
Exploring Eco Spirit Vs. Human Life: A Study of Michael Crichton's *State of Fear*

M. Prathisha,

Master of Philosophy, Department of English, Holy Cross College(Autonomous),

Abstract:

Michael Crichton is a famous American science fictional writer. He writes many novel as an awareness to the mob to protect nature, on the other hand he debits the pathetic condition of human beings who has failed to have concern for the beauty of nature. The novel State of Fear is a techno thriller novel and it is also an eco-terrorist novel, were Crichton has debited the departure of natural treasures because of the emergent of technology. The novel is in an apocalyptic novel were Crichton has given many awareness for the forthcoming generations. The life of human being is interconnected with natural resources. The novel is about the threat of global warming and its causes. He uses many climate scientist, science journalists, environmental groups and science advocacy organizations to portray the significance to control global warming. Technological disaster, materialistic life, global warming, climatic change are some of the threat awareness is projected in the novel. The paper is viewed in ecological perspective. Further, the novel can be also viewed in sociological perspective.

Key Words: *Techno thriller, Global warming, Technological disaster, Ecology, Warning.*

John Michael Crichton was an American author, screenwriter, and film director. Best known for his work in science fiction, techno thriller and medical fiction genres. His novels often explore that technology and failures of human interaction with it, especially resulting in catastrophes with biotechnology. He became famous as a pulse-pounding writer who helped to create techno-thriller genre with best-seller and hit movies like *Jurassic Park* and *The Andromeda Strain*.

The novel *State of Fear* has a clear political agenda. It is centered around a plot by eco terrorist to bring world attention to global warming. It is a cautionary novel. One hand it deals with radical environment problems and on the other hand he exposes manipulating behavior of human on environment. It mainly focuses on environmental terrorist, environmental philanthropist. The main theme of the book is role of politics in shaping scientific research. This novel is mend to push the reader to consider his or her position on global warming.

The novel *State of Fear* is a techno-thriller novel that deals with climatic change and global warming. Global warming which is an upcoming threat to the world. The effect which is created by global warming is unpredictable.

Global warming is the unusual rapid increase in the Earth's average surface temperature over the past century primarily due to the greenhouse gases released by people burning fossil fuel. But the current climatic warming is occurring much more rapidly than past warming events. The impact

of global warming is far greater than increasing temperature, warming modifies rainfall patterns, amplifies coastal erosion, lengthens the growing season in some of the regions, melts ice caps and glaciers, and alters the ranges of some infectious diseases. Some of these changes are already occurring. (Riebeek NASA)

Nature is one of the significant resources which must be conserved. Awareness has to be created and monitored continuously to take the path of sustainable development. Many natural resources are at a depleting stage which has to be curtailed at some point. Air, which is a boon of nature is polluted by various sources such as factories, smog, automobiles, etc. Recently in India, particularly in Delhi, air pollution has crossed its limit and the people were prescribed with artificial fresh air which is the maximum destruction of nature. Water pollution, releasing waste from factories, contamination, oil spills from ships has endangered many species living in water. Forest and forest resources are almost extinct and the animals and birds have been deprived of their habitat.

Crichton has analyzed detailed about the growth and demolition of nature source and have quoted to make the readers to understand the pathetic situation about our natural source. He visualize the natural beauty to readers, to state that the future generation will miss the pleasure of nature. “Water vapor is one of the distinctive features of our planet. Makes such a beauty. It’s surprising there is so little scientific understanding of how water vapor behaves. Atmosphere is a bigger mystery. No one can say for sure if global warming will result in more clouds, or fewer clouds” (State of Fear 222). He has provided many facts about the apocalyptic nature.

The novel *State of Fear* is about the threat of global warming and its causes. For the understanding of the readers he has gives many graphs and footnotes. The developing countries invent many technical sources to prove their country as a most developed country. Most of the invention has its negative effect on environment. The invention of refrigerators and air conditioner make the room or the container cool, but its impact is on environment. It emits lots of heat energy and it melts the glaciers. The pathetic situation is, the fact is known by the people but it is not considered as a big issue. The increase of heat energy changes the climatic condition and it leads to global warming.

The emergent of industrialization has been a dead crises for the death of nature. For the development of industry the corporate company owners heartlessly pollute the God gifted nature. It emits lots of waste materials into water, the waste particle emitted is used or consumed by people and animals who lives around the industries. It causes many diseases that scatter their life. It also affects the life of children, animals who depend on the water for their survival.

The industrial disaster which made sleepless night for urban place in Tamil Nadu, and a dispute has been created between the people and the corporate companies has given a solution to enclose the industry for the well fare of the people.

John Kenner professor of Geoenvironmental Engineering at MIT. He has a comprehensive knowledge about ecology. Crichton has used his character Kenner, to share the truth of current ecological situation within the characters which make the readers to understand the situation. The information he share was deliberately different from the news which is known to common mobs. He share the news about climatic change according to the research of Intergovernmental Panel

on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1980. “The report announced with conviction that there was now ‘a discernable human influence’ on climate” (State of Fear 292).

The blindness of the people become an eye opener of some eco- terrorist organization like National Environmental Resource Fund (NERF). Nicholas Drake head of an environmental group NERF. Crichton has projected Drake as an eco terrorist villain. “Drake was dramatic by nature” (State of Fear 192). Who gives importance for money, other than natural source. Drake being in a responsible place to save the world from the ecological attack has betrayed the trust of people by being materialistic. He arranges a conference to spread awareness to people about global warming. But the main motive of the conference is to make the people to live in state of fear. Fear of people is the main source of income to Drake. As Satan projects himself as a good soul to Eve and mesmerize her to taste the fruit which God had forbidden. And made Adam and Eve a sinful person in the universe. Drake project himself as a good soul to the people, by arranging a natural concern conference.

Drake has arranged an artificial tsunami on the day of conference to make the fear of people more dramatic. Kenner along with his team met survived hard to stop the disaster. The fear of tsunami is been a nightmare of many people. It kills many people and also it distract many natural source. People will face difficult to overcome the loss faced. To create an end for the sufferings of the underwent many contributors come forward to help the people through organization. Which help Drake to make money through it. Kenner wants to save the life of people and nature so he blindly risk his life to stop the disaster happening.

Nature should be considered as ones mother, as one takes care of their mother nature should be also given care. The ancestors preserved nature for the future and now it is used by the present generations. And now it is the duty of the present generation to save nature for the future generation. Before it is too late it should be take care and should be preserved. The five great elements according to Hinduism are Earth, Water, Air, Space and Fire. According to ayurveda these five elements are associated with overall health of human body. Any disorder in human body indicates imbalance of one or more of these elements. When nature is affected it affects the human directly or indirectly. One should pay some time to save nature.

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