

## STILENTUM

Part - I

### \* Characters:-

- John Ward is the protagonist of the story. He works at the Librarian Hall Sharpe's living space with his friend Henry Rosister. He is not a writer as his friend Rosister. Ward is described as sensitive to beauty and he is more disturbed when his vision is lost. He has a very greedy and unkind nature. He hates the extension of building around the size of the Hibicle which was destroy to create more room. The people like him were suffering from the people because of the greed and pride nature. At the land lord, But by the end of the story he himself become a greedy land lord when Rosister invites two girls and again gives him gift for his wife to stay with them.

### # Henry Rosister:- Rosister is a

- different from his friend Ward. He is found more aggressive in his approach and perspectives than to let their girlfriends into the spare room unlike John Ward.

He is not sensitive towards beauty & importance of people & objects. In the story Henry is the one who insist his friend Ward to bring the girls in just to shade the sun and to remove the Victorian wardrobe to create more space. He was not sensitive towards the wardrobe which represented the art and beauty of the great Victorian Era.

### # Helen and Judith:-

They were worse workmaiden. The girls had an argument with their previous landlord and were facing much difficulty live in the city. Meanwhile Plassister invites them to live together and they agreed. Later on, their parents are also invited by the girls to live with them.

### # Relivence of the Story:-

The title seems to be appropriate because it predicts the future world where people only have a very little space to live due to population explosion. population growth is infact, the biggest

problem, the world is facing. This looks so abnormal that even the space that each person can occupy is regulated by the city Council.

### # Tone of the Story:-

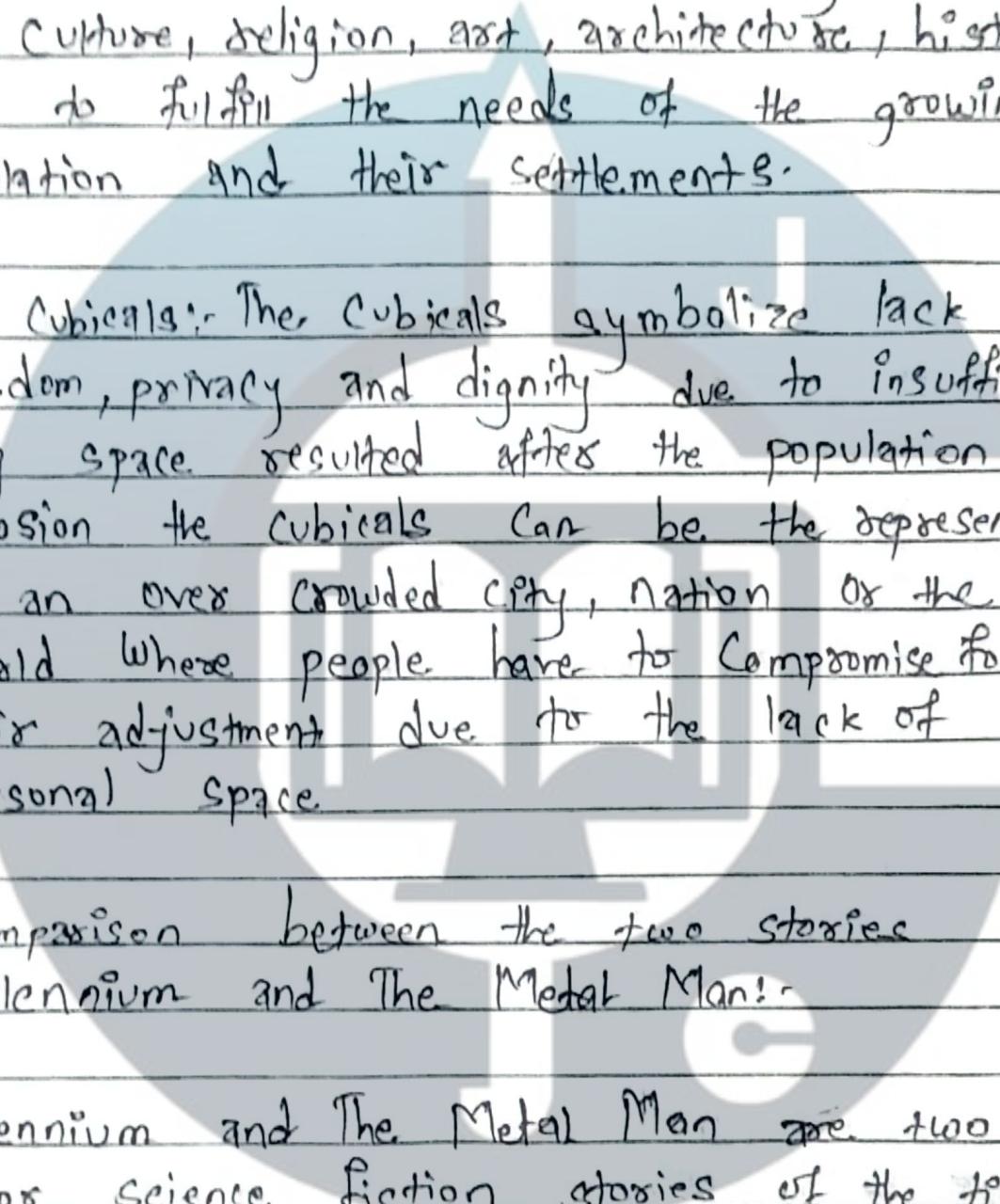
The story follows a pessimistic tone because of the kind of life the people are living. The characters live under complete disorder where there is no sign of improving their living condition as population keeps increasing and the extension of land is impossible. The idea of the Cubicles makes it more pessimistic as they talk about again dividing the Cubicles. The greed for power/Money and the lack of privacy also add to the sad reality of modern city life.

### # Symbolism:-

- **The Wardrobe:** The Victorian wardrobe that Ward and Rosister bought was a symbol of belonging and private space for them. It's size emphasizes the emptiness of the palace. But when they started to rent the room to the girls and their parents, they have to take the wardrobe out. This symbolizes the

reality of the over populated world where people have to avoid and destroy the beauty of culture, religion, art, architecture, history etc to fulfill the needs of the growing population and their settlements.

- **The Cubicals:** The Cubicals symbolize lack of freedom, privacy and dignity due to insufficient living space resulted after the population explosion the cubicals can be the representation of an over crowded city, nation or the world where people have to compromise for their adjustment due to the lack of personal space.

Comparison between the two stories Millennium and The Metal Man:-

→ Millennium and The Metal Man are two major science fiction stories of the time which are written by J. H. Ballard and Jack Williamson respectively. Both of the stories portray a future world where people experience the adversity caused due to human activity. We can compare these two stories on the basis of their

themes, characters, tone, setting etc.

(i) Apocalypse (an event involving destruction or damage on a larger scale).

→ Both of the stories revolve around apocalypse. In the first story Millennium, the entire world is in a horrible stage in which the earth is suffering from the consequences of over population. population explosion is at its peak and there is a scarcity of living space. The people are compare to live in a very small place which is equivalent to the size of an office cubical. Some people who couldn't afford a living space were also living in the thrown cupboard. They had no privacy at all. The world is becoming increasingly over populated with the population around 20 billion, which is far greater than the estimated capacity of the earth. The situation is so severe that we can easily predict that the earth and the lives on it are nearing the end.

In the second story the metal Man the protagonist, professor Thomas Kelvin of Tyburn

College goes in search of the valuable radium. Heads to the EL RIO DE LAS ANGELAS, The Rivers of blood. Somewhere along the Pacific Coast of Mexico, where he gets stuck. The place was horrible. The abandoned area was full of metal bloods which were once living. He could also see some trees, and vegetations which were also turn into metal with the effect of radium present in those proximity. The professor was too affected by the radium which slowly started to turn him into metal. There was no hope of his survival. There was no hope for life.

### 11) Metalism and selfishness.

→ In Billennium the protagonist John Ward seems to be a greedy of money. He chooses money over his friendship, relation, priority and personal space. He throws away the anti cupboard so that he could make some empty space which he could give for rent and earn some more money. For him at the moment being powerful as a landlord and earning

more money matters the most.

In The Metal Man, professor Thomas Kelvin goes on a risky adventure solo in a mono plan in search of sodium which would give him name and fame. Just for earning Money and prosperity he went to the unknown land without the second thought. His decision of traveling alone might be a result of his Selfishness where he wants to take all the benefits and praises alone.

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### Short Sightedness:-

In the story Millennium, the protagonists Ward and Rossiter call their girlfriend and relatives respectively immediately after they find a spacious apartment for themselves. It might be out of their love for their relatives and girlfriend or for the money they'd get as rent for them. whatever may the reason be, but they did think of the present only. They did not bother thinking of the probable consequences like their invitees would invite their close ones as well. Therefore they'd to again live in the space equivalent to that of a cubicle lacking privacy and comfort.

And, here in the story The Metal Man, prof. Thomas Kelvin did not think of the consequences of travelling alone to the unknown abandoned land. He just thought of the fame and money that he'd earn upon the discovery of the radium ore. He just focused on fame and money limited his thoughts which eventually led him to his deathbed.



### Hope Turned into Disappointment

→ In the story Millennium, finding a new apartment was a moment of hope for Ward and Rossiter but their further action/decision of inviting their loved ones made them disappointed in the future.

Similarly, in the story The Metal Man, upon reaching the "El Rio de la sangre", The River of Blood, prof. Thomas Kelvin initially had thought of achieving something big which gave him the hope of gaining fame and money which he actually did but eventually, everything was changed, he had to count down his days of life and his dream of living with fame and riches stayed limited to his dreams.

## V) Alienation:-

→ In the story Billennium, although the world population was over billion and numerous people were to live in a small area of land, the protagonist character Ward was alienated. He felt isolated in the crowd. There was no time and situation for socializing. The entire plot is filled with chaos and disturbances.

While in The Metal Man, the protagonist, Prof. Thomas Kelvin also isolates himself. He decides to travel the entire journey to the "El Rio de la Sangre," 'The River of Blood' alone in a monoplane. This decision of him was, as mentioned previously, out of his desire of not sharing the fame and money after the discovery is made.

## VI) Change of Mindset of protagonist at the end.

→ The Mindset of the protagonists of both stories eventually changes. In the story Billennium, Ward hated his landlord towards the tenants, Ward hated every landlord. He thinks of never becoming a landlord (or never giving his property for rent) but eventually, upon obtaining an apartment, he gets the spaces available in his apartment.

for rent and becomes landlord himself. He becomes what he hated ever since.

While in The Metal Man, professor Thomas Kelvin, who lived for money and struggled for it without thinking of the probable consequences. He risked his life in search of radium. His greed for money led him to flying solo in a monoplane to the "El Rio de la Sangre," The River of Blood". There he struggled a lot, he risked his life due to his for money. But at last, when he earned what he wished for, his death was nearing as well as the cost of what he gained. Professor Kelvin who was nearing death due to the greed for money, who always wished for money eventually granted money for charity.