

The story 'The Machine Stops' shows a prediction of what could be the future. The author, E.M. Forster, explains that Humans are becoming too artificial through the years with technology and this could lead to the end of our civilization. Kuno, the main character explains with his opinion that people should be living with their own vision and should not be controlled or see through 'The Machine'. I believe that the story is right in the thought that society is making us more mechanical, are stripping us of our natural way of living, and are pulling us to our own doom.

I believe that the 'Machine' is a metaphor for the government or the top of the hierarchy. The people who are in control are the people who run the system and the way we live. With all the technology, we have become social robots, forgotten happiness and filled our minds with greed. Going to work, buying, and being social has become so mechanical and involuntary that we can no longer individually question the authority. It is a type of slavery that is covered with a happy illusion which feeds man's greed, a void in our minds that can never be fulfilled. Kuno explains that through the Machine we are losing ourselves. I agree with this because of the new ways we do things. In the year 2014, humans have become so attached to technology that we have lost our selves and become more of a gear to support the 'machine' of society.

When Kuno was in the dark, he talks about how man seems to be 'naked' or 'bare'. I feel that this is a metaphor for being vulnerable with the sun, the soil, and the air. It means to be uncontrolled and to live as what we are without the illusion of fake happiness and chains. I feel that that should be the way to live; with instinct, with nature, and with a pure and untainted idealism. We think that it is great and easy to just buy from stores and that we are gaining something out of it, but all we are doing is feeding the rich. We go to work to work for companies, give a certain amount of money from our paycheck to taxes, come home and buy food with the leftover money from the same people and pay taxes again, just to live another day. This is our life right now.

Another issue is love. In the story, Vashti barely feels anything for his son after finding out that he was different from her. She looked at him with pity and disgust after she heard his long speech. The word 'love' is becoming more mechanical. When we love now, we must think of it in a complex way, like social status, money, culture, tradition, and more. This isn't love, for we should love unconditionally without thinking about anything. For example, if two children met each other in a field and started playing, would they think of all these things? Through 'The Machine' we are losing our natural way to love.

At the end of the story, Kuno and his mother lay dying as they watch the end of their generation buried under the blanket of the earth. The people in their society had lived without thinking, questioning, and they supported the system that had been created by men before them. They created second-hand ideas to forward the Machine, and at the end they all died for their mistakes. This is a metaphor for our society and what is coming up as the future nears.

Gas companies know very well the the world's gas supply will be gone in less than fifty years and that it is killing our ozone layer, but they try to find gas and sell it without thinking, just to get a dime out of it. 90% of our ocean's surface is contaminated by plastic. Marine life is dying off, but do people care? No. They do not because they want to make more money and fill their lives with riches and not deal with the consequences. Many third-world countries cannot get enough fresh water because of oil spills and pollution. Trees, our source of oxygen, are being cut down for huge industries just to make even more money. And because of people's greed, our supply of oxygen, our fresh water, and our ozone layer will disappear. We are destroying our perfect environment that has been given to us from birth by nature, just to gain metal and paper.

In the early stages of man, 7000 years back, there was no such thing called civilization. People would pick food from trees and gather meat from animals to feed their 25 to 50 people family. They would stay close and think for the group and not just themselves. They would dance, sing, and bathe in the sunlight to find happiness from every drop of it. In our world today, It is so hard to find that happiness. We are so separate and individual, we forget 'the group' and tend to be thinking only for one's self. We have become too attached to technology, we are losing our biological instincts, and we are destroying the world for future generations. The story 'The Machine Stops' is telling us what could be our future.