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A. C. DOYLE "HELL IN HEAVEN": SCIENTIFIC HYPOTHESIS AND "HUMAN FACTOR"

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ABOUT ARTICLE

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Abstract: the story "Hell in Heaven" contains both an interesting scientific concept and a philosophical idea about a person's desire for knowledge at any cost, sometimes leading him to exorbitant claims. And in this story, the author explores the "human factor", which certainly manifests itself at the moment of a great scientific discovery.

INTRODUCTION

Science fiction is an important part of the global literary process. The definition of this term in literary criticism causes controversy and discussion due to the extended interpretation of the concept. One should not confuse the concepts of science fiction as a figurative system and science fiction as a genre concept. The classification of science fiction works should be based not on a thematic principle, but on the specifics of science fiction, which consists in the presence of an artistically designed scientific hypothesis. Science fiction is also fiction, and general literary criteria should be applied to its evaluation, taking into account the characteristics of the genre.

The period of "traditional" science fiction was very productive. Among the science fiction writers of this period, Arthur Conan Doyle stands out, who created science fiction works of undoubted artistic value.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In 1911, the short story "Hell in the Sky" was published, linking the science fiction of the flying machine to the concept of man. In this work, the element of scientific foresight (the discovery of the unknown secrets of nature with the help of the latest technology) is combined with the theme of human capabilities, his claims to knowledge and greatness.

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The plot of the story is an excerpt from the notes of the pilot Armstrong, who decided to find out the circumstances of the crash of his colleague, who was found without a head. The disappearance of the head by the fall of an airplane cannot be explained in any way, and Armstrong decides to risk his life for the sake of truth. He makes a record flight, rising to an unprecedented height until then.

In this story, "scientific" looks quite modern. The airplane no longer flaps its wings. Descriptions of technology generally correspond to its state at that time: "My Paul Verone is small and elegant, obedient to drive, like a well-trained thoroughbred horse, the engine is a ten-cylinder rotary Robur, develops power up to one hundred and seventy-five horsepower. The model is the last word in aviation technology: a closed fuselage, a steeply arched ski landing gear, reliable brakes, gyroscopic stabilizers, three speeds, and the speed is changed by changing the angle of elevation of the wing plane - according to the principle of blinds.

What is there, in the upper layers of the atmosphere? At the time, this was of interest to many. The flight hypothesis also attracted Conan Doyle, although it looks rather naive from the standpoint of our time: in his story, the pilot does not care about the flight altitude, the lack of oxygen, or the temperature outside the airplane: "You need to climb along a smooth curve at a very small angle and spare your body, gradually getting used to the slowly falling atmospheric pressure, then the aviator is not threatened with such catastrophic consequences. And I also discovered at this great height that even without an oxygen mask, you can breathe without experiencing discomfort. However, it was very cold, my thermometer showed zero degrees Fahrenheit. From a modern point of view, such science fiction predictions do not stand up to scrutiny. But even here the author is forgiven. Firstly, at that time, no one had yet experienced the feeling of flying at high altitude, and, secondly, flying with him becomes conditional, a kind of extended metaphor.

A person is waiting for the unknown, the unknown, which can appear in completely unusual forms. The author's fantasy allows him to create a very poetic and at the same time terrible picture. Conan Doyle's "heavenly hell" is like the depths of the sea. Celestial jellyfish swim in it - an expression of a scientific hypothesis about the existence of other forms of life. The hero admires them and dreads them at the same time: "Medusa was pale pink with light green veins, and this pink-green substance was so thin and transparent that a bright blue sky shone through it. This fabulously beautiful creature pulsated evenly, smoothly. Two long green tendrils hung down from it, they slowly swayed back and forth. A wondrous vision sailed royally over me, inaudible, light and fragile, like a soap bubble, and just as majestically began to move away.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The feeling of horror gradually grows. The pilot sees "kite of great heights." He describes them as follows: "Long, thin phantasmagoric rings of a substance resembling steam, they curled in the air with such incredible speed, spinning and wriggling that the eye could not follow them. Some of these

ghostly creatures were up to twenty or even thirty feet long, but I found it difficult to determine their thickness, because the unsteady outlines seemed to melt in the sky. These kites were light gray, smoky in color with a darker pattern inside, and from this they gave the undoubted impression of living organisms.

The culmination of the story is the appearance of an unknown celestial monster, and the pilot immediately guesses the reasons for the death of his comrade. The appearance of this creature is grotesque, nightmarish. This is the embodiment of the anti-human forces of nature, which a person seeks to know and conquer: "A feeling of malice, cruelty emanated from the monster; besides, it changed color all the time - paled to a delicate pinkish-purple and gradually poured into a menacing purple, so thick that a shadow fell on me from the creature when it was between me and the sun. On the upper convex surface of his gigantic torso protruded three huge humps - I would call them bubbles and, looking at them, came to the conclusion that they were filled with some kind of extremely light gas, which supports this jelly-like mass in rarefied air.

This "nasty and foul-smelling" creature with disks resembling eyes and a mouth in the form of a predatory beak opposes the human nature of a pilot who sees his goal in a daring flight for the sake of truth, scientific and simply human feat.

Armstrong argues as follows: "Undoubtedly, man himself carries a particle of divine powers, otherwise he would not have risen so high, above the limit that the Creator has determined for us, and he rose thanks to the selfless devotion and courage that he showed by conquering the air. And they say that people were crushed! Does the history of mankind know a feat comparable to this?

The author, in principle, agrees with the hero, but the Unknown, which a person has to meet on the path of scientific knowledge, can cast doubt on human capabilities and abilities. And then the proud man turns out to be helpless before the forces of nature. The narrator manages to escape from the monster, but for the sake of truth and heroism, he flies a second time and goes missing. At the end of the story, the last lines of his diary are given: "The height is forty-three thousand feet. I will never see the earth again. There are three of them, and they are all under me. God help me! What a terrible death I will die!" It is clear to the reader what happened to the hero. Armstrong's death is mysterious only to the other characters in the story.

Despite some conventionality and artificiality of the plot (it is hard to believe that a pilot in the high heavenly spheres in the face of mortal danger managed to make diary entries), the story "Hell in Heaven" contains both an interesting scientific concept and a philosophical idea about a person's desire for knowledge at any cost, sometimes leading him to unreasonable claims. And in this story, the author explores the "human factor", which certainly manifests itself at the moment of a great scientific discovery. Early fiction by Arthur Conan Doyle with the problem of the morality of modern

society. The scientific hypotheses put forward by the writer testify to his scientific erudition. The author is really concerned about the prospects of scientific and technological progress.

CONCLUSION

On the other hand, the "science" of Conan Doyle's early fiction is constantly associated with reasoning on moral themes. In the works reviewed ("The Discovery of Raffles Howe", "The Brown-Pericord Engine", "Hell in Heaven"), the author examines how scientific discoveries in a morally immature society lead to the assertion of the power of money, to which science is subject. An untimely scientific discovery stimulates a thirst for enrichment, a career, and, ultimately, ruins both the scientist and people close to him. Sometimes heroes die physically, but morally - always. Early fiction did much to set the stage for Arthur Conan Doyle's most famous science fiction works, which continue and develop these themes and address the same moral issues.

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