thomas Hobbes** considers humans to be naturally vainglorious and so to seek to dominate others <sup>as well as</sup> demand their respect.

They become ignorant of humans' sufferings once they get in power. Moreover, wealth also makes man arrogant. Ultimately, he acts more like a demigod and tries to control people. He only seeks personal interest and becomes apathetic to the misery of people. Therefore, power and wealth leads man towards depravity, ignoring the benefit of other people.

Moreover, a human ~~struggles~~ <sup>struggles</sup> whole life to accumulate wealth and live healthy lifestyle. In this pursuit he neglects his health. Consequently, he ends up being mentally exhausted and disturbed. Nevertheless, he can never be satisfied. This is because man's existence is defined by greed. **Thomas Hobbes** is his semine

work, states that "Man is in essence a greedy leviathan

being. Also, in the competition to increase money and resources from others, he works day and night, as if he has some super-natural powers. This burdens him and results into mental fatigue. In this way, he toils beyond his capacity to satisfy his greed.

The advancement of artificial technology by humans is a replacement of human labour. It has made life comfortable for humans. Besides, it also has increased the unemployment. **4000 Americans** lost their jobs in a month due to **AI (Report by Gray, Challenger and Christmas, June 2023)**. AI has both advantages and disadvantages. Broadly, though it has made life easy in many aspects, it has also proved disadvantageous as in destructive technology. AI being a marvel of human mind, alters the human life both positively and negatively. In education sector, tool like **ChatGPT** and **Siri** diminish human creativity and critical thinking skills. Similarly, many destructive AI <sup>based</sup> weapons are a threat to human race. Hence, technological innovations by man undervalues the human value, reflecting the role of some big power like demigods. In addition to the above, authority and

influence leads man towards brutality and he acts ~~more~~ ~~to~~ as if he is demigod. He wants to dominate and tries to control people. Consequently, slavery becomes common. As the famous political philosopher **Jean Jacques Rousseau** said: "**Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains**". This elaborates the institution of slavery that is man is bound by chains of social norms, cultural values, domination of rulers and so on. Also, these are various regions in the world where rulers enslave people and slavery is a common practice. **North Korea** is the country with the highest rate of slavery in **2023**. Besides, many states were dominated by slavery. Slavery in **Ethiopia** persisted until **1942**. **The Dutch people** imported slaves from **Asia** into their colonies at the **Cape of Good Hope** in the **17th century**. In **1807**, **Britain** made the slave trade within its small coastal territory. Therefore, slavery is a rampant practice generated ~~as~~ by the power and domination of man. **Kant** believed that human beings naturally have a tendency to be evil. This tendency is further aggravated when he gains dominancy. As a result, he seeks pleasure in people's pain and suffering. **German** philosopher **Arthur Schopenhauer** said: "**The worst huma**"

trait is to enjoy the suffering of others. This makes a man indifferent to the misery of his fellow being and he considers them as inferior. The greatest manifestation of it is the recent detonation of a building in Gaza by Israeli soldier in order to celebrate the birthday of his daughter (Arab New, Nov 2023). Hence, man acts like a beast ~~when~~ he has power.

Similarly, negative competitions encourage man to gain power by hook and by crook. He urges to be superior than others. In this pursuit he becomes blind to the well-being of people and grinds his own axe. "To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity" - Nelson Mandela. To exploit people's interest for selfish purposes is against humanity. Man becomes inhumane as if he is a demigod to become influential in the world and harms his fellows. The competition maybe of any kind. For example, economic competition is occasionally portrayed as harming human rights along with social values. So, ~~man~~ power and superiority leads man towards depravity.

Modern man strives to prosper in social and professional aspects. He has made a lot of progress which are beyond human capabilities. Up until the nineteenth



century, illness, health and recovery were mysterious matters. Infections, cancer and disease in general were understood as some sort of curses. It was only with advances in biological knowledge, such as the development of **cell theory**, the germ theory of disease and **bacteriology**, that definite explanations of illness, suffering and death could be formulated. With the advancement of medical technology, treatment of various diseases are possible. For example, **Radiation therapy** is a type of cancer treatment. Likewise, innovation in medical sciences has increased the life expectancy of people. Hence, humans have left no stone unturned in advancements and act more like a demigod.

Over and above, genetic engineering is another marvel of human mind. Gene therapy is the genetic engineering of humans, generally by replacing defective genes with effective ones. It is widely practiced in various parts of the world. For example, in **2018**, **He Jiankui** created the first genetically modified babies in **China**. Furthermore, a lot of research is happening, but actually editing human DNA won't be allowed. However, genetically modified bacteria and other microorganisms are currently used to produce **human insulin**, **human growth hormone**, a protein used in blood clotting and other pharmaceuticals. In this way, human beings have found ways

to use living organisms and micro-organisms for their benefits and add to the welfare of mankind. Therefore, they play the yeoman's service like demigods.

Additionally, humans have escaped the bounds of the Earth. Astronomers have reached to the sun and space. Today, man covets to dwell in space. India launched its **Chandrayaan-3** rocket to space on **Aug 23, 2023**. Furthermore, it aims to explore the sun as well. India successfully launches **Aditya-L1** (first mission) to the Sun. Not only it launched its missions towards space, but also it started to plan

'**Space Tourism**' at the cost of **6 crore** per passenger by **2030 (ISRO, 2023)**. All the above examples manifest the developments of man's intelligence. These acts are not less than being done by a demigod.

However, man's step towards space depicts the idea of isolation and confinement. Hence, human's innovations are not less than any miracle, irrespective of their impact on mankind.

Besides, social norms which are ultimate creation of human beings dominate individual life. Conservative mindset of society makes human to play the role of demigod and to decide their fate. Even today different

societies in the world consider human life  
futile in front of social norms. Honor  
Killing West Asia is a form of violence against  
a female, usually a sister or daughter. She  
is murdered by men of her own family  
when she is accused of associating with a  
man outside of her community. In order  
to maintain the prestige of family, she is  
killed. So, man becomes cruel due to  
societal norms and dominates like a demigod.

Unfortunately, one aspect of religion  
in the life of the world is that it has  
involved conflicts between religions and people.  
In the pursuit of proving the superiority of  
one's religion, one often undermines human  
value. Sectarianism is the ultimate result  
of religious extremism. Man believes himself  
superior to others because of his religion.  
According to Karl Marx, "Religion is the opium  
of the people." It highlights the fact that  
religion makes man numb to others' sentiments.  
He becomes savage and murder people  
aimlessly. Therefore, man exploits religion  
for selfish purposes and become a demigod.  
On a much broad perspective, man's  
endeavours to control time is not less  
than the act of a demigod. Human beings are  
bound to time in many ways. Physiologically,

cardiac rhythm, bodily functions like sleep, hunger, and hormone levels etc are time bound. Additionally, cognitive and emotional processes, such as memory and anticipation are according to the time. Human beings have created various systems to measure and mark time. **Einstein's Theory of Time Dilation** is the prominent example. Moreover, it is perceived that aging process stops in space. Besides, calendars and clocks mark time. So, human beings try to increase their life span via different experiments.

Another manifestation of man's role as a demigod is in war times. War always bring devastating outcomes. Military adventure becomes the source of carnage of humans. For example, in **Gaza** Israel-Palestine conflict cause huge massacre of mankind. **"All war is the symptom of man's failure as a thinking animal."** - **John Steinbeck**. War leaves humane being senseless irrespective of its repercussions. He acts worse than animals and becomes insensitive towards his fellow beings. In this way, man dominates the world as if he has divine powers and control.

In addition to the above, political elites and rulers often misuse their power and ignore the interests of the

general public. Political leaders cynically trading away human rights obligations and accountability for short-term political wins. "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" - **The Animal Farm**. The proverb highlights the idea that when people are given too much power and control, they can become corrupt and abuse their position for personal gains. Consequently, they behave as if they are demigods and can determine their fate.

In economic perspective, humans exploit others' interest to achieve their purpose. Country's economy is dependent on the institutes or organizations which give loans to them. In turn, they impose severe restrictions upon the country. For example, Pakistan will be required to make debt repayments of nearly **\$75bn** over the next three years (**IMF, 2023**). Likewise, these organizations propose suggestions to limit country's expenditures and enhance the economy. In the pursuit of economic gains, man becomes demigod and decides the lifestyle of people. Moreover, governments curtail people living being in order to surge the economy. Resultantly, inflation and taxes get increased. Pakistan's economy is currently under stress with low foreign reserves, a depreciating currency and high inflation (**World Bank**). Hence, man determines

the economic well-being of other people with the innovation of artificial technologies, man has made the things possible which could ones be imagined only. He made things of divine origin. This has eradicated the major environmental issues. For example, Pakistan uses artificial rain for the first time in Lahore to fight pollution (Al Jazeera, Dec 2023). Moreover, many AI based environmental systems prove beneficial to control environmental pollution and other issues of similar nature. Therefore, human beings have done a yeoman service to mankind by protecting environment with artificial technologies.

Furthermore, technological developments have replaced the human's role and abilities. These technologies possess human abilities and are capable to do work. Artificial Intelligence based robots play the role of man. For example, IT graduates are far removed from the expertise i.e., now demanded in international markets. In Dubai alone, the demand for IT professionals is approximately 4000 (Dawn, Dec 2023). In this way, humans are left being unemployed. Artificial technologies dominate everything. So, technological advancement is due to human beings which has both merits and demerits. In a nutshell, human's desire to do

progress and advancement dominates the world. Though it has made life easier, in the long-run it has severe repercussions. Man in the quest of knowledge and development exacerbates beyond his limits. He ~~and~~ tries to attain the role of a demigod. In this pursuit, he sometimes try to dominate via cultural and social norms, political domination and economic domination. In addition to this, he becomes influential by technological innovations. He crossed the boundaries of Earth and reached to the space. Moreover, he meddles in the creation of living beings such as genetic engineering and so on. In short, everywhere in the world he surpasses beyond his potential.

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