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16 April 2007

The “Homogenous Humanity” short story envisions a realistic world post-humanity where all creatures within the “Society of Humanity” are equal and peaceful. The author uses many themes from all different eras and classifications of science fiction with the overall story mostly belonging to the current trends of Post-Singularity science fiction. The society conveyed in the story is very much like those found in Post-Singularity Science Fiction stories. Many of the characters are pulled from Pulp and Golden Era Science Fiction, but, like the American authors during New Wave Science Fiction, these characters are encountered and presented in different ways. Akin to Afro-futurism, the story pushes the reader to question identity and racial boundaries by presenting a society of equality. And, like Post-Modern and Cyberpunk Science Fiction, the world is bored with the apocalypse, there is an emphasis on body alterations and cybernetic implants, and the story runs counter to many expectations set-up by the author. This analysis will reveal the author's attempts to combine the themes and tropes from each of the different periods aforementioned and discuss the effectiveness of these attempts toward the overall theme of equality found in the story.

The similarities to Post-Singularity Science Fiction are met with right from the start. The dialog from the main character creates a world that is way past the apocalypse. Just as in Doctorow's *Down and Out in the Magic Kingdom*, the author here creates a society that is not to bothered by concepts that would have been of great concern in earlier Science Fiction. For instance, movement from planet to planet is simplified and not a worry. Also cybernetic implants are used regularly without any great social concern. The dialog between the two lovers also echoes Post-Singularity Science Fiction because the two are only really bothered with

packing and other common moving problems that the reader in this time period can relate to, yet it is still Science Fiction because they are able to move everything instantly without any problems. The ending is very much like Post-Singularity Science Fiction as well because the solution is very simple and not overly action packed as one might expect.

The story is also very much like New Wave Science Fiction in that it pulls basic character types and themes from Pulp Era and Golden Era Science Fiction, yet in a New Wave fashion it subverts the classical expectations of these characters and themes. For instance, in *Thundering Worlds* by Edmund Hamilton, the entire solar system is worried about moving planets to survive. In this story, there is a similar theme, but, instead of the journey to the new planet becoming a great path of hardship and suffering, the journey is simple and non-problematic. Also, the narrator's girlfriend is a human-feline hybrid creature that could have easily been pulled from Pulp Era Science Fiction as a Beautiful Alien Monster (BAM), but instead she is a kind and very human girlfriend. The robot being friendly and a completely commonplace character in the story subverts the traditional meaning of the Bug Eyed Monster (BEM) which was the original character type that the robot was spun off from during the Pulp Era of Science Fiction.

The combination of these character types allows for the references to Afro-Futurism Science Fiction. The story presents a world where all intelligent beings live peacefully and intermingle readily. The idea of racial equality is forced into the mind of the reader as an ideal world is displayed with no inequality. Forcing readers to question racial equality and the social repercussions of race is the entire point of Afro-Futurism, and so the story accomplishes this point on the whole. The even more interesting part is the idea of the Ecto-Hive, however, because Ecto-Hives have the potential to be threats to the society as a whole. So the question arises as to where equality ends and who determines what races aren't civilized enough to join

the society. This question is left for the reader to ponder although the story does hint that all races are given an equal opportunity to join the society or stay peacefully on there on. By having the possibility of battle and the need for some characters to have heavy weaponry, the story not only makes the world more believable because surely not all races in the universe would be peaceful and it allows for an expectation of battle to be built up within the story.

The subversion of expectations within the story, which happens quite frequently, reflects the Post Modern period of Science Fiction and, specifically, Cyberpunk. The story is constantly building up expectations, like when the narrator is tackled and goes into war mode, or the when the characters walk into the Ecto-Hive. These expectations, generally of violent outcomes, are quickly subverted to reflect the peaceful intentions of the “Society of Humanity.” Not fulfilling expectations is very common in Post Modern Science Fiction and Cyberpunk. For instance, in “Johnny Mnemonic” by William Gibson the lead character, Johnny, is forced into the world of the Lo-Teks, where he doesn't at first appear to belong. By pushing Johnny into this other world, Gibson sets up the expectation that Johnny will have to return to his original society or that he will not be able to fit in. Yet, in the end, Johnny becomes a part of the Lo-Teks and even adopts some of their style (canine teeth) as he is assimilated into their culture. The story in “Homogenous Humanity” calls to mind these Post Modern ideas of countering expectations.

The characters in the story are also very comfortable with the use of implants and cybernetic-organic alterations. The unquestioning use of implants is very similar to stories from Cyberpunk and Post-Singularity Science Fiction. By not questioning the effects of the use of implants and by making them out to be more similar to tools than negative things. The story creates a world that is very much extrapolated from the increasing use of microcomputers in every day life. We are constantly surrounded by gadgetry and so it makes it easier for the reader

to immediately identify with the use of implants and alterations to extend the functionality of the human being. The story very much reflects McLuhan's *The Medium is the Message* because the story extrapolates mankind's tendency to extend and augment their natural abilities with technologies and new mediums.

"Homogenous Humanity" makes many comments that are on line with ideas presented through many periods of Science Fiction. The story has the unique quality of combining so many different ideas and themes from the extensive history of Science Fiction without losing the interest of the reader and without losing the presentation of an interesting story. As this critique has shown, the author set out to combine these themes seamlessly and still keep the story interesting and meaningful. Overall the author accomplishes his goals without too many problems, creating an interesting world that is similar to many other worlds from throughout the annals of Science Fiction, yet unique enough to stay compelling and enticing.