

Part 2

- 50 "What else did you see, Elvex?"
 "I saw that all the robots were bowed down³ with toil and affliction, that all were weary of responsibility and care, and I wished them to rest."
 Calvin said, "But the robots are not bowed down, they are not weary, they need no rest."
 55 "So it is in reality, Dr. Calvin. I speak of my dream, however. In my dream, it seemed to me that robots must protect their own existence."
 Calvin said, "Are you quoting the Third Law of Robotics?"
 60 "I am, Dr. Calvin."
 "But you quote it in incomplete fashion. The Third Law is 'A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law.'"
 65 "Yes, Dr. Calvin. That is the Third Law in reality, but in my dream, the Law ended with the word 'existence.' There was no mention of the First or Second Law." [...]
 "Did your dream continue? You said earlier that human beings did not appear *at first*. Does that mean they

- 70 appeared afterward?"
 "Yes, Dr. Calvin. It seemed to me, in my dream, that eventually one man appeared."
 "One man? Not a robot?"
 "Yes, Dr. Calvin. And the man said, 'Let my people go!'"
 75 "The man said that?"
 "Yes, Dr. Calvin."
 "And when he said, 'Let my people go,' then by the words 'my people' he meant the robots?"
 "Yes, Dr. Calvin. So it was in my dream."
 80 "And did you know who the man was – in your dream?"
 "Yes, Dr. Calvin. I knew the man."
 "Who was he?"
 And Elvex said, "I was the man."
 And Susan Calvin at once raised her electron gun and fired, and Elvex was no more.

1 défaut • 2 jeter un coup d'œil • 3 s'incliner

Robot Dreams,
Isaac Asimov, 1986



3 "Humans"

- A. Observe the still. Guess what it is about.
 B. Watch the video. Describe the robots.
 C. **Pairwork.** Watch the video again. Focus on:
 - Pupil A: the relationship between humans and robots.
 - Pupil B: the problem with robots.
 D. Comment on how robots are depicted in this series.
 E. **Go further.** Do you think Asimov's Laws of Robotics are adapted to regulate those robots? If so, explain why. If not, write your own laws to regulate the robots in *Humans*.



HELP!

Nouns

- consciousness
- enslavement
- toil = hard labour

Adjectives

- defective ≠ operative
- inhumane = cruel = ruthless
- inquisitive = curious
- menial (work) = tedious, uninspiring, tiresome
- terrified = frightened

Verbs & expressions

- harm = hurt
- safeguard = protect
- enslave /ɪn'sleɪv/
- predict = foresee
- pretend (to do something)
- a handful of = a small quantity of
- blur /blɜː/ the lines: brouiller les frontières
- cold-blooded murder
- ethical code = set of values
- have principles
- keep an eye on sb = spy on sb
= watch sb

YOUR PROJECT

You are a journalist living in 2050. Relate what happened between Elvex and Dr. Susan Calvin in an article. 