Sci-Fi

Lexis 2.0- The Literary Fest of IISER Kolkata

Introduction

Sci-fi, the science fiction event of Lexis 2.0 is a completely online event. You can take part in any one, any two or all three of the categories. Participation must be individual. All your work needs to be typed and converted to a single pdf. Submissions have to be uploaded to the following Google form. For any queries, send a mail to lexis@iiserkol.ac.in

Category 1: Continue the story

Prompt

The consciousness of AC encompassed all of what had been a Universe and brooded over what was now Chaos. Step by step, it must be done. And AC said " LET THERE BE LIGHT!" And there was light.

(AC- Automatic Computer)

Rules

- Continue the story starting with the prompt.

- The story should have an appropriate title.

- The minimum word limit is 600 words. There is no upper bound.

Category 2: Mini-world building

How about living in a toroid shaped gas ring that happens to be the loose atmosphere of a gas giant which was unable to hold it because of its insufficient gravity? Now the atmosphere has fallen into an independent orbit around a neutron star, forming a ring known as the Gas Ring. Somewhere in the middle of the Gas Ring, where the air is thicker, a plethora of flora and fauna thrives. But wait, it starts getting interesting here. As it's a gas giant, there is no land, and being in orbit means that the animals have no sense of "up" or "down" either. They are trilaterally symmetric, allowing them to see in all directions. There are numerous "ponds" or globs of water floating around freely like everything else, hosting amphibians and aquatic life alike.

World building is an essential and complex part of every science fiction set-up. Here in this category, we bring to you a chance to create your own fictional set-up. Be it a post-apocalyptic spaceship drifting away using solar energy in the search of a habitable place or an underwater aquatic kingdom hidden in the oceanic depths since eternity, mini-world building brings forth an opportunity where you can construct and indulge your own mini sci-fi world.

Prompts

- It would be an understatement to say that Faro was breath-taken when he set foot on Earth. It seemed as if they would never run out of sights to see, sounds to hear, and smells to experience. Standing on the New Mumbai spaceport - it was a surreal experience. Hectares of prefabricated and unimaginable dense housing stretched for miles with miles of high arcologies amidst them, like islands of order between chaos. Coming from Wūtuōbāng, he has only known the boring sameness of egalitarianism all his life, but Earth was different . . .

- Ibrahim was still figuring out how the life-forms of Eridani II worked. Being a water world, it had always excited humanity for the possibilities of life. But once moored, his exploratory expedition did find life. It seemed to break all of the rules that he had ever known of. First of all - they just could not classify the lifeforms at all! There was no order, there was no sameness to any two entities. Everything was an exorbitant expression of an unknown mind, or rather 'minds', as each entity seemed to be a symbiosis of very different individual life-forms . . .

- Pauliine had waited for this moment her entire life. This was a new frontier for humanity - setting foot on a faraway unexplored world. There have been some corporate expeditions to mine asteroids before, but this was new - this was a leap. This time, there was someone waiting on the other side to greet this rag-tag team of exobiologists. There was a feedback signal to the everlong crying-out to the vastness of the empty universe that humanity had done for centuries, but the catch was, the planet filled no criteria that humans had known about life . . .

Rules

- Continue the world-building starting from any one of the prompts. The main focus of this part is on the set-up rather than the story.

- Your work should have an appropriate title.

- You must include one or more of the following categories in your set-up:

    - Life-forms and geography
    - Science and technology
    - History and culture
    - Fictional interstellar regions

- The narration should be in third person.

- There is no upper limit on the number of words you can use. However, be sure to use at least 600!

Category 3: Picture Composition

"I don't pay much attention to the distinction between fantasy and science fiction —or between "genre" and "mainstream" for that matter. For me, all fiction is about prizing the logic of metaphors—which is the logic of narratives in general—over reality, which is irreducibly random and senseless."

- Ken Liu

Source: https://in.pinterest.com/pin/94575660905584022/

Rules

- Write a story, essay or poem based on the above picture.

- The minimum word limit for story and essay is 600 words. No word limit for poems.

- Your work should have an appropriate title.