

## **Jeanette Winterson's *the Stone Gods*: Longing for Being as a Transhuman in a Post-Earth**

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### **Abstract**

Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods* (2007) portrays a great deal of aspiration to be a transhuman by transgressing the impediments of what it has been marked as human so far, with a view to getting into a post-earth, where each and every is being dominated by the ecstasy of science and technology. The people who are delineated in the novel strive to colonize whatever it was given as a gift for survival, and whenever they envisage with their own catastrophe with regards to be a super human by ignoring their past err, and nothing could be learnt out of it therefore Post-earth was also turned to be called a post-apocalyptic world.

Tenaciously, we are always looking forward to being in a post-earth where we strive to become what we are lies at the heart of civilization with the assistance of a good number of technological advancements such as biotechnology, genetic engineering, nanotechnology, robotics, artificial intelligence etc. What do we mean by the term Post-earth, the earth which we dwell completely would be demolished by us for our affluence, as it does come at the commencement of jeopardy, subsequently we start to discover another planet to make more viable than the former. The first and foremost, we are supposed to conceive that what do we mean by the term 'human'. Apparently, the term 'human' is a physiological classification that is a marked as Homo sapiens in its rational aspect out of his or her needs, desires and wishes. We do have poignant quest for transcending the human constrains and demarcations in terms of physiological, psychological, sociological, political and cultural by embracing the ideology of transhumanism however we are not much concerned about a great deal of repercussion which we confront in posterity by transgressing what it means to be human. We profoundly know that transhumanism frequently seeks to ensure the genesis of human race beyond its present scarcity such as deplete aging, take up longevity, hugely determine physiological, psychological and biological capacity through the implementation of science and technology. The term 'transhumanism' was propagated by the evolutionary biologist and eugenicist Julian Huxley. Many a detractor of transhumanism assuredly exemplifies that over reliance to transform by the implementation of science and technology would be exterminated the notion of anthropocentrism that human being is the significant entity of the universe, where Homosapiens would be vanished from the face of earth and known as an extinct species. While early transhumanist philosophers such as Ingmar Persson, Julian Savulescu and James Hughes deliberately addressed the issue of a cognitively enhanced majority but morally backward minority could inflict greater harm. The insidious man-machine hybrid species could paved a way to the lethal world where there is no scope to construct a techno-utopian posthuman future more than a techno-dystopian posthuman future. We have literally watched lots of science movies where the human race is being technologically advanced by making another race such as genetically modified humans, robots, zombies that has devastated the quotidian life by making consequent distinction between the two classes of humans, one is the gene-enhanced and those who were created naturally, which endeavor to convince us that those films are not a concoction more than a conspicuous reality of future. It is unfortunate that certain members of the human race are dissatisfied to the point that they would undergo drastic modifications and surgical procedures in order to create cyborgs that

have been altered in various ways. Traditional human constraints like as mortality, sickness, and other biological frailties are rejected by transhumanism. Death and disease, in my perspective, are not biological flaws that must be a part of life in order for nature's ecology to be balanced. The entire concept of transhumanism may be viewed as an issue of riches, with all of the money and angst put in the fight for human engineering potentially yielding a large profit. It makes a prolific dichotomy between 'human verses non-human', 'natural verses artificial', 'alive verses non-alive, and 'biological verses mechanical'. By uniquely expressing themselves externally, the elimination of various skills of each individual in favor of universality subverts the potentially repressive, dominant structure of society, and the consequence of such dictatorship over a population would be horrific. Technologies fetch a massive ecological alteration which would eradicate the habitability of earth where the ecosystem of the nature would be toxic, not viable and contorted for Hoi polloi, birds and animals to survive; thereby a disenchanting world, a dead world-machine with no qualities could be evolved. It is an obvious reality that it is easier for us to damage than to benefit, for example, it is easier for us to kill than to save lives, to wound persons than to cure their wounds, and to deprive persons of food than to provide them with food. In the future technologically escalated world where reality turns to be hyper-real and everybody can barely understand what is to be real and what is to be fiction because both of these might be seamlessly blended together so that there will be no clear distinction between where one ends and the other begins. It allows for the merging of physical and virtual reality, as well as human and computer intelligence. For religious conservatives any departure from what they believe to be the God-given constitution of human nature goes against his will. Bioconservatives are cautious of dramatic technology advancements, particularly those that aim to improve or modify human situations. Many of them are opposed to the usage of life extension and pre-implantation genetic screening technology. In Jeanette Winterson's *The Stone Gods* exposes human beings are the most atrocious species on the planet because they will never learn from their past mistakes besides iterating the same mistakes again and again by ignoring it. The novel frequently induces us to practice a sense of self-referential, and articulates a cautionary voice to us because we have literally learned the hazardous of corporate control of government, the repercussion of war and the dehumanization that technology brought about to the earth although the history's tendency to transgress. In primitive time, the Homosapiens already determined their dominance over the living creatures of earth and subjugated it with the assistance of technology however owing to the misuse of science and technology we have had to be experienced the horrors that come when atomic or nuclear weapons are used against cities. Following that, the radioactive fallout can kill hundreds of thousands more people through cancer, genetic mutation, and birth problems. This is because the advancement of scientific knowledge and technological prowess is putting weapons of mass devastation in the hands of an increasing number of individuals. Winterson enunciates the novel into four parts which are on the verge of extinction only because of the inhumane approach to conquer each planet with the unethical technology. The Stone Gods takes place in a futuristic past, where human beings are at the threshold of deterioration in their home-world, Orbus planet. The novel is narrated by Billie who explicates her time spend on Orbus, where she works for a corporation called 'MORE' in the near future which is undertaken by one of the governmental institutions, The Central Power where inhabitants are genetically fixed, and are controlled through the use of biopolitics by the ruling elite. Here the privacy of each citizen is being monitored by the words of Billie: 'I am being watched by cameras that's what I feel strange, and when she talks about the exposition of chip implantation, she utters everything about me is recollected just above her wrist, where her own corporeality is being fetishized and commoditized objects. This type of biopower oppresses and governs numerous corporealities through surveillance that reveals the satellite system that keeps a closer eye on them than God ever did. The inseparability of human and nonhuman corporeality from the environment, which includes harmful pollutants, viruses, chemical substances, and infected bodies, is referred to as trans-corporeality. In a technological environment of Orbus planet where human and non-human bodies since they have been subjected to tremendous toxicity as a result of pollution on the land, water, and air, they have

become completely toxic. The majority of people are drawn to genetic tinkering because they desire to seem younger and more attractive. by eliminating their aging where Winterson brings out the prosthetic married life of two characters such as Pink and her husband, here Pink's husband is a Pedophile therefore he doesn't love his wife Pink because she is getting aged so that according to the instruction of Billie who is accountable for checking people's reasons for genetic-fixing so that Orbus people can choose to fix themselves at a certain age therefore Pink would like to be deformed through the cosmetic surgery in order to rejuvenate as well as retrieve the sexual perversion of her husband towards us because most of the men in the planet Orbus are pedophiles. The character Pink is compelled to undergone a surgical reconstruction as she is so much concerned about her physiological appearance of her face as the most women would like to be done in order to attain an augmented body, where they are not willing to acknowledge their actual state of being beautiful besides ignore the disadvantages of cosmetic surgery; the person who aspires to make over their body would have to get into Body Dimorphic Disorder, death risk, disappointing results and rather makes everyone bankruptcy. Most renowned, Francis Fukuyama argues that transhumanism is the world's most dangerous idea due to the advancements in genetic technologies will mostly cause for a "genetic genocide". Transcending human's biological limitation is enthusiastic for everywoman by executing the individual freedom to the morphological freedom given by transhumanism where people should be free to transform themselves into transhuman or transitional being. Even though Billie does a lot of service for the enhancement service company, she does not believe in genetic fixing to cease the aging process but if Billie expresses reluctance towards this, she will be penalized by the hegemony of government. She is petrified by the state-approved mass illiteracy in Orbus because each and every menial quotidian activity is being taken over by Robots where human beings have no prominence as well as their capabilities are disempowered. The meat is cloned in labs and crops are grown underground beside Billie's farm, here we know the side effects of cloning and genetically modified crops which cause for cell mutation, which is known to result in new aggressive genetic diseases, human health risk, ecological problems, and an unfortunate accident in genetic engineering could be outbreak of pandemic or epidemic. Here we have to comprehend that "Playing God" has become a strong concerns about genetic engineering range from ethical difficulties to a lack of understanding of the potential consequences, where all kinds of regions discard the dogma of creation is credited to the use of advanced technology so that it is wary of science because of its relentless quest to question religious claims. As far as the Orbus planet is concerned, another pivotal remark is that the environmental issue of extreme toxicity in Orbus, where planetary toxicity is obviously intra-acting with human and nonhuman bodies. Human bodies, non-creatures, ecological systems, and chemical agents all engage in trans-corporeality, which is a term that refers to the frequently unforeseen and unwelcome behaviors of human bodies, non-creatures, ecological systems, and chemical agents. The planet Orbus is nicknamed as Red due to its sandy, dry nature, dangers of pain, toxicity and death. None of them has any idea about where the red dust is coming from thereby every citizen of the planet is supposed to put on oxygen masks because these masks are pivotal syntheses for human bodies in Orbus, where there is always a red-alert warning of venomous pollution that delineates the battling picture of the second wave of the pandemic where we are scarcity of synthetic oxygen, thereafter we understood the deprivation of technological equipment, and we try to comprehend the preciousness of the oxygen given by nature. I vociferously can't help explicating on the most deplorable situation of the pandemic, we have been envisaging surrounded the earth more than one year, it would be the result of the inhabitants have been exploiting the earth in all manner of technological experiments whereby we experience what we have once rendered to the earth which is got back to us. A century ago we had been hit by the Spanish flue however being an experienced habitant we have never ever learned from what our developed technology had done to the cause of the flue; recently Covid-19 pandemic has shaken the confidence of humanity, and endeavor to wipe out habitants from the world where all kinds of technological advanced medicines are being clogged where it reminds us that the transhumanism is the most annihilated ideology if it is for the obliteration of the commandments of earth. Every

person in the central power structure has been genetically changed, DNA-screened, and some have even been cloned. Meticulously, we do know that we have an established Bioethics is carried out nevertheless some of the scientific enhancements through biotechnology for the human could be manifested a detestable universe which would be filled with toxicity, allergic reaction, immune-suppression, cancer, and loss of nutrition that's what is divulged in the uninhabitable planet called Orbus. Winterson then exemplifies that the utmost downfall of the planet Orbus where human beings make the same mistakes continuously by exploring a mission to discover another new planet called Blue with the assistance of Robo sapien called Spike who is created by government, whose tutor is Billie. On their way to the planet Blue, Billie is falling in love with Spike where they endeavor to break the boundaries of conventional relationship between man and woman by constructing an afresh relationship between a Robo sapien and a Homosapien, not only that here we can recognize the lesbian tendency of the protagonist called Billie because Billie and Spike belong to the feminine gender. Even though the relationship between two diverse species is tabooed in the Planet Blue, they have peeled off all kinds of norms by pushing the gender roles in terms of homosexuals as well as human-machine unifications that would make every reader be astonished besides concerned on future's life style. Here, how artificial intelligence is being employed inside the Robo sapien Spike because we know that humanoids are unable to feel, empathize, and interact as humans do but we can recognize the fallacy of the RoboSapien, Spike was not properly worked due to solar energy as Spike and Billie found a shelter in a cave as the world around them enters an ice age. Lacking the constant power, the RoboSapien, Spike was died in Billy's arm here Winterson discriminates the validity and the reliability of human verses machine, sometimes Spike behaves defiantly to Billy that exhibits unregulated character of Robot which would a menace for the Homosapiens because Spike is the representative of a human-made artificial intelligence. In the forthcoming part of the novel we come to get that the planet they have discovered is crucial for survival because of the intimidating dinosaurs and other hostile life forms, here the author reminds us that a million years ago the earth was encircled with these majestic species before we settled and colonized, once it was dominated by the primitive weapons of the Homosapiens which was imbued and made it habitable by us. Alike it is which we can read it from the attitude of the planet researcher's, Handsome who decides to artificially maneuver an asteroid to hit the planet to destroy these creatures and make viable to human but it was engendered for a climate change that leads to ice age. Here, the work attempts to convey humans' quest for conquering, colonizing and subverting the natural beings only for their welfare but the plan doesn't work accurately as the asteroid hit the planet at a different place that what they planned that divulges another deflect of technology. Whereas, I profoundly draw your attention into the decline of current space mission experiments of NASA with regard to discover a neo habitable planet Mars, Due to the out of season storm as well as extreme dust on the space which has accumulated in the battery of NASA's Insight therefore its electronic power was exhausted subsequently NASA's would have to decide relinquishing the lander's mole that reveals Mars is unpredictable. Knowing the news of we are sowing the seeds of our own extermination, I assuredly remember that we will never ever learn from our despicable past err had done to the earth; we will huddle around our aspire to colonize even our heritage; Some of the researchers warn that several satellites are launched in the sky from different countries in each month which might pose a threat to humans on earth in future due to its bang light radiation reflects on earth. The latter section of the novel repossess a time in the Easter Island on March 1774, a chapter before technological advancements came into view Man is seen wandering and battling for regime, establishing their own rules and gaining renown in order to change the way the area, the nation, and the lands are governed, where the island resonates the most distorted relation between humans and nature along with how the inhabitants literally destroyed their natural environment completely. Once it used to be fully forested and housed a lot of diverse species, but when the inhabitants started to build the stone gods as part of worship to please deities by chopping down each of the tress which would eventually get into catastrophe, subsequently the people became savages by doing the most meaninglessly vandalized deed for all natural disasters that is

deforestation that deals more closely with the idea of religion and humans' greed; once the stone gods statues were built which has been lost their kudos therefore the islanders have evicted them. The recurrent characters Billie is reborn as Billy, a gay sailor and Spike is reborn as Spickers, a gay European who are both stranded on the same island. Billy witnesses the last palm tree being chopped down even though the statues do no longer have the importance for the islanders, and the Dutchman is fatally wounded by the cannibalistic of the island that reflects the futile wastages of resources as well as the misjudgments of Man too. The island was stripped and bare, with neither tree nor shrub-bushes of any kind, which is an isolated world where there is only atrocity, ignorance and unwillingness to learn from one's errs have caused natural disasters and eventually, the result of people's human activities destroyed the whole community. Winterson depicts one of the hybrid species in the island, Bird Man where he started to shake his until it falls down, and then he begins a battle with the rest of the inhabitants. Paradoxically, Winterson brings out the picture of another exhausted planet called 'The White Planet' where it is contrasted with the earth which was encountered on the way to the Planet blue by the space mission crew who coyly executes its condition by articulating 'a thing that has been killed and rages to be dead, and the white of the planet is not a white of purity, goodness or heaven rather the white at the end of the world, nothingness and most fearful of all. The novel's third half takes a daring jump into the world after World War Three. Following the declaration of a nuclear war by the Iranians against the United States of America, a city normally rebuilds itself; here, I'd like to draw your attention to the aftermath of the use of nuclear weapons during the Hiroshima and Nagasaki atomic bombings, when most of The frequency of leukemia increased dramatically among survivors five to six years after the bombings, and survivors began to develop thyroid, breast, lung, and other malignancies at higher-than-normal rates after a decade. First responders such as hospitals, firemen, and other relief agencies would simply be unable to help if a nuclear weapon were to be detonated over a city today. Winterson reminds us the crucial implantation of biological weapons, and its impact through the Blue planet which was divided into the two cities such as 'Tech City' and 'Wreck City' owing to the nuclear war. Wreck City is a hyper-technologized society where human bodies are exposed to nuclear waste and toxicity, whereas Tech City is a hyper-technologized civilization where human bodies are technologically produced. In Wreck City, there is no economic support, and the inhabitant struggles to function properly, and there is neither government nor capitalism more than everything is regulated by a company called MORE. The same recurrent characters are being drawn out here such as RoboSapien called Spike and its teacher Billy, where Spike is able to make her own decisions and receives no orders from any authority so that Spike has been missed somehow thereby the MORE company took a stringent disciplinary action against Billie as the company miscalculated that Spike would have been stolen by Billy, wherefore her beings to seek for Spike and ends up in a radioactive forest filled with deformed humans as an aftereffect of the third world war. These people are torn, ripped, open-wounded, ulcerated, bleeding, toothless, blind, and speechless, stunted, and mutant who is fed from humanitarian aid dropped from the skies above because nobody can go by them that reflects their transformation from corporeal to trans-corporeal bodies which are vexatious forever to the rest of the civilization. Nuclear weapons pose a significant threat to the world because they have the potential to unleash widespread devastation. When the body is altered, whether naturally or artificially, its interaction with the environment is altered, and it can no longer live in the same way it did previously. The identities of these victims are questionable due to their life being monitored and operated by the large powers like MORE, in addition to they have been dehumanized on account of increasing mishandling of science and technology that could rank their terrible fates. Totalitarian regime of the MORE military unwittingly accused Billy for her masquerading befriending with terrorism subsequently as part of her rescue from the hands of the MORE military, she would be executed soon. While Billy is on the run being alleged of terrorism, she reached an old dish of a radio telescope where she heard a signal was sent million years ago since the dinosaurs were here, which displays the untrustworthy of the technological equipment that couldn't be updated itself. Billy's job is to teach Spike what it means to be human but this mission

could not be successfully succeeded by her workaholic which states experiments are after all experimental until humanity is able to judge well for them because Spike is no longer sure she wants to serve mankind in the way her creators intended. We might have heard a piece of sobering news reported on Facebook recently made an experiment on two robots with regard to chats, while those robots were chatting; they developed a new machine language by defying that made the scientists dismayed because those two robots veered the scientific regulations in artificial intelligence therefore the project had to be dropped out. Humans are part of the problem produced by their irresponsible behavior toward the Earth and all life forms, from global warming to nuclear catastrophe. In the story, this predicament raises important questions about politics, biotechnology, society, and bodies. As far as the Tech City is concerned, we can transparently comprehend the dominance of Biopolitics through the company called, MORE. The hypocrisy of the company is manipulating the public by giving false hope of providing peaceful and advanced life but they are actually concealing the truth from the normal people of Tech City. When Billy remonstrates against a society's treatment of their own planet, her bio-farm is seized by the enforcement officers of the Central Power. With the culmination of the technological advancements, the people of Tech City are obsessed with materialism as well as are contiguous. One of the characters in the novel, Friday who was a bank capitalist, strongly against the hypocrisy of the MORE Company in disguised because his secured data regarding the bank is attacked by the company so that there might be a cyber-war to rob the bank digitalized money. Ambiguously, each of the species belongs to the Tech City has transcended the human flesh and lived as most enhanced life style although their life decisions are being governed by a global corporate institution MORE. The mutant beings are isolated from those in Tech City that means a great deal of discrimination between the toxics as well as the enhanced. Winterson is profoundly concerned with the anthropogenic decrement of not only environments but also human beings: "what if we really do keep making the same mistakes again and again, never remembering the lessons to learn but never forgetting either that it had been different" (105). In each part of *The Stone Gods*, the mistake is iterating, and what is considerable is that "perhaps the universe is a memory of mistakes" (106). Even though the mutants are toxic in the dead forest of the Wreck City, they were once normal inhabitants but the nuclear war made wretched as well as venomous. It is quite ridiculous thought that how a Homosapien can fall in love with a RoboSapien without head, that induces us that we are blindly persuaded by this e-world. As long as the human being sustains in the world, they are always dying for becoming a transhuman to accomplish an everlasting Post-human transcendence but if those enhancements are escalated by defenestrating the civic senses of morality, bioethics, ecosystem, human law, nature's law and God's will; we would have to witnessed a great deal of extermination of humanity rather than escalation of humanity that's what we have learnt from the world yet, so that let's not be foes to ourselves anymore !