

**ST.THERESA'S ARTS AND SCIENCE COLLEGE FOR WOMEN
THARANGAMBADI**

B.A English I -YEAR, II SEMESTER, UNIT- V

Dear Students ,The given topic kindly take time and Study them.

Wish you all the Best...

Sr. Vincent Amala

UNIT - V

5. BRAVE NEW WORLD

- Aldous Huxley

Life and Works

Aldous Huxley was born in 1894 near Godalming in Surrey in England to Leonard Huxley and Julia Arnold, the neice of the famous English poet and critic Matthew Arnold. Huxley himself was a nephew of the great Victorian novelist, Mrs. Humphry Ward. His grand father, Thomas Henry Huxley was a famous scientist. Aldous inherited his interest in science from his grandfather and in literature from his mother.

He got his primary education in his village school. Then he went to Eton to study medicine on scholarship. But he discontinued his studies because of an eye infection, which impaired his vision. After operation and exercise, he improved his eye sight and then joined Bolliol College, Oxford, He got his degree in English literature and philosophy in 1915.

Huxley is a prolific writer. He published his collection of verse 'The Burning Wheel' in 1916. His three novels 'Jonah', 'The Deafeat of Youth' and 'Leda' appeared in 1917, 1918 and 1920 respectively.

He became a farmworker at Lady Cattoline Morrelle's Garsington Manor. There he met luminaries like D.H. Lawrence, Bertrand Russell, Clive Bell and others. He met a Belgian refugee, Maria Nys, whom he married

in 1919. He became the second assistant editor of the magazine, 'Athenaeum' and later became the first British editor of 'House and Garden' and worked for 'Vogue'.

His collection of short stories, 'Lumbo' appeared in 1920. It was followed by his novel 'Crome Yellow' in 1921 which made his name as a novelist. His second novel is 'Antic Hay'.

From 1923 onward Huxley lived abroad. His third novel, 'Those Barren Leaves' presents a vivid account of his experiences in foreign lands. Huxley's 'Point Counter Point' is a novel of ideas. His 'Proper Studies' is his important volume of essays. His 'Brave New World', published in 1932 became one of the two anti-utopian novels. His other novels are, 'Music at Night' 'Texts and Pretexts', 'Beyond the Mexique bay', 'Eyeless in Gaza' and 'Ends and Means'.

He was forced to remain in America, where he wrote 'After Many a Summer', 'Ape and Essence', 'The Perennial Philosophy'. His wife died in 1955. After this he published his novel 'The Genius and the Goddess'. He married Laura Archera, a practising psychotherapist in 1956. His last novel 'Island' was written in 1962. His Los Angeles home and all his personal things were destroyed in fire and he became a man without possession and without past. In his last work 'Literature and Science', he pleads for the harmonious blending of the two.

He died of cancer in 1963 in Hollywood at his home.

Introduction to the novel, 'Brave New World'

'Brave New World', one of the most influential and powerful novels written in the twentieth century is one of the best known dystopian novel. The novelist imagines a future world where children are processed in bottles genetically rather than conceived naturally. They belong to one of five classes according to their intelligence, from perfect Alphas to moronic Epsilons. Learning takes place by repetition teaching during sleep. This consists of enforcing certain behaviour patterns through suggestion. This is backed up by the legal drug 'soma' that pacifies people through a false sense of fulfilment.

The story is that of an unhappy Alpha-plus man called Bernard Marx, who is unusual for his genetic caste in being short and unorthodox in his ideas. He falls in love with Lenina, whom he takes to the island of savages. There he meets a young savage, John, the son of the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning and Bernard manages to bring him back to civilization. John is treated as a circus freak. His love for Lenina is ruined by his antiquated notions of love and he meets his sad end.

CHARACTERS - A BRIEF INTRODUCTION

- John** : The savage is the only living character in the novel. He has aversion for the so called civilized world of Alphas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons. At the end he hangs himself.
- Bernard Marx** : He brings John and Linda from the Savage Reservation. As his ideas are revolutionary and anti-establishment, he is exiled to the Island at the end.

- Helmholtz : He is one of the three leaders who disliked the civilization. He is brave and magnanimous.
- Mustapha Mond : He holds a high position of the Resident controller of Western Europe. He is the spokesperson of the World State.
- Lenina : She is the product of the new world. She is beautiful and healthy. She is a dynamic character.
- Linda : She is the mother of the savage, John. She loves her son. When brought back to England, she leads a secluded life. The overdose of soma kills her.
- The Director of the London Hatchery : He is a conventional, correct man who believes in the new scientific technique.

THE OUTLINE STORY THE NOVEL

In the Central London Hatchery and Conditioning Centre, the Director is showing the students the various departments and explains to them how embryos are engineered and eggs are hatched. The eggs are conditioned to bring forth men of different classes, Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas, Epsilons etc. through Bokanovsky process.

After the Director, Mustapha Mond, the Resident controller for Western Europe, addresses the students. He repeats the proverb 'Everybody belongs to everyone else'. Ford has revealed the appalling dangers of family life. So no body speaks of fathers or mothers.

Bernard, an Alpha-plus psychologist is a specialist in hypnopaedia. Mustapha Mond permits him to go to a Savage Reservation. He with Lenina goes to the Malpais in the Reservation. Lenina does not like the place. People of Malpais remain naked. They are not civilized. Lenina is shocked to see a man wrinkled, black and toothless because in the Brave New World people never grow old.

Lenina and Bernard see a troop of monsters. A handsome boy meets them and says that he is the son of Linda who had come from the civilized world with a man, his father. The man left her never to return. Linda, who was a Beta in the Fertilizing Room is hated by the people in the Reservation. She is living in abject poverty. She teaches her son, John and advises him to run away from the Reservation.

With the permission of Mustapha Mond, Bernard takes John and Linda with him to London. John falls in love with Lenina.

When Bernard returns to London, the Director charges him with the offence of leading people astray and decides to send him to Iceland. Bernard produces Linda who recognizes the Director as one who had fathered John. In humiliation the Director resigns. Lenina is madly in love with John. In order to attract him, she acts coquetishly. This shocks John. So he rejects. She feels insulted and is dejected.

In the Brave New World no one talks to Linda. As she feels lonely she returns to soma. Finally she dies in a hospital because of the overdose of soma. John goes to the hospital and makes a loud cry against soma. Bernard and Helmholtz also join him. Police come to control the riotous situation and they arrest John, Bernard and Helmholtz.

Mustapha Mond comes to talk with the three prisoners. Bernard and Helmholtz are exiled to Folkland islands. Mustapha Mond tells John that the civilization does not want the people to be attracted by old things. He says that Shakespeare is prohibited because it is old and beautiful. He tells him that modern economics needs self indulgence and not self-denial.

John is not convinced by Mustapha Mond's arguments. He wishes to be sent to the island with Bernard and Helmholtz.

John is depressed, he wants to get rid of the civilized world. So he goes to a lonely lighthouse to live like a hermit. To repent for his failure to be of help to his mother, Linda, he whips himself. The news of his eccentric behaviour spreads far and wide. People from various places and journalists arrive to see him lashing himself. He is annoyed because his loneliness is disturbed. So he attacks them. Soon another group comes Lenina is also in that group. She goes to him with outstretched arms. John gets angry with her and calling her a strumpet, he whips her to death.

The next day when people come to see him, they found him hanging one a tree. He has committed suicide.