

**December 5, 1999** The existing young generation doesn't know the beauty of autumn. They don't know spring either. They have never seen colorful flowers in bloom. They have never seen the bright sun in the sky. It is the year 3010 when the sun up in the sky looks like as if it's behind clouds. Well, it really is... there. It is the month of June and yet the atmosphere bears a dry chilly coldness like the one in a refrigerator.

This is not what Nature was like 50 years ago. It all happened after the nuclear explosion. There was an enormous nuclear power plant somewhere in the neighborhood of this town. It was the government's most prospective project until one day, there was a leak which remained undetected even by the most sophisticated highly specialized digital cop smart computer program. Bad luck or whatever, the consequence took place in due time. There was an explosion; only one explosion and not a single life in the neighboring towns survived not even cockroaches that are thought to survive even atomic explosion.

The towns in the neighborhood remained isolated for about twenty years until the population increased and people gradually started to settle in those areas. The government then heaved a sigh of relief. It was now eager to spend a whole lot of money for accommodations and health service of the people settling there. Very soon, schools, universities, health centers and many other utility services were established. And one other special thing was established too. It was the OCPHB (Office of Conservation of Perfect Human Beings). The office was in a colossal multistoried building which ought to look pretty attractive, and yet people found it quite sinister, especially parents.

Although this town has all the facilities that people require, they, especially the elderly groups still, don't like the government who is spending so much on them. The parents are unhappy in this town. The birth of a child darkens the face of parents. If the child is physically unfit, the parents are naturally unhappy, if the child is perfect, they're not happy either, because a family is not allowed to bring up a perfect child. He will be taken by the OCPHB where he will be raised and educated. In fact, conserved and will not be allowed to meet his parents until he is twenty-one.

The OCPHB (Office of Conservation of Perfect Human Beings) is a government organization in charge of conserving perfect human beings. This organization never existed before the nuclear explosion. It all started after the explosion took place. The government found out that sickly children were born. This was an effect of the nuclear explosion. Almost about 8 or 9 percent of 10 children born. The intellectuals saw the need for conserving perfect human beings as their ancestors a long time back used to spend on conserving wild life. The government is now less bothered about protecting wild life, which by now is in the worst possible condition, and it's too late for any such humanitarian venture. Instead, the government is focussing on protecting human beings, not all, but only those who are born perfect.

No one ever comes out of the OCPHB building. The Defense Commission delivers all the necessities and necessary accessories there. The children being raised there are all medically perfect. Healthy is a term for commanders who are quite alright, but human beings residing inside the OCPHB building are all medically perfect.

It is the year 3010 and so much is there to study at school, and there really are... the pupils at school study English, Literature, Mathematics, History and many other subjects. But there is something different about some of these courses. In History, the pupils don't learn about battles and wars in the past. They only learn about inventions for the betterment of mankind; they learn about the development of religion. They also learn the ancient concept of ideal society enunciated by Aristotle. The children don't know who Hitler was.

They have never heard of Saddam Hussein; these are not in their history books. They are only taught lessons on developing ideal society and nation devoid of wars. They are advised to establish a Fantastic Future for their succeeding generation... but alas! The existing generation of 3010 thinks their environment is perfect; they are enjoying highly sophisticated electronic entertainment. What else could be Future Fantastic other than this? They really wonder what irrelevant lessons they are being taught as to develop a fantastic future for their sons and daughters so that they don't suffer as they do... but how? The existing generation of 3010 is not suffering anything. They may be physically unfit, but so are the other people in town, and even their parents. They find it normal. This is the way they are all born; this is the way they all are and they don't like to complain. Without making them aware of the errors of their ancestors, how can the one-sided advisory education of the year 3010 warn them not to repeat the same mistake?

The existing generation of the year 3010 learns that there were four seasons in the past: spring, summer, fall and winter. But there is no possible way for them to feel each of the seasons. They know it can't be during the summer, but they can't feel it now. They know that winter was a cold season, but what kind of cold was it? It never felt these. It's cold all the time out here... a dry coldness which is chilly... they get the exact feeling if they stand before the refrigerator with its door open. They can't call this winter. They have only one season and that's what they have been seeing and feeling since their birth.

Back in the building of the OCPHB, the authority gives a different education to the children who are being brought up there. Here, the children learn about battles and other words, they are being trained to change the world; in should it not have been the other way round? Usually the ancestors are to leave a perfect world for their successors to reside... but here the successors themselves are curing the world for themselves and probably, then comes the second thought of leaving it cured for their generations.

The people under training at the OCPHB hate to learn about their ancestors. They don't appreciate the inventions done by their ancestors for the betterment of mankind. Those inventions to them are worth nothing compared to the catastrophe their ancestors have brought to their very own world. Shame on those people who couldn't even protect their own world despite having got it for free... they did not earn the world and so they had no right to mutate it the bad way. Nothing much was asked of them. All they had to do was preserve what the world had for them and this simple task they could not do because they fought amongst themselves like animals. These people don't deserve any appreciation. They are to be blamed... blamed for what they have done to the once so beautiful world...

'Wedding' is a word, which means ceremony, lots of fun and enjoyment. Though it is celebrated all over the world the weddings of our country and some other Asian countries are very special. It's not only a day program, in our country the program can go on for a week or more! I went to many weddings, but all those weddings were held within the city. I had never been to any village weddings before.

But last week I enjoyed one of the best weddings I've ever been to in my life. It was my Mami's wedding. This was very special to my other cousins and me because we were very young when my other Mamas were married. We hardly remember anything about those marriages. Today let me share my experiences of the most memorable wedding ceremony of my life with you all. Let's start from the beginning.

We were obviously very excited when we first went to choose a 'Mami' for us. Me, my cousins, my Mum and my aunt went to my Mami's house. We saw her after waiting for a long time. And when we saw her we thought that she was pretty lohi I forgot to mention. My Mami was also with us. So on the same day, both the sides saw the boy and the girl. The next week they answered that they were interested in this proposal. The same reply came from our side.

Then another day was fixed again for the engagement party. We had lots of fun that day third December 1999. When! How we passed the next few days! We were all excited happy and started planning what to do and what not. There were lots of arguments, shopping, giving away invitation cards to relatives and friends as well as giving the final excuses. Who was more busy than me!

On first December we started off for my granny's house in Kapasia for the 'Gaye Holud'. We spent the night before that day doing alpapa or designs on floor as a part of the

## Most Traditional Wedding

I've ever been to

By Syeda Nafisa Ahmed [Falgun]

program. There were beautiful sarees all in yellow for all of us. Though our program was supposed to start from evening, but it started in the late night.

There were crackers and fireworks with different colors of lighting all around the house, trees and roads. It was so cold in village still we were all enjoying ourselves outdoor with Miendhis on our hands. The next day was the special one. The wedding it was held at afternoon as we had to come back to Dhaka for the ceremony and then return to Kapasia. At eleven we started for Dhaka and to complete all the formalities, this included taking money from the bridegroom at the entrance, showing the newly married ones each other's face at the same mirror and lots more, it took only three to four hours for us. When we went to Kapasia with our 'new Mami' and a grandma of hers (it's also a tradition) there were many other formalities about which I was not familiar. The bride first had to step on a plate full of water then she was welcomed in a very traditional manner, and then my Mum and Aunt carried her inside the house. We all sweetened the mouth of the newly married couple, guardians wished them a good future and lots, lots, lots.....

Me, my cousins along with my brother spent half of the night watching the cooks' cooking the food for the next day's program.

Next day was the wedding reception. There were many guests from both the families. I enjoyed the day most. Running here and there, helping others serve the guests, talking with them etc. Guests were all around and there was no time for lunch, but who cared? I was enjoying myself. Though the couple was supposed to visit the bride's house that day, they didn't. They did this after two days. There were some more relatives from Mami's house to escort them. Again there were lots of food, guests all around. It was not finished yet! Another party was left when we went to bring back the couple from Mami's house.

Oh! This wedding was so interesting to me. I didn't even know many of the traditional rules of wedding before this. We usually go to a Community Center, have a great deal of food, watch a beautiful bride with lots of jewellery and then come back home. This wedding was a recreation for me as it was so different from all the other weddings. We enjoyed a different kind of wedding.

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initiates, controls, and coordinates muscular movements in humans and other vertebrates.

For much of the 20th century, neuroscientists have fought shy of discussing mental processes or consciousness; it has been hard enough to attempt to uncover the brain mechanisms involved in perception or emotion. However, from the 1990s onwards, there has been increasing importance on discovering new things about it. But in all such discussions there is a danger that the complex meanings of consciousness, at once both uniquely personal and social, are reduced to nothing more than merely being 'aware' or awake rather than asleep. But mind, or minding, to recover Kyle's term, is not merely what brains do, also shaped by each person's individual history and that of the society in which they grow up. It is this interplay of the biological, social, and historical which the new millennium needs to bring to bear on the study of consciousness. If we are to achieve a more complete understanding of our own brains and minds.

So we have to wonder - will scientists ever be able to understand the workings of a Human Brain?

**Ness Loch**, long, narrow lake, in northern Scotland, forming part of the Caledonian Canal. It extends in a northeasterly direction for about 39-km, from Fort Augustus to a point near the city of Inverness. The average width of the lake is about 2 km, and the greatest depth is about 230 m. The lake is reportedly the home of the so-called Loch Ness monster, but its existence has never been proven. Something called the Sea Serpent, has never been proven. Something called the Sea form and some people discovered monstrous size at the time. During the times of wooden sailing vessels, sea serpents were widely believed to have destroyed many ships. No scientific evidence as yet supports the existence of snake-like sea monsters. Extravagant descriptions of sea snakes have probably been responsible for most reports of sea serpents; floating seaweeds have probably also contributed to this myth. Such a monster has also been reputed to exist in the waters of Loch Ness, Scotland.

Who is Homer responsible for Iliad and Odyssey? Who was he?

**Homer**, the name traditionally assigned to the reputed author of the Iliad and the Odyssey, the two major epics of Greek antiquity. Nothing is known of Homer the individual, and in fact it is questionable whether a single person can be said to be responsible for the creation of the two epics. It is highly controversial. Linguistic and historical evidence, however, allows the supposition that the poems were composed in the Greek settlements on the west coast of Asia Minor sometime in the 9th century BC.

In a direct way Homer was the parent of all succeeding Greek literature; drama, history, geography, and even philosophy all show the mark of the issues, comic and tragic, raised in the epics and the techniques Homer used to approach them. For the later epic poets of Western literature, Homer was of course always the master (even when, like Dante, they did not know the works directly) but for his most successful followers, curiously enough, his work was as much a target as a model. Among English translations of Homer, the earlier versions of George Chapman (1616) and Alexander Pope (1715-1720), *Odyssey*, 1725-1726 stand out as permanent classics. In contemporary English verse, the reader can choose between the highly literal renditions (1951, 1967) of the American poet Richmond Lattimore and the versions (1961, 1974) of Robert Fitzgerald, another American poet, which tend to be freer and are often considered more readable.

What are UFO's?

**Undetermined Flying Object (UFO)**, any object or light in the sky that cannot be immediately explained by the observer. Sightings of unusual aerial phenomena date back to ancient times, but UFOs (sometimes called flying saucers) became widely discussed only after the first widely publicized American sighting in 1947. Thousands of such observations have since been reported worldwide. At least 90 per cent of UFO sightings can be identified as predictable objects, although time-consuming investigations are often necessary for such identification. UFOs most often turn out to be bright planets or stars, aircraft, birds, balloons, kites, aerial flares, peculiar clouds, meteors, and satellites. The remaining sightings can

# Advancements in Science and Technology this Millennium

idea which, affirmed that if matter is assumed to consist of small particles in constant motion rather than the four elements, chemical reactions could possibly be more satisfactorily explained. Then came Isaac Newton. His contributions were many, the most notable one being his theory of universal gravity. In the 1740's, the invention of the Leyden jar, which acts as a store for static electricity, made it possible for scientists to study electricity more carefully. Around this time, the French scientist Antoine Lavoisier discovered oxygen and the physical phenomena of combustion. Other gases were also discovered around this period. Steam engines were invented as well, and opened up new opportunities in the fields of power production and transport. In the field of biology, Carolus Linnaeus, the first taxonomist, set up a new system in which all the world's known organisms were carefully classified using the binomial system of nomenclature, where all living things were given two special Latin names.

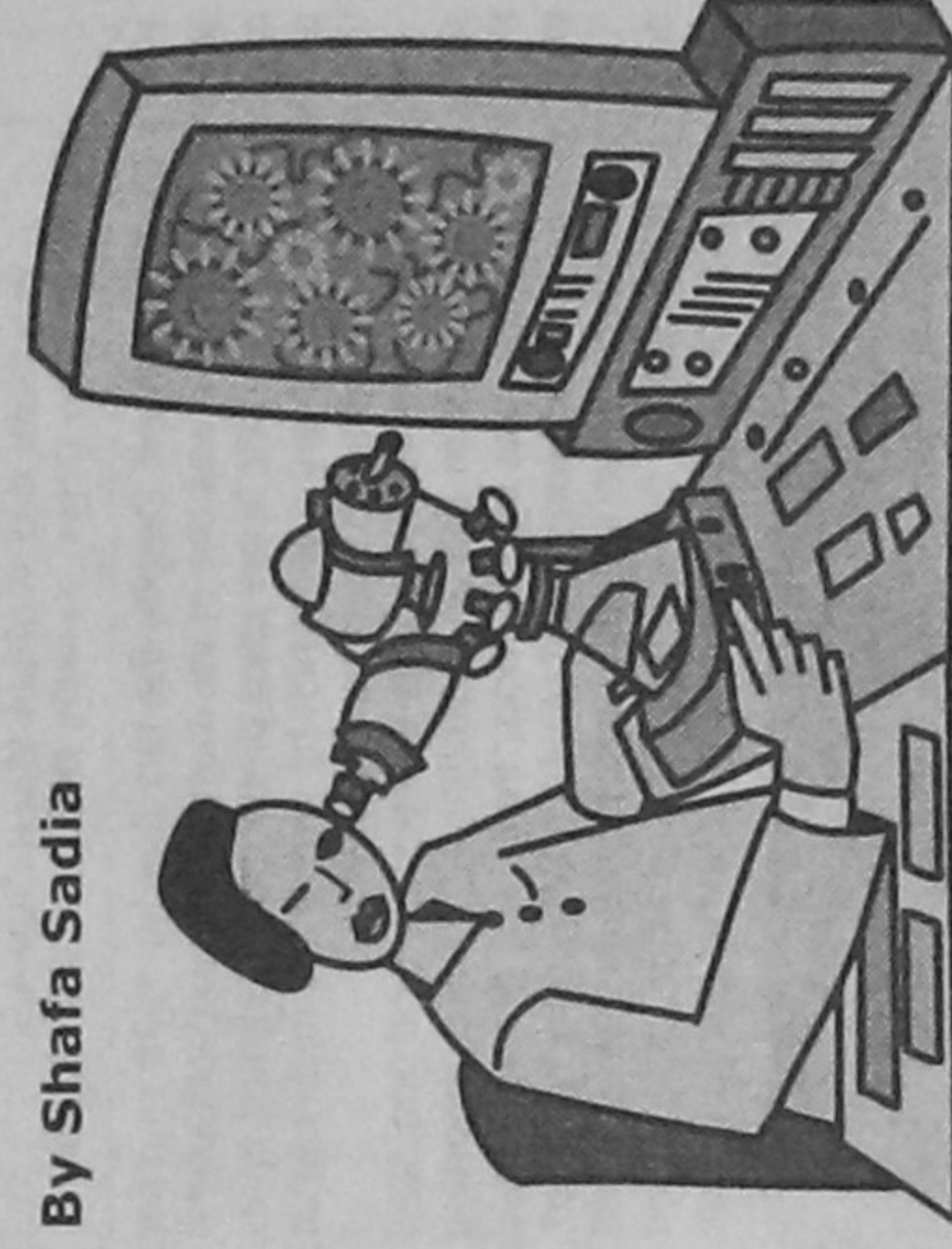
In 1805, the British astronomer Herschel showed that the universe was not confined to the solar system alone. In 1808, English schoolteacher John Dalton put forward the atomic theory, which stated that all substances were made up from tiny particles known as atoms. Then was sparked an interest in organic chemistry, where the science of carbon and natural fossil fuels was keenly studied. At the same time, Charles Lyell, a geologist, suggested that Earth was in a state of constant change. Naturalists such as Georges Cuvier and Jean Lamarck brought a light on the science of organic evolution, and later on, Charles Darwin brought out his book 'Origin of Species', which formed the basis of the theory of evolution. Within that period, a German botanist Schleiden and a German zoologist Schwann had propounded the 'cell theory', which states that all organisms are made up of hundreds of tiny units called cells, which had originally been discovered by Robert Hooke.

In England, Michael Faraday was in the process of discovering an invention, which could drastically revolutionize the standard of living of mankind - the dynamo. His work on magnetism laid the foundations for the invention of drive domestic appliances. This happened in the 1820's. Afterwards, his discovery was put to good use as it was used in association with steam power so entire factories could be operated. Man began to take the marvels of electricity for granted. Great inventors like Thomas Alva Edison began to invent new devices, while improving and refining the old ones. Chemistry was also advancing. In 1869, the Russian scientist Dmitri Mendeleev drew up the 'Periodic Table of Elements', which showed details of all the elements with regard to their atomic numbers. In 1888, the German physicist Heinrich Hertz discovered radio waves, which cleared the way for vast new possibilities. Synthetics were also being created. Human life was changing for the better.

In the biological world, Louis Pasteur proved that badium was responsible for the process of fermentation. Gregor Johann Mendel uncovered the concept of heredity. The French physicist Henri Becquerel discovered radioactivity, and thus the ages of fossils could be estimated using this. J.J. Thomson, a British physicist, proved that atoms were not the smallest particles in existence by discovering the electron in 1897.

The next century proved to be the most eventful as far as science was concerned. X-rays were used to assist medicine. Telecommunication was developed, especially after Alexander G. Bell had invented the telephone in 1876. The industry of plastics and synthetics and polymers began to expand fast, especially during the 20's, 30's and 40's. Albert Einstein amended the world with his revolutionary theory of Relativity. New telescopes were built at observatories throughout the world, and found out that Copernicus' theory appeared to be quite correct. However, Galileo had to pay dearly for supporting Copernicus' idea by spending the last part of his life in jail, because he refused to agree with tradition and state discoveries by observing the sky with an improved version of the Dutch Hans Lippershey's telescope. It was also he who was among the pioneers of using accurate calculations and experiments when studying science. Around that period, John Napier discovered logarithms.

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By Shafa Sadia

Man has always been directly linked to science in one way or the other. Two million years ago his ancestors found science to be a useful aid to their basic survival skills. On the basis of this, they racked their brains a little harder to find appreciable uses for wedges and wheels. When, in 5000 B.C, civilisations were finally established, it was science man had turned to for the necessities of life - decent quantities and various types of food, comfortable clothing, and proper safe shelters - and later on, for luxuries.

After civilisation, came the age of spirituality a time to discover the superiority of goodness and virtue, and to search for the Creator. Then came the age of conquest, an era of Kings, queens, warriors and battles, when territory was everything. That lapped on to the Renaissance, the age of the world's obsession with the fine arts, when poets, playwrights, artists and musicians ruled supreme. And finally after centuries of inching along all through, being in spite of bound within the clutches of alchemists and mathematicians, science has taken to stage once more. And done so in a highly revolutionary manner, most by the fact that the science of past century has been dominated mostly by science.

Over the last few decades, the advent of the age of global commercialism has now led to a period where science (especially cybernetics and computer science) and commerce go hand in hand. More about the world and the universe has been discovered during the latter part of the past millennium than ever before, and scientific development had never been as fast as it has been over the last two centuries. Here is a summary of some of the scientific advancements, landmarks and milestones that were achieved over the last millennium, written especially for amateur whiz-kids and geniuses-to-be...

Around 1532, an early biologist, Andreas Vesalius (an Italian) collected human corpses and studied their internal structure in an attempt to understand the functions of the organs and tissues inside. Therefore, he was probably also the first proper anatomist and physiologist. In the meantime, in 1543 Polish astronomer Nicholas Copernicus suggested that it was possibly the earth that moved round the sun and not the other way round. In the process, he defied age-old philosophical beliefs and traditional myths. A contemporary, Galileo, looked into the matter and found out that Copernicus' theory appeared to be quite correct. However, Galileo had to pay dearly for supporting Copernicus' idea by spending the last part of his life in jail, because he refused to agree with tradition and state discoveries by observing the sky with an improved version of the Dutch Hans Lippershey's telescope. It was also he who was among the pioneers of using accurate calculations and experiments when studying science. Around that period, John Napier discovered logarithms.

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**This simulation recreates an alleged UFO sighting in Belleville, Wisconsin, in 1987. Several UFO sightings occurred at about the same time, with witnesses in scattered locations. The Illinois Air Traffic Control also reported an unidentified object at the same time.**

probably be attributed to other mistaken sightings or to inaccurate reporting, hoaxes, or delusions, although to disprove all claims made about UFOs is impossible.

Some people nevertheless believe that UFOs are extraterrestrial spacecraft, even though no scientifically evidence supports that belief. The possibility of extraterrestrial civilizations is very uncertain; although some scientists grant that intelligent life may well exist elsewhere in the universe. A fully convincing UFO photograph of a craft-like object has yet to be taken, however, and the scientific method requires that highly speculative explanations should not be adopted unless all of the more ordinary explanations can be ruled out. UFO fans live on, however, some people even claim to have been abducted by UFOs. But no one has produced scientifically acceptable proof of these claims.

Hopefully in the next millennium we will be able to solve these mysteries, till then Chiao!

'SkyLab' and 'Salyut' were launched, as well as a variety of other probes and satellites, and this helped the planets and other heavenly bodies to be observed more closely. The invention of radio telescopes further assisted this. In 1997, the Mars pathfinder explored the surface of Mars, putting to rest a great deal of scientific arguments relating to the existence of extraterrestrial life on the planet. By 1967, the MKS base of the S.T. unit system had been set up. Thus, there were fewer disagreements as far as weights and measures were concerned since standard units had been decided upon. Particle physics was gaining momentum. Ernest Rutherford discovered atomic nuclei in 1911, while James Chadwick discovered the neutron in 1932. More physicists began to sustain an interest in the study of subatomic particles. Quantum physics (the study of photons that travel as particles or waves to form light) was also a source of intense fascination. Radioactivity was becoming a hot topic as well. During World War II, most scientific study was dedicated to the inventions of new weapons (particularly nuclear weapons) and to the uses of the drug, penicillin (which saved many wounded soldiers from death). At the end of that period in 1945, atomic bombs were thrown on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The world was stunned by the sheer cruelty of the heinous act, and atomic and nuclear energy were then put to use for other more peaceful purposes such as producing electricity for households and buildings to use. However, this use was not completely harmless. Using nuclear energy led to the release of a good deal of toxic radioactive waste, and scientists still have not found a way to dispose of that safely.

The synthetic industry also underwent further development, as nylon and new polymer-based products came into existence. In 1953, J.D. Watson and Francis Crick demystified the supposed complexity of DNA by revealing the structure of its molecules. Afterwards, Har Gobind Khorana, from Pakistan elaborated research on the subject and received a Nobel Prize in the process. His meant that scientists may soon actually be able to alter genetic factors in order to bring to life practically any kind of organism that they have in mind! Thus biotechnology, a term introduced only in the 70's, may change the future of the planet. Biotechnology consists of the sciences where biology and technology overlap, namely, cell and tissue culture, genetic engineering, protoplast fusion, hybridoma technology, immunisation development, embryo transfer technology, enzyme and protein engineering, fermentation, bioconversion and immobilization of cells and cellular products. These subjects are all comparatively new, and biotechnologists are still exploring them. The discovery of cloning has been a landmark among those sciences.

Healthcare also was given more attention, especially in the 30's and 40's, when the importance of supplementary nutrients, antibiotics and medicine were stressed. Molecular biology also became more popular largely due to the fact that the quality of microscopes had been greatly improved, so structures within tissues could be examined more closely. Over the past three decades, scientific research has been emphasized on computer sciences.

At the moment, scientists are still tirelessly working on the answers to a great deal of questions, astronomers are trying to trace their ways back billions of years ago to require on the origin of the universe. Physicists are trying to find away to deactivate the harmful effects of nuclear waste, and to conserve energy using technologies to achieve superconductivity. Chemists are trying to break subatomic particles into smaller pieces, as well as to discover new elements. Biologists are concentrating on the exciting possibilities of biotechnology and its sister sciences. Others are trying the scars of global pollution or wallowing in cyber-space.

Does that wrap it up? Not really. It's clear that a lot has been discovered and yet, we are still just over a mere corner away from where we once started, if you stop to consider the fact that entire universe still lies ahead of us, vast, expansive, never-ending and unexplored. We have only managed to wage through one insignificant hook of a tremendous future. As the next millennium begins, we all are being led towards a precarious future that may make or break the existence of mankind on the planet. What will happen during this millennium depends neither on Nostrodamus nor on what resolutions we make, but on what we actually do. Science, like everything else, has its upside and its downside. This time, it's either going to wipe us out or take us to the top. It's up to us to decide that.