**Name:** Laiba Fatima Khan

**ID:** Lk04067

**The Future of the Brain: The Promise and Perils of Tomorrow’s Neuroscience**

(by Steven Rose)

Steven Rose is an English neuroscientist, author and social commentator. In his book ‘The Future of Brains’, as we can understand from the title, Rose discusses the future advancements in the fields of neuroscience, considering both the expected benefits and dangers of these advancements.

Neurosciences is a term that consists sciences like neurobiology (which itself is composed of the anatomy, physiology, molecular biology, genetics and behavior of brains), psychology and philosophy, impacted by other fields of logic and science. In Neurosciences, researchers from all these scientific fields study the brain, its functions and dysfunctions, based on their own paradigms, problematics and techniques.

With research comes information, and in the current world, scientists have obtained a lot of knowledge about brains

Inputs into the neurosciences come from genetics – the identification of genes associated both with normal mental functions, such as learning and memory, and the dysfunctions that go with conditions such as depression, schizophrenia and Alzheimer’s disease. From physics and engineering come the new windows into the brain offered by the imaging systems: PET, fMRI, MEG and others – acronyms which conceal powerful machines offering insights into the dynamic electrical flux through which the living brain conducts its millisecond by millisecond business. From the information sciences come claims to be able to model computational brain processes – even to mimic them in the artificial world of the computer.

Promises offered by Neuroscience: Ultimate self-improvement, new hope for brain repair, quest for smart pill, mind reading machines, brain stimulators, genes of psyche, taming stress.

 Future humans as neurochemical slaves: basically, refers to all human actions, responses and decisions to be based on biological process, a reaction of our brain to neurochemicals (no free will of human)

The author, in the light of past scientific promises, questions the dangers associated with these promises and the advancement in neurosciences, which are usually neglected under the shadow of fancy ideas of progress. These ideas become popular by people carelessly talking about them, and with media manipulation/promotion

If all these promises are true, even then, what will happen to the ideas of free will and humans making their own decisions. Also what structures, that are already in power, get more and more control over our lives ?

As the author says, he believes that the biological and chemical structure of brain is what our mind depends on, as it can be proved through researches by neuroscientists. The purpose is to explore that how much this knowledge of brains can help manipulate the minds.

He also points out the general approach of neuroscientists into thinking that how brain works is equivalent to how mind works.