1. **THE SCIENTIFIC POINT OF VIEW (PROSE)**

This essay was written by JBS Haldane, a British born geneticist and evolutionary biologist. He contributed in the development of neo-Darwinian thinking. Haldane’s essay science and the future were remarkable in predicting many scientific advances. In the scientific point of view he opposes superstitions and supports rational thinking.

According to Haldane, science affects us in two ways – we are benefitted by its applications; for example, using cars, buses and motor vehicles instead of using horse drawn vehicles and for diseases we are going to doctor instead of going for superstitions things (witch). The second one is it influences on our opinions as everyone believes that the earth is round and the heavens are nearly empty instead of solid.

Haldane says that the scientist is superior to God. As he is ethically neutral, he works out of the consequences of many actions. Haldane says that science attempts to be truthful and impartial. By comparing scientific point of view with legal point of view, he says that a judge may be impartial in giving his Judgment between two individuals, whereas a scientist is impartial not only between people but also about a tapeworm and the solar system. By comparing scientific point of view with god’s view, he says that scientists interpret the consequences of many actions rather than passing judgments which is while done by god.

The tendency of the average man has always dwelt on emotional and ethical side of an issue rather than on facts. For this, Haldane mentioned the problem of American Negros. Some Americans believe that Negros are inferior to them and they should be segregated from them. While some believe that they should enjoy the same rights like white Americans. But the scientists make it that both these groups of people are comfortable only in their respective areas and both of them die whenever they step in to each other’s areas.

Haldane remarks that our approach to the problem of disease is even less rational. He says that the pre-Christians believe that if someone was suffering from any disease, they feel that it was a punishment from some god but Haldane makes it clear that health and sickness are part of nature.

Haldane says that modern medicine has come out with miraculous drugs but it has become very hard to apply its results in practice. For example, diabetes can easily be controlled by taking insulin but people hardly take the suggestions of doctors. Typhoid can be controlled by using boiling water. Diphtheria, small pox and Measles, the air born diseases can be prevented by public efforts, but most of the people do not care to follow this. The reason is that we do not have scientific spirit. Haldane remarks
that the common people always attempt to cure from their diseases but scientist attempts to prevent the disease.

Finally Haldane says that men and women should not be guided by false principles. He concludes that unless and until humans adopt scientific point of view, the enemies of science can not be conquered.
2. ON SHAKING HANDS (PROSE)

This essay was written by AG Gardener, a British journalist and author. He used to write the essays with a pen name ‘Alpha of the plough’. He is known for his delightful and humorous narrative style. His writings are thought provoking too.

In the present essay, the author talks about the western practice of ‘shaking hands’. It deals with the age old custom of shaking hands as a mode of greeting. Generally we shake hands when we meet or part. It is a symbol of courtesy.

People in the world have their own forms of greetings. The Japanese bow, the Chinese moves the hand, the Russians hug and the Indians salaams. The Arab touches the chest of his friend with the tips of his fingers. But the kissing of the English seems to be indecent.

There is heartiness in shaking hands. If you greet a person without shaking hands, it is like a bond with out a seal. it is like a type written letter with type written signature.

Shaking hands is an ingrained custom. But it has some disadvantages also. There are certain hands which we don’t like to shake which are clammy, bony, sticky and energetic. Some hands are cold and dank. Some shake our hands in such a way that it will be crushed and leave us in pain. Some holds own hands until we feel to throw it out. With some persons, the hand shake is so eloquent that everything about him can be discovered. Some people’s hand shake is unresponsive with the touch of a jelly fish.

Finally A G Gardener says that the hand shake should be firm and friendly. Shaking hands must be mutual. It is charged as being an unhygienic custom so as we are advised to adapt a heal their mode of expressing our mutual emotions.
3. ODE TO AUTUMN (POETRY)

This poem was written by John Keats, a romantic poet who lived only for twenty six years. He loved beauty and glorified it in his poetry. He is a pure poet and captures the reality of beauty through the sensuous means. 'Ode to a nightingale' and 'Ode to Psyche' are the best of Keats odes.

An Ode is a poem that speaks about a person or thing or celebrates a special event. There are three stanzas in this poem and in each stanza, there are eleven lines. The backdrop of the poem is about the 'autumn season' and the season is personified in various ways.

In the first stanza Keats personified autumn as a woman. It is the season of mist and fruits are ripened on the collaboration with the sun. Autumn and sun are described as friends and because of their friendship there is fruitfulness in the nature. Autumn loads the vines with grapes. The season fills the Apples with juice. The hazel-shells and gourds were also filled up. The sweet-kernels fall on the ground giving rise to new plants with scattering of seeds. In this stanza Keats describes the autumn a symbol of life with all its richness and vibrant state so that the bees might think the warm days will never come to an end.

In the second stanza the poet considers autumn as a season of harvest. In the first stanza the poet compares autumn with early in the day and in the second stanza he considers the season as afternoon. In this he considers autumn as a goddess, sitting on the granary floor, her hair lifted by the wind and often sleeps it in the fields, walk across and watch the making of cider.

In the third stanza autumn is personified as evening and in this the poet tells autumn not to think about the spring and asks the season to listen to her own music. The setting sun glows in the harvested fields, the willow trees on the banks of rivers bent down with the breeze and the lambs, crickets and robins making their familiar sounds. In this stanza autumn comes to an end as the season nears winter, the poet focus on the passing of time and signals of death of vegetation which indicates mourning time. Even though Keats mourned the end of autumn, he celebrated its sights, smells and sounds for what they were.
4. I AM NOT THAT WOMAN (POETRY)

This poem was written by Kishwar Naheed, a Pakistani poet. She has written six collections of poems. Her first collection won ‘Adamjee prize of Literature’. Many of the poems have been translated in to English and Spanish.

‘I am not that Woman’ is a poem directed towards the empowerment of Women. The poet raises her voice against the discrimination against women in a male dominated society.

In the first stanza, the poet says that she does not want to identify herself with the woman on the poster, who sells socks and shoes. She is against the concept of women being treated as a commodity. She wants to remind the exploiters that, even though she has been hidden behind the walls, her voice cannot be suppressed.

In the second stanza, she tells that she is crushed by the weight of customs and traditions. She asserts that she is like a light which can not be hidden in darkness. She talks about her motherhood and says that the exploiters have picked flowers from her laps and planted thorns and leaves her with chains which can not stop the fragrance of her.

She states that the society treated her as a commodity, bought and sold her in the name of charity. She says that even if the society drowns her she can walk on the water that means she is confident of her fighting spirit.

She says that she is not a burden on the shoulders of her parents to get rid of by marrying off to someone. She questions her father for selling her daughter with the name of dowry. She says that she is not a thing but she is a person with her own freedom, rights and her own way of living.

In the last stanza, she states that she doesn’t want to be treated only in the name of chastity, motherhood and loyalty. She wants to prove that she has her own identity and existence, setting her standards for the women universal.
5. THE BOY WHO BROKE THE BANK (SHORT STORY)

This story was written by Ruskin Bond an Indian writer. He won ‘Llewellyn Rhys Memorial’ prize for his first novel. ‘The room on the roof’. He has written many books for children.

The boy who broke the bank is a short story about a boy who was working as a sweeper in a bank. As the bank didn’t pay salary on time a rumour got spread that the bank had no money. This story is basically about how rumours and lack of communication can cause many problems and be destructive.

‘Nathu’ is a sweeper in papal nagar bank. Seth Govind Ram is the owner of the bank. Nathu has not got his payment of that month. The manager doesn’t understand the difficulties of Nathu. Sita Ram is a friend of Nathu, understands his problems and advises him to search for another job. When Sitaram meets Mrs. Srivastava and knows that she needs a sweeper, he tells her that his friend Nathu will join the work from the next month. He also tells her that Nathu is working for a bank and he is not getting his payment and wants to leave the bank.

Mrs. Srivastava tells to her friend Mrs Bhushan about the poor condition of the bank by saying that Seth Govind Ram’s bank can not pay its employees. Mrs Bhushan misinterprets the talk and says that if they can not pay the sweeper, they must be in a bad condition. Mrs. Bhushan went in search of her husband who was sitting in front of a photograph shop. Kamal Kishore is the owner of the shop. Mrs. Bhushan tells Kishore that papal nagar bank has stopped paying salaries to its employees. Then Kamal Kishore enquires Deep Chand who is a barber and has an account in Pipal nagar bank. Kamal Kishore advises him to draw the money from his account as soon as he can. At that time Deep Chand was cutting the hair of a gentleman and by hearing this news the gentleman runs to a nearby shop and dialed to Seth Govind Ram. But Seth was not at home, he was in Kashmir a holidaying trip. The gentleman didn’t believe this news and told Deep Chand that Seth has left the town. Deep Chand told ‘the bird has flown’. The news spread like a forest fire in the town.

One incident added more humor in the situation. The beggar namely old Ganpat who has a crooked leg, astonished everyone leaping to his feet and started running at top speed in the direction of the Bank. He had thousand rupees in savings. Men stood in groups and started discussing the situation. Everyone started drawing their money from the bank, by the noon small bank had gone through all its ready cash and the manager was in a dilemma. Emergency funds can not be obtained from another bank other banks are at 30 miles distant areas. So the bank requested the people to come the next day. But the people didn’t like that and started shouting ‘Now, now, now;
people who didn’t have a paisa in the-bank, also joined the crowd and provoked them. Some people started throwing stones at the glasses and crashed them.

The next day Nathu came to sweep the steps of the bank and wondered ‘who would have thought the bank would collapse’, he said to himself and waited for the Manager to get his payment.
6. HALF A RUPEE WORTH (SHORT STORY)

This story was written by R K Narayan, an Indian writer. He has written a large number of short stories which were published in six volumes. He received the ‘Sahitya Academy’ award for ‘The Guide’ in 1958. His stories have South-Indian setting. His story ‘Half a rupee worth’ describes the rise to prosperity of a rice dealer who dies under his own rice bag.

Subbiah has been working in his shop since his father owned it. He wanted to pursue a life out side the shop but his father refused his idea and brought him in to business. He has become a rice merchant at the market gate in Malgudi.

Business prospered and Subbiah kept five cows and buffaloes for his wife and five children. He owned thirty acres of land, a dozen houses and an unlimited quantity of jewellery. In short he was swollen with money. He also lent money to the needy people at higher interest. His greed for money went on till war came and food control was brought in by the government.

Subbiah registered his shop as a fair price grain depot. He began to stock rice. He bribed the officials who came to inspect his shop and godowns. He sold rice for very high rate. He sold in small quantities only and he always took money in advance.

One evening when he had just closed his shop, a person came and requested him to give at least half-a-rupee worth of rice as children were very hungry. He wanted a seer rice. But Subbiah got angry and told that person that a seer rice costs eight annas. When the man requested, Subbiah agreed to give half-a-seer of rice and asked him to wait in the street corner.

Taking a half-a-rupee coin he went to one of his secret godowns. The man waited for a long time but Subbiah didn’t return. Then the man went to Subbiah’s house and informed his wife. When the godown was opened the next morning, they found Subbiah body crushed under a rice bag. His death was caused by accidental fall of rice bags. There was a half-a-rupee by his body. Thus Subbiah’s life turned into a tragic end.

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7. THE PROPOSAL

This drama was written by ‘Anton Chekov’ a Russian writer. He was a master of short story and play writers. He received a medical degree but never practiced medicine on a regular basis/ he won fame for his comical stories and forces and considered humor to be an essential ingredient in all his works. He wrote the play 'The proposal' which is sometimes also called ‘A Marriage proposal’ is a farce with only one act; the theme is about two people who love each other by fighting.

Characters:  
Chubukov (A Land Lord)  
Natalia      (His daughter, 25 yrs old)  
Lomov      (A neighbor) (with a slight heart problem)

The scene is set in Chubukov’s house. Lomov enters in a formal dress. Chubukov meets him and he is happy to meet him and asks him to sit and enquired where he was going. Lomov tells him that he has come to see him with a request. He wants to say but gets excited Chubukov feels that he has come to borrow money Lomov hesitates but at last he says that he has come to ask Natalia’s hand. Chubukov is greatly excited to hear it. He hugs Lomov and says that he always wanted to have lomov as his son-in-Law. He tells him that Natalia also likes him.

Lomov trembles due to great excitement. He is already thirty five and worries about his future. He feels that Natalia is a good house keeper, beautiful and well-educated. He wants to lead a Quiet and regular life.

Natalia enters. She asks him about his dress and visit to her house. He tries to tell her the purpose behind his visit. But he starts talking of this thing or that thing that he has known her family for long and how he respects her father. He also tells him that he in inherited his land name oxen meadows which is side by Natalia’s land ‘Birch woods’. Then Natalia argues that Oxen meadows belong to Natalia not to Lomov. And over this issue, they fight like dogs. Then Lomov offers to make it a present to Natalia. Natalia gets angry and says that they are her property and she’ll present them to him. She starts blaming Lomov. They start shouting at each other.

Chubkov enters and accuses Lomov. Lomov gets angry and calls Chubkov a land grabber, he further says that he'll file a case in the court. Lomov and Chubkov starts shouting and say nasty things. Lomov feels like dying and he wants to leave the house immediately. Natalia says that they would meet in the Court.

When Lomov leaves the house, Natalia asks her father about the purpose of Lomov’s visit and came to know that he came with a marriage proposal. She starts weeping and asks her father to bring him back at once.

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Lomov enters and Natalia says sorry. She tells him that the meadows are his property. They starts talking on dogs. Lomov tells her that his dog is the best named ‘Guess’ costs 125 roubles. She says that it is too much cost and her father gave her only 85 roubles to buy a dog ‘squeezer’ which is better than Lomov’s dog. Lomov refuses and they start arguing that their dogs are the best Lomov’s heart starts trembling/

Chubukov enters and supports her daughter. He gives an example about a dog race to prove his dogs superiority. Lomov gets angry and they start shouting and calling pup, rat etc. Lomov’s heart weakens and falls down. Chubukov also feels sick and he can’t breathe. Natalia pretends Lomov to be dead. Then Chubukov makes him drink some water. Then Lomov opens his eyes and asks where he is. Chubukov accuses him self and asks Lomov to get marry to his daughter immediately. Natalia is also willing to marry Lomov ‘Chubukov feels that a weight has come off from his shoulders and offers them some champagne.