

ATWOOD'S WARNING TO WAYFARERS

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The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.

-Albert Einstein

ABSTRACT

Margaret Atwood's warning to wayfarers is heard throughout the novels, be it Oryx and Crake or The Year of the Flood, through the narrator's voice as well as the description of the happenings in the futuristic world she has created. This future world is full of dark shades which sends shivers down the spine of every reader and leaves the readers with a feeling of urgency to stop such things from happening. Although these novels also voice opinions against free sex and sexual abuse of children, ecological disturbance seems to be her main concern. Her heart cries out on seeing environmental degradation through the use of chemicals, progress in name of biotechnology and research in genetic engineering-thanks to the powerful scientists and the greedy corporates. This paper is an attempt to show how through these novels, which are dystopian tales of environmental catastrophe, Atwood raises her voice against this path of ruin that humans are treading towards –a path that would only lead to distress and leave them with a feeling of bitterness and horror.

KEYWORDS: Dystopia, Ecological Disturbance, Genetic Manipulation, Futuristic World, Environmental Catastrophe, Urgency, Warning