

# The Curious Interdependence of Time and Man in H.G Wells's *The Time Machine*

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## Abstract:

The clarity and brilliance of Plato and Aristotle have always been more appealing to the mind than the tangled dogmatism of the fathers. In addition, Wells challenges conventional wisdom by translating his candor and reaction to late Victorian writing through the magnificence of Plato and Aristotle. Wells unknowingly prepared himself for the groundbreaking ideas that would later find form in his prolific writing career while constructing planets, spacecraft, and aliens out of shattered crockery from his father's crockery store in the backyard of his gloomy Atlas house in Kent, England. Wells's interest with the fantastic began in that Dickensian backyard long before he started publishing fiction. Despite his modest background, he was an avid reader who was profoundly affected by works of great writers such as Plato and Swift. He developed his creative skills with the nascent scientific disciplines of his era. His literary career spanned sixty years, thanks to his education, creative spirit, and analytical intellect. He sought refuge in fantastic literature as a reader and continues to do so in his writing career. Having grown up in the British Empire during its heyday after the Industrial Revolution, he took many advances in society as read. At the time, Wells's ideas were far ahead of the curve. Even as the empire was at the height of its might, he envisioned a grim future. His prediction of the empire's fall, based on the laws of nature and common sense, was probably mocked at the time. Nonetheless, his early fiction deftly masked his message.

**Keywords — Imagination, Speculative, Creativity, Fantasy, Mystery**

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## INTRODUCTION

Wells was an independent thinker who never compromised his principles or second-guessed the reception of his radical views. Wells was not afraid to go against the grain, whether as a means of escape or as a way to symbolize a wide range of imaginations. According to J.D. Beresford, this allowed Wells to abandon conventional wisdom. Wells, in contrast to his Modernist predecessors, wrote in a straightforward, straightforward

journalistic style that made his tremendous imagination and ideas accessible to a wide audience. Perhaps the complexity of the thoughts he wished to express led him to choose such straightforward language and structure. His works of science fiction and fantasy often explore the consequences of humankind's social, political, and scientific decisions for the planet and its inhabitants.

In his debut book, *The Time Machine* (1895), H. G. Wells tries to convince his readers that the success or failure of future generations would depend less on the achievements of science and technology and more on how individuals choose to interact with one another and with themselves. By the late nineteenth century, the idea of traveling across time was not at all unique. Wells' amazing voyage into logical, scientific reasoning was, however, founded on his original contribution to both fiction and science. Wells was so self-aware that he used his innate powers of observation in his first novel while still in his twenties. One of his greatest strengths would be his ability to make audiences suspend their disbelief.

Using a fictitious scientific discovery and mythical and metaphorical components, Wells creates a societal situation in the far future that is based on his views of the present. With the use of *The Time Machine*, we can travel through time and observe the world not only as it is now, but also as it was, will be, or could be in the future. One possible explanation for Wells' use of fantasy in *The Time Machine* is that, as a child, he was underprivileged and, as an adult, he sought solace in a fantastical world. Critics of Wells's biographies, Norman and Jeanne Mackenzie, point out that he was a gifted reporter and writer because of his keen sense of sight and hearing. Later on, he was able to transport his readers unnoticed from realism to fantasy through the force of convincing description; nevertheless, his preoccupation with events, with sense rather than sensitivities, was also an attempt to avoid experiencing strong emotions.

Wells's inventiveness, literary skills, and application of sound scientific theory propel *The Time Machine* with pinpoint accuracy from "reality to fiction." To get people interested in what he has to say about the consequences of Victorian and Edwardian society's vices and possible solutions in the fictional future, he chose time travel as the theme of his debut novel, demonstrating his vision and curiosity. In the beginning of his writing career, he wrote for financial gain. He had to write a lot to make ends meet, and after the huge success of *The*

*Time Machine*, he was eager to continue delving into scientific and future topics in his works. He was, in effect, referring his readers to the same source as H. G. Wells' *The Time Machine*.

He started writing opinion pieces for newspapers as his fame grew in the literary world. His fame as a futuristic storyteller spread far and wide. The criticism of his political ideas, however, was constant. His criticism of the Fabian Society and George Bernard Shaw was also widely reported. In his semi-autobiographical confessional novel "The New Machiavelli", published in 1909, Wells criticized this incident and his opponents. In the later phases of his writing career, his political ideas were more important than his inventiveness. He was a socialist who despised Marxism. His later writings lacked the fervor of his youth. The result was widespread indignation in the literary community. Throughout the two World Wars, Wells' political ideas came under fire, even from people like George Orwell. C. S. Lewis satirized Wells and his political views in his novel *That Hideous Strength*. His determination to succeed as a young writer came at the expense of his relationships with other people and, to a lesser extent, his reputation.

Around this time, he also penned his lesser-known psychological thrillers like "Babes in the Darkling Wood" and "All Aboard for Ararat". "Mind at the End of Its Tether", his last book, was released in 1945 and details his prior concern that humanity would be destroyed. Wars had already devastated the world to the point where no one was paying attention to his warning. Notwithstanding the controversy surrounding his later years, his overall literary output wins out. Even after more than 50 years, *The Time Machine* remains his most celebrated novel.

### **Discovery of Realistic Solutions in Fantasy**

Time is the agent of transformation, the balm of wounds, and the speediest of all metaphorical conveyances. There is no absolute sense of time. While most things in the framework of time can be measured, this one cannot. It's the one thing that can

be both grounded in reality and also extend beyond the past, future, space, and even the fantastic. The topic of time is investigated in Wells' novella, "The Time Machine." Wells strays far from the conventional fare of the day, which was made up primarily of "extraordinary voyages" and love stories. The concept of time travel by use of a machine was foreign to English literature until H. G. Wells' *The Time Traveler* arrived in the world of the future. Those authors who came before Wells used a wide array of techniques to get their protagonists to the fantastic realms. In the past, characters might accidentally slip into a fairytale world or wake up in the future. Authors have always employed magic or hibernation to send their protagonists into the future, but in George Mann's novel, *The Time Machine*, technology is used to do so. Wells made the adjustment here. Reading "The Time Machine," however, makes it abundantly evident that Wells uses technology and science solely as vehicles for conveying his fundamental message, which is rooted in social issues rather than the scientific method. Alfred tweaked it a bit. Mac Adams is spot-on when he says that the "science" in Wells' stories is just props. Wells's account is told in a straightforward manner, with no need for lengthy scientific explanations. Wells's story appears to be a fantasy in which a mysterious character called "the Time Traveler" goes on an expedition. The plot revolves around this travel, and most of the other characters have job descriptions as names. The Time Traveler was a famously eccentric scientist at the end of the nineteenth century, and his experiments are recounted in an objective third-person narrative. The Time Traveler, an affluent Victorian intellectual, has weekly get-togethers at his mansion for his fellow academics to share their ideas and insights. The narrator is one of the people who hear the Time Traveler's account of his fantastic adventure in a time machine.

At a dinner party with his intellectual pals, the Time Traveler presents them with a replica of a time machine's machinery, which they ridicule in incredulity. They arrange to get together again in a week, and when they do, the Time Traveler makes a dramatic entrance and tells the account of his eight

days in the future to the assembled scholars. When the Time Traveler lands in an uncharted future time period, he investigates the local fauna out of simple curiosity. He draws the conclusion that the Eloi are fragile yet mild-mannered, while the Morlocks are the resentful offspring of humanity. The Eloi give off an air of indifference and passivity. Weena, an Eloi woman, drowns in a stream while a group of her people watch but do nothing to help. The Time Traveler makes his first acquaintance in the year 802, 701 AD when he rescues her. Yet, the Morlocks are nocturnal animals that are deathly afraid of daylight. They are in charge of providing food and clothing for the Eloi who live in the upper world, and they operate complex machinery deep underground. They look like monsters, act like monsters, and steal the time machine if given the chance. It's not apparent if they're trying to catch the Time Traveler so they can question him about the machine, murder him so they can steal it, or both. The Time Traveler and Wells both fail to consider the motivation behind this secret move. The Morlocks view the Time Traveler as a menace since he is friendly with the Eloi and uses matchsticks to start fires. Any artificial light is terrifying to these nocturnal beasts. It's likely that they were just curious in the equipment and not interested in eating Eloi at all.

When they try to tear the Traveler apart in the blaze, however, their true motives become apparent. Under the framework of the White Sphinx, they have hidden the time machine. The Time Traveler is thus forced to stay in this future Earth until he can retrieve his own. He is able to observe more of the world because of his efforts to avoid becoming locked in the future. But the more he finds out about it, the less satisfied he is with it. He makes multiple attempts to stop the Morlocks and creates a shaky alliance with the Eloi. The Time Traveler accidentally starts a forest fire while trying to extinguish the Morlocks with fire. Because of this, Weena mysteriously disappears, becoming a victim of the Morlocks or the fire. He is relieved to have escaped that specific era of the future after he successfully retrieves his time machine by tricking the Morlocks. He then goes even further into the

future, 30 million years from now, to a time when the Sun is on the verge of destroying the Earth. After his return from the end of time, he tells his friends about his adventures before leaving again the following day. By returning again and again to the idea of time travel, Wells is able to give his protagonist a longer journey and establish a stronger foundation for a richer set of symbolic meanings. This trip through time sets Wells' creative juices flowing.

The allusion to Oedipus in the question is appropriate. Like Oedipus, the Traveler must discover his own identity in this unfamiliar environment. The 'time' conundrum is another one of his obsessions. His encounter with the legendary Sphinx and his unwavering openness to finding significance in the world around him are reminiscent of Oedipus' search. Bradley W. Buchanan looks into where Wells got his ideas. The fact that Oedipus symbolizes both humanity's desire to recreate itself with each consecutive generation and the inevitable doom that occurs as a result of those efforts, he argues, is the clearest indication of why Wells makes his Traveler resemble Oedipus. The Time Traveler, in preparing for this journey, cheerfully accepted this risk as inevitable, as one of the chances that a man must take. When he finally gets to the realm of the future, it seems like his adventures will have no end. He first observes the tame Eloi and concludes that communism has succeeded, leading to a dull, calm world. If the Time Traveler's mind works like Wells', then this is evidence that the two are similar.

But while he looks for his time machine, he learns about the Morlocks, the vicious denizens of the underworld. The loss of his time machine presents a serious obstacle because it raises the possibility that his efforts would forever link him with this future land. After a long and gruesome struggle, he is able to rediscover his machine and defeat the Morlocks. The machine becomes the damsel in distress that the Traveler must save from the clutches of the dragon-like Morlocks. In an effort to lure him in, the Morlocks give him a preview of his stolen device. The equipment has even been serviced by

them. Wells clearly intended for them to be of the working class, as seen by this conduct. As soon as the Traveler gets close to the machine, the Morlocks start closing in on him. But, the Traveler disappears into thin air once he ascends his time machine. His time machine, which he has meticulously planned out, gives him superhuman skills.

While he's glad to have his questions about this strange future answered, he's saddened by the decline of humanity. He ponders the origin of the huge chasm that separates these two lines of humanity's offspring. At one point, he is met with total darkness as he descends a well in pursuit of his contraption, a gateway into the underworld of the Morlocks. He strikes a match, and in front of him gigantic machines take shape. This brings to mind the rise of machines during the Industrial Revolution and the stigma attached to those from lower socioeconomic status when working in factories. The ruling class had complete control over the lower classes throughout his era. Even after all this time, the machine's operator now has the upper hand. The repercussions he predicts can be traced back to persistent social inequity across time. Even though he doesn't move from his starting point, the passage of time makes it feel like he's traveling.

According to Campbell's thesis, the hero returns home after facing death or considerable suffering, armed with knowledge and abilities gained on the journey. After evading the Morlocks and disappearing from 802,701 AD, Time Traveler goes even deeper back in time. In the eyes of the Time Traveler, life on Earth is like a suspenseful mystery novel, the resolution of which he cannot wait to read. At the end of the world, he shows up. The only action in this part of the novel is the Traveler's forward movement through time as he watches Earth change without the presence of humans. He sees several species go extinct before his eyes. Giant crabs are all that's left, and they have little in common with modern humans.

## CONCLUSION

Wells' noble portrayal of the Time Traveler makes readers like and support him. The Scholars' disdain for the Time Traveler's experiment strengthens him. After returning from the future, the Traveler doesn't care what people say. He doesn't care if this intelligent bunch doesn't trust his creation and story. The Professors represent the majority of scholars who resist the determined minority who want to break tradition and study the cosmos.

Wells purposefully places cliched obstacles in his Time Traveler's path to indicate that everyone has troubles now. Wells' Traveler appears at Earth's end and kills all intelligent life. Only huge butterflies and crabs can survive in a lifeless world. Wells' huge butterflies and spiders symbolize. While watching Earth's final, dying experiences before the Sun grows to devour the globe, the Time Traveler's imagination creates a realistic vision and warns. The Time Machine gives Victorians a way to depress themselves because Wells is pessimistic about the future. Wells' future differs from his contemporaries' utopias, fanciful adventures, and political allegories. It captures the enchantment of fantasy and early speculative fiction. After 100 years, the time machine is still amazing. There are many fantastic sequences, such when the narrator worries about his senior scientific friend disappearing on the mechanical body he calls the time machine, or when they are caught in a dead quiet after the last catastrophe, leaving them dangling on a cliff of curiosity.

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