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**THE BUTTERFLY EFFECT: THE POWER OF STORIES**

**IN THE EVOLUTION OF HISTORY**

**Abstract**

*History is an amalgamation of storytellers, history makers and historians, of which the story tellers are the pioneers. Storytellers invented Gods and Goddesses, Money, Wars, Kings and Queens, Maps and so many hyper real worlds. Stories transformed into history and it appears to be a random play of events across time. However, history is beyond the randomness that we see or read or hear. Any event in history is interconnected in some way or the other, though many of the complex interconnections cannot be visibly traced. The nonlinear structure of the random events have a deterministic order - an order in chaos. Any greatest event across history began with fictitious stories created by a group of storytellers who wanted to enjoy their power and position. The repercussions of something unbelievably bizarre or insanely accidental led to ground breaking histories, like the wrong turn of the car that caused the World War I. Stories brought repercussions in the human world and those evolved into history. History, thus is not an outcome of randomness but of order that began with stories followed by many events.*

***Keywords****: evolution, history, chaos, fiction, reality*

**Introduction**

History, like literature, comprises of reality and fiction. Fiction brings the spirit of reality closer than the raw reality itself. Its beauty lies in how a story is told and retold by people. Stories unite the human species invariably, like the mythologies that formed different communities. Humankind has always enjoyed narrating stories as the liberty for imagination was and is never a hindrance. Stories, in the early ages, were often believed to be real as nobody reasoned out or tried to question the logic. Witches and fairies were believed to be existing alongside the humans. As ages passed by, some stories occupied the central position in the human world as those were blended into reality which then gradually became the new reality Fiction can afford the luxury of camouflaging itself into reality. All the events in histories began with fictitious stories of gods and goddesses, money, maps, laws, justice and many other stories that multiplied eventually to form history. These sudden transformations did not happen randomly but in a complete state of order. In all the randomness our ancestors had witnessed, there was a deterministic order that had been kept far from our sight. These stories were created by story tellers who were so selfish that they wanted to enjoy their power and position. Through these stories, directly or indirectly, they were given power and authority such that they kept the stories closer to reality. Moving on to the 21st century, we still prey on those stories that were created eons ago in addition to the new stories created by storytellers now. Stories “resemble the seeds of grain which have lain for centuries in the chambers of the pyramids shut up air-tight and have retained their germinative power to this day.” (Benjamin) Stories blend into reality in such a way that humans lose the ability to differentiate between reality and fiction. Several mysteries in the Universe are filled with a story a powerful story that makes humans get rid of the unfilled space in minds. Most people on Earth believe in the story of Adam and Eve as this story is not as complex as the theory of evolution or the Big Bang. Such simple fictitious stories nullify the space for complex realities. Humans choose stories according to their preference of understanding those. Some believe in one story whereas many believe in another story which makes the second story more reliable. It depends on how many times the story is told and retold. If stories like these had promoted a healthy and peaceful relationship among humans in history, then history wouldn’t have been this dreadful as chronicled in most of the pages of history books. These stories brought disharmony among humans and our reliance on those have broken the balance between other organisms and us. Several stories incorporated into reality have resulted in this grand narrative called the history.

**Objectives of the Paper**

1. To expose the underlying non linear pattern in the evolution of history.

2. To unveil the purpose of creation of stories in history.

3. To unmask the hyper real elements in the making of history.

**Uniqueness of the Paper**

Imagination is the product of human minds. It becomes visible to the human eyes when imagination becomes a product. There is something else that imagination can produce a story. A story is not materialistic and it remains an abstract layer in mind until it is turned into reality which means when the story becomes real, the power of imagination is visibly seen. All that the human world perceives and lives in, are fictional entities that are established by the storytellers as reality. Imagine a law that has been passed recently, and people in power suddenly decide to change the law. The law can be changed overnight, with no need to fight and win over it in a battle that involves physical violence between the two opposing parties. It is enough the chief judge in the Supreme Court declares a new law as opposed to the previous law. This could happen only because laws exist only in human minds and that is not an objective reality at all. We believe that laws are an outcome of reality, but in truth, laws are a product of imagination. History is a fiction, apparently, except for the sufferings of humanity within those fictional entities. Storytelling, like myth making, can be made easily believable and the credibility of the story lies in the power of who tells the story. Such stories like laws, religion and many more are not harmful until those tangled webs start affecting the people in reality. Some of the stories should be streamlined and retold as one group affects another group which rises to large number of conflicts resulting in disharmony and violence in the world. The genesis of some of the stories need to be traced in order to prove that the stories that majority of us believe in are merely fictional and are irrelevant in today’s world. With the butterfly effect, the evolution of stories in history can be traced.

**Literature Survey**

*The Storyteller in Context: Storyteller Identity and Storytelling Experience* by Patrick Ryan discusses the power of storytellers, how thinking affects storytelling, the ramifications of non-genuine storytelling. The implications of a non-genuine storytelling are widely discussed whereas the interconnections between the selfish storytellers and its impact on history aren’t explored. In *Chaos, History, and Narrative*, George A. Reisch defines history as a chaos and that history works on the principle of butterfly effect such as its sensitive dependence on the initial conditions. However, the power of imagination is little less discussed and history is looked upon as a grand event or as a grand narrative. The nonlinear laws in history are explained but how storytelling affects history or how hyper reality has affected the whole human history aren’t identified. In an article titled *Whose Anthropocene? A Response,* Dipesh Chakrabarty exposes the politics in / of the anthropocene. The fact that mankind jumped to the top of the food chain is explored but how fiction/ story telling helped mankind reach the top of the food chain isn’t explored. In *Bible’s Stance on Homosexuality,* Alan S heard quotes that Bible shows no understanding of homosexual orientation as mutually supportive and affirming. The verses in the Bible are discussed but the reason for establishing such irrational stories as truths within Christianity aren’t explored.

This paper explores the complexities between storytelling and how stories told by selfish people in power have created history, how imagination has crossed the boundaries of fiction and stepped in to the human world as reality, how hyper reality has consistently been the source of creating harmony and disharmony in the making of history, how the myth of homo sexuality has found away to live upto the 21st century and how stories helped human kind reach the superior position in the world.

**Research Methodology:**

With the Qualitative Research Method, the historical events are analyzed and the underlying non linear patterns are identified. The research design includes the application of the butterfly effect to the events in history, thereby figuring out the power of storytelling in the making of history. The nonlinear patterns such as the wars and conflicts are studied in depth and how the little stories created by story tellers have evolved into a grand history are identified. The unpredictable and random nature of history is dissolved as there is a certain, predictable order in the happening of any event in history.

**Findings**

**Nature, Order and Chaos:**

The word ‘Chaos’ was defined by various mythologists, philosophers, theologians, scientists over time differently. Empty space/ void/ abyss, state of confusion, disorder, opposite of ‘cosmos’, a specific kind of unpredictability, darkness, random distribution are the various synonyms provided in different fields across different eras. But in the field of Mathematics and Science, Chaos theory means a science of predicting the behavior of “inherently unpredictable” (Lorenz) systems. It corresponds to the pattern of behaviour (action), the span of the action (time) and the non-linear outcome in the universe (effect). Beginning with the chaos in the solar system to the chaos in the earth to the chaos within the creatures living on the earth, there is a pattern. Where there is life and energy, there is chaos and where there is chaos, there is a pattern. The sensitive dependence on the initial conditions which is known as the Butterfly Effect is the origin of the Chaos theory. Like the chaos of the atom that opened up a complex pattern in the universe, the butterfly effect opened up the theory of chaos. Edward Lorenz clearly puts forth the idea that even the flap of the wings of a butterfly can cause an atmospheric change in Texas. The tiniest of the trivial actions of any creature in the universe has a tremendous effect some place else. It is too complex for the doer to understand and study the pattern followed by his/her action as the system is interconnected and the effect of his/her action cannot be apparently visible. It is not essential that the doer’s action will affect the same species of the doer; it can affect any creature in this world and to any extent. Nature is attributed as the most stupendous, complex and mystical wonder as perceived by the humans. The superficial miscellaneousness in Nature offers the liberty for humans to conclude that Nature works not harmoniously but disorderly. However the magic of the organised pattern is visibly seen when each part of Nature is closely observed and analysed. The hugeness of the galaxies, the diversification of the living creatures, the irreplaceable masterpieces of art, the myriad vignettes of all visible and invisible things in the world possess a design. Everything under the sun follows a pattern, the pattern of the Fibonacci. From the tiniest atoms to the biggest galaxies in the sky, the golden ratio is inevitable. Neither can humans escape creating things without this nor can we live away from this. Flower petals, art, architecture, books, human beings, animals, DNA, hurricanes are no exception to this golden ratio. Everything appears complex and disarrayed until a similar pattern is found. Nature, without a doubt, falls into this pattern chaotically.

**Stories, Homosapiens and History**

When there is a pattern in the Universe, there is a pattern in everything that happens now, anything that will happen in future or anything that happened in the past. There is a pattern in the history that we read. It is not a random interplay of events or in other words, chaos. History is a deterministic play of events with complex inter connections that begins with stories of power and politics. If we can predict the past, it is possible to predict the present and the future as well. Tracing back to the ancient times when Homo sapiens enjoyed equal status as that of other animals, our reality was quite different from what we are now living in. Now we enjoy the superior status among all other organisms, inspite of the physical power and strength of some of the organisms as compared to humans. The answer for this sudden shift in the world lies in the power of imagination of human beings. We imagined where power could take us to and we became the superior beings in this Universe. In reality, we are a speck of dust in the Universe but in our imagination we are the most powerful beings who can control everything that is happening in the Universe. Imagination gave rise to several stories tangled with reality such that we now live in a different reality – a fictional reality. Most of the history books have chronicled the events in order with a certain beginning and end but it has not recorded the purpose of creating fictional stories in the human world. Butterfly Effect can decode some of the underlying dangerous patterns for such fictitious creations and can bring the purpose of the creation of such stories into lime light. With the science of butterfly effect, the puzzle of the non-deterministic and non-linear happenings in history can be confronted with certainty. History is always read as something far and disconnected from the present. The truth is that we are part of the history too and we live in the same stories as our ancestors lived too. We have Gods and Goddesses, may be in different forms than before. The stories evolved along with the humans but stories have continued to exist and will continue to exist as long as human beings survive. History is a predictable event as long as the complex interconnections are decoded. A complex network of meaningless stories were turned into history by human kind for their selfish motives. History is me rely a story of power and nothing else. History is not governed by the principle of theory of evolution but it is an outcome of imagination of great story tellers who wanted power where the listeners became the characters in the story and later the victims in history. There are two groups of people who are involved in the story telling1. The active story tellers2. The passive listeners. This model resembles the grand model of working of history except that the stories were take none step higher to reality. For this transformation, hyper reality was the tool they used to manipulate human kind. In the twenty first century, humans still rely on stories and it is hard to imagine a world without stories. But these are not stories like fairy tales which we know is unreal. These are far beyond what we can see. Stories are incorporated into reality so deeply that humans cannot differentiate between reality and fiction.

**History, Randomness and Order**

Everything in history begins with randomness. The storytellers who created such powerful timeless stories are organizations who had a vision – a vision of power. Though it began with a random disorder, it naturally attained order as the stories worked like the system of a pendulum. It began with a random disorder and ended in a deterministic order. If two similar stories of same origin are compared with each other based on its endings, it is not going to be similar. The complex interconnections, visible and invisible to human eyes, contribute to the making of the story, such as who the narrator is, the way the narrator tells it, how the listener spar take in it, how the listeners retell the story, how the story tellers build an institution out of the story, how the listeners are victimized in the world of hyper reality. The linguistic positions that the words such as the West, Presence, Good, Hero, Nature, Man occupy are considered significant than the concepts established on the right side of the binary opposition. These are merely stories instilled deeply into us that the darker side of who created those remains invisible, but the stories still continue to exist. Similar to the declaration of Papal in fallibility by Pope Pius IX which led to the eternal belief that Popes can never be wrong or the declaration of Hong Xiuquan as the son of God and the brother of Jesus Christ which led to the Taiping Rebellion (Platt), a massive death of around twenty million people, several stories were constructed and were made to fit perfectly in the round hole of reality. These random stories of power have led to blood thirsty wars and irrational conflicts. When Mao Ze dong, the Chairman of the Communist Party of China wanted to make China the super power, he ordered the tripling of the agricultural production in order to export to other countries. When the results didn’t come out well, the local officials added up zeros to flatter their superiors. Trusting the forged reports, in exchange for weapons and heavy machineries, China exported so much grains to foreign countries. The result was the worst famine in history with the death of tens of millions of Chinese (Becker). In order to survive, the local officials cooked up a story and this story turned to be the worst history of famine later. One man’s overvaulting ambition has created the most dreadful history. In the end, everything might seem nonlinear and disorderly as the trajectory of the events are too complex but it has a linear order behind the chaos that we see. It is visible if the genesis of the stories are traced because there begins the pattern of history.

**Stories, the Catholic Church and History**

The Roman Catholic Church, the largest Christian Church, has constructed several stories alongside the real time history. Dan Brown through his novel such as The Da Vinci Code (Brown) decodes some of the stories within Christianity that had been concealed completely by the Catholic Church. In all its entirety, those in power hide the story so as to sustain the institutions in reality. Fictional stories are the basis for the reality that most of the humans live in. If the stories are let loose then everything will fall to the ground. As the Catholic Church has sown the seeds for different storyline, the base of the structure will cripple to the ground if those stories are demystified. Stories such as the creation of Adam and Eve, life after death, homosexuality is a crime, authorities are to be obeyed to are the random stories invented by the story tellers who found an order through the institution such as the Catholic Church. Stories such as celibacy which has been adored by the Catholic community as holy and powerful, that homosexuals will be put to death by God, that all of us should obey the authorities because God put the authorities in place are stories that are still believed to be true by the Catholic community. All these stories, if promote harmony, can be ignored. But most of them cause disharmony, like the other natural genders are considered unnatural and illogical. Catholic Church abominates homosexuality for the fact that God gets angry if two people of same sex fall in love and will put them to death. If the Catholic Church replaces this belief with a new theory that anyone can fall in love despite the genders, then the bedrock of Christianity which is the creation of Adam and Eve by God will fall to the ground and therefore the whole other belief systems. So the Catholic Church refuses to take up this story no matter how many of them are victimized because of this merciless story. It has been observed that lot of animals exhibit same sex behaviors such as the bonobo monkeys or the doodle bugs but it had been kept a secret because it will disrupt the Catholic story that majority of the people in the world believed to be true across ages (Schrefer). Thus stories replaced the objective reality that each of us live in.

**Future Scope of my Research**

“We are, as a species, addicted to story. Even when the body goes to sleep, the mind stays up all night, telling itself stories.” (Gottschall) As far as Homo sapiens survive, neither imagination nor storytelling will die. It will continue but with different sets and subsets of stories, such as the Dataism with storytelling. We are now in the transitional phase and we have already begun to rely more on what Internet wants to say than what people want to say. Our reliance on Artificial Intelligence might prove hazardous as it is only a fictional reality that we live in. Data, here, is embedded not just with facts but also with stories so that humans buy these data. The adaptable nature of stories might also produce a different combination of stories. Each group or corporations sell stories with slight alterations and people will barge into buy those. We will not buy data if stories aren’t powerful, like the stock markets. Stories will evolve along with story tellers and the characters within the stories will evolve too. With different sets of stories, we will try to achieve a different world.

**Conclusion**

Humans will evolve along with stories. We will evolve mentally and by mental evolution, we might try to control the Universe more and we might rule the world like how Gods exist in our imagination. Different stories will give birth to different realities. Reality might be too different from what we are experiencing now. We will live in an extreme hyper real world and stories will continue to live on as long as humans survive. Those in power will control us through different kinds of stories. We will not experience the objective reality that other organisms live in. Thus, the power of imagination and storytelling will create different h I stories in future alongside the growth of technology.

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