



“ON GEORGE ORWELL’S DYSTOPIAN MASTERPIECE, 1984: HOW WINSTON SMITH WAS MARKED, BAITED AND HUNTED DOWN BY O'BRIEN AND THE THOUGHT POLICE.”

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to ‘trace’ the ways and means by which Winston Smith was ‘identified’ and hunted down as a dissident by Big Brother (The visual representation of the Government) in Oceania. Winston Smith was depicted as a representative of the ubiquitous middle class individual in George Orwell’s Book, 1984, first published in the year 1948⁰¹. As an individual, Winston Smith harbored feelings of hate and dissatisfaction against Big Brother⁰² which he depicted in writing, thereby committing the worst crime a citizen could commit in Oceania: Thoughtcrime. The book traces Winston Smith’s life as it goes down the drain – falling in forbidden love⁰³, detection and the process of ‘Re-Education⁰⁴’ leading to the ultimate betrayal⁰⁶ to save one’s own life. This paper discusses the minute, hidden in plain sight elements that worked together as a ‘catalyst’ to cause the Government to become interested in Winston Smith, which ultimately led to his ultimate defeat and destruction before the government.

KEYWORDS: Re-Education , dystopian literature , surveillance equipment and human informers.

INTRODUCTION

George Orwell’s masterpiece of dystopian literature, 1984 is regarded as one of the best books, to present an ‘idealistic’ view at totalitarian governments and dystopia in general. The book features a Government, represented by the ‘ever present’ presence of its Supreme Leader, Big Brother, who is ever present, eternal and ever observing. It is not made clear in the book, exactly ‘who’ Big Brother is or whether he is real or not. But for Oceanians in general, Big Brother is as real to them as the rumbling feeling of hunger in their stomachs⁰⁸.

The ‘state’ of Oceania is a ‘state of surveillance’. Every citizen is identified as a ‘potential enemy’ and is observed by a ubiquitous presence of surveillance equipment and human informers. Failure is not tolerated, as was in the case of Ampleforth and any citizens who is suspected to be ‘dissatisfied’ with the system of government is marked for ‘Re-Education⁰⁹’ picturing a vivid picture of forcible changing of opinion through beatings, torture and hard labor. The state relies on fear to support itself and takes pride in directing all efforts towards maintaining Oceania’s current position in the ‘eternal war’ which is fought between Eastasia and/or Eurasia. (George Orwell, 1984).

Whether Oceania is actually ‘in control’ of a vast tract of land, nearly 1/4th the size of earth is doubtful as barring few mentions of other countries, not much action takes place ‘outside ‘Air Strip One’ (What Britain is called in the novel). A majority of the portion of the story is set inside London, chief city of Airstrip One which occupies a large part of the island and is depicted in the book as a city of very high importance to Oceania, with all four of its Ministries – The Ministry of Truth (Which deals with (mis)information and propaganda), The Ministry of Plenty (which deals with production and distribution of consumer goods and other commonly consumed goods), The Ministry of Peace (Which deals with war and

offensive and defensive preparations and efforts of Oceania) and the Ministry of Love (Which deals with internal security, surveillance and Re-Education efforts of the Party). (George Orwell, 1984).

Air Strip One has a high population density with the book describing it as the 'third most populous' province in Oceania. However, on reading the book, a speculation is created in the mind of the reader that Oceania is not as big as they claim to be and its territory might not extend beyond the island of Great Britain. (George Orwell, 1984).

REVIEW OF LITERATURE:

The idea for writing this paper came into the Author's head when he was reading George Orwell's Dystopian Masterpiece, 1984. The book paints a frightening picture of the future where everyone is under the glare of the Government's eye (Surveillance) and anyone can be denounced, arrested or disappeared without any warning. Further, things were not good in Oceania, the country ruled by Big Brother and the Party as food was scarce and generally unpalatable, amenities were limited and of poor quality. The citizens could not afford much of the basic comforts of life and were forced to subsist on what they had or buy from the black market. Anyone caught or suspected of thinking of 'seditious thoughts' such as 'down with Big Brother' was guilty of Thoughtcrime and was brought to the Ministry of Love to be beaten, tortured and forced to change their mindset, before signing a series of false confessions after which in the end, they would be executed and their entire existence erased and deleted, as if they never existed in the first place. (George Orwell, 1984).

It is felt after reading the book that the antagonist, O'Brien was 'very much interested' in the Protagonist, Winston Smith as subtle clues reveal in the book that he was observing him from a very long time. This paper attempts to explain the 'how' of how, Winston Smith was hunted by O'Brien and later tortured into loving Big Brother.

SUSHEEL KUMAR SHARMA (2000) has stated that Oceania, the country ruled by Big Brother in 1984 is a 'negative utopia' as the purpose of the government is for the securation of power and its maintenance and not for improving the lives of the people. This has been confirmed by O'Brien in the book stating that Oceania is different from the other regimes – Nazi Germany, Communist Russia who in his words, came close to establish the 'negative utopia' that is Oceania but failed in their pursuit towards it by calling them as 'cowards and hypocrites' as seizure of power for them was nothing but a 'middle step' and they did not have the will to maintain a regime of control as they knew that human beings could not be controlled and would be free and equal. (George Orwell, 1984). This belief is in contrast to the belief of the Party which seeks power, because it wants power and it is clear and honest about it.

This being the case, it is natural for the party to 'hunt down' and re-educate dissidents who do not subscribe to its view as the Party. It was hinted that Winston Smith was 'identified' as a dissident since a very long time and was under surveillance for seven years with detailed records prepared of his activities, even going as far as replacing the dust on his diary to 'convince' Winston Smith that it had not been read, when in reality it was by the Thought Police. (George Orwell, 1984).

According to MATTHEW SILKES (2017), Environmental and genetic factors are responsible for serial murderers behavior, based on his analysis of the research into serial killers such as, Ted Bundy. One can argue that O'Brien behavior was similarly influenced by the environment he was in (the state of surveillance and pain of Oceania) and the genetic factor (the philosophy and the beliefs of the party). This motivated him to 'hunt' down dissidents for re-education and for instilling love for Big Brother, as a twisted form of 'game' and 'fun' because it was permitted and encouraged by Big Brother because all were to love him and not themselves.

One can argue that O'Brien and his fellow hunters – Mr. Charrington and other unnamed Thought Police officers, deliberately waited seven and more years to 'lure' Winston Smith into the 'false belief' of security and peace from Big Brother, so that he could be 'trapped' at a convenient time, because they wanted to 'perfect' their skills⁵¹ in tracking and hunting dissidents as Winston Smith would by no means be the 'last victim' to be hunted.

This was confirmed by O’Brien himself in his claim that the ‘drama’ he played with Winston Smith over the last seven years, will be repeated again with more dissidents and heretics brought into the Ministry of Love to be broken into loving Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984). Thus, the hunt will continue as it is basic human nature to resist what the Party seeks to persist and more victims will be had after Winston Smith.

How Winston Smith was crushed by Big Brother’s Jackboot

The story of 1984 traces the path of the protagonist, Winston Smith an employee working in the Records Department in the Ministry of Truth. It is his job to present ‘lies as truth’ and ‘scarcity as plenty’ (colloquially called as double speak⁰⁷) by doctoring images, re-editing existing content and other methods. Winston Smith was conditioned to accept truth as lies and lies as truth as it was how things were, courtesy of ‘Double think’. The Party was making an effort to reduce words in English to eliminate the need for using non-needed words as double plus good can suffice for ‘excellent¹⁰’. Like everyone, Winston Smith is a long suffering everyman under Big Brother’s jackboot, the sole of it threatening to stomp on him completely and totally. This threat becomes real and is shown in three stages, the first stage wherein the feeling of dissatisfaction against Big Brother, takes root and sprouts into a sapling of rebellion within Winston Smith which he makes clear by committing an act, an act which he states is ‘the worst crime in the world’, Thoughtcrime.

He lives in fear of the discovery of the ‘evidence’ of his crime, written down in clear black ink as ‘DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER’ in his diary. (George Orwell, 1984).

In the second stage, Winston Smith feels the sweet hurt of love and the human emotion of passion when he meets Julia, a machine operator working along with Winston Smith in the Ministry of Truth. Their initial interaction is not a pleasant one as Winston Smith sees that Julia is a member of the ‘Junior No Sex League’ and worries that she might report him to the Thought Police, who he believes that she is a part of. But, later they interact more frequently and start an ‘affair’. Later, they are met by O’Brien, a member of the Inner Party and a very senior level member of the Ministry of Information who causes it to be revealed to Winston Smith that he is a member of ‘The Brotherhood’ and sparks a new enthusiasm and support within Winston Smith to rebel against Big Brother. Unknown to Winston Smith, O’Brien is a member of the Inner Party and a very zealous supporter of Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

Winston Smith and Julia inform O’Brien that they have declared themselves to be ‘Enemies of Big Brother and the Party’ and state their willingness to do ‘anything’ to bring him down, even disfiguring a child’s face with Sulphuric acid. O’Brien gives Winston Smith a book titled ‘The Theory and Practice of Oligarchical Collectivism’, the title which is well known to Winston Smith as it is classified as THE most reviled book in Oceania as its writer Emmanuel Goldstein, once a supporter of the Party, is now called as the ‘chief architect of chaos’ against Oceania, whose activities are displayed to the citizens daily in what was called as the ‘The Two Minute Hate’ and on a grand scale in the aptly named popular event, ‘Hate Week’, wherein his loathsome face towered over the screeches and shrieks of anger of the citizens against him. The Jackboot, hovering above Winston Smith in the first stage finally falls on Winston Smith and Julia as they are caught by Mr. Charrington, a Truth Policeman and are brought to the Ministry of Love for ‘Re-Education’. To crush Winston Smith further, it is revealed that O’Brien was pretending to be Winston Smith’s friend and sees to it that Winston Smith is beaten up and tortured by the Thought Policemen and Inner Party intellectuals, into a broken, urine stained, blood and bile soaked pile of mass groveling on the ground. (George Orwell, 1984).

In the third stage, Winston Smith is tortured by the one he thought was his ally, O’Brien who has decreed that Winston Smith is ‘insane’ by rebelling against Big Brother and must be ‘cured’ by application of drugs and a series of painful blows to his back. Thanks to the pain and violence inflicted on him, Winston Smith finally forces himself to accept what O’Brien is trying to do to him and even sees him as a ‘benevolent doctor’ who is being forced to beat him as it is the only way to ‘cure’ him. He accepts that the Party, that is Big Brother is the past, the present and the future and $2 + 2$ make 5 and not four. However, it is only his body that has accepted this ‘double think’ as his mind still yearns for Julia which is made clear when he

suddenly screams out Julia's name in the night. It is then when the jackboot that was trodding on Winston Smith's face crushes him completely, stamping out every feeling of 'human' within him and stomping out 'everything that marks him' as an individual when he shouts 'Do it to Julia!, Do it to Julia! Not me!' at the prospect of being devoured by his worst fear: The Rat into a pasty, colorless, human shaped mass devoid of anything except 'love' for Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

The book is frightening because the situation described in the book has already happened in a country in the world – The Democratic People's Republic of Korea, wherein the propaganda and Big Brother is very much real¹¹ and any act of dissidence and rebellion will cause to be executed in cruel and inventive ways¹² ranging from being torn apart by hungry dogs to be turned into a steaming mass of misshapen meat after the anti-aircraft guns have had their way with you. Give man power, and he will challenge himself in reaching new heights in tormenting his fellow man as was found in the Stanford Prison Experiment by PHILIP ZIMBARDO, CRAIG HANEY, W. CURTIS BANKS, DAVID JAFFE, (1971) and by administering electric shocks as was found in the Milgram Experiment by MILGRAM STANLEY (1973). There is truth in this statement that 'Power corrupts'. Power is often used to inflict pain not pleasure as the happiness one get while hearing someone cry out in pain for mercy as he is being beaten or abused cannot be compared to anything other as was found by CARRIE A. ROBERTSON AND RAYMOND A. KNIGHT (2013).

How Oceania came to be –

If we trace the 'core reasons' for war⁵³, we find that it is fought for honor, revenge, respect and resources. It is observed that dictators come to power¹³ in countries that have found themselves at the receiving end of the winner's sword and they use the poor performance of the current government in power after the cessation of the war to call for their removal and justify their cause by presenting a list of statistics and other information, which may or may not be genuine or if genuine, might be grossly exaggerated to whip up the masses into a frenzy of revolt. Such scenes were scene in Russia and Germany at the end of the First World War¹⁶. Once the instigators of the revolution have massed enough resources, weapons and personnel it won't be long before they violently overthrow the government and publically execute its leaders as a 'punishment' for their oppression and incompetence¹⁵.

It is observed that the new government that arises after crushing the old, promises the moon to its people irrespective of the fact that it has the willingness and the ability to deliver its word. Initially, everything seems good for the people and then things take a sinister turn as the oppression begins with freedoms and rights being curtailed one after one as was found by ELIZABETH ANN STEIN, NOVEMBER (2015). This is followed by a series of 'purges' in the top echelons of power as dictators do not like to 'share' power with their friends Those names who are made public are denounced as 'traitors' and 'incompetents' for justification of their executions, particularly when the dictator's enemies' capability to oust him is low as was found by JUN KOGA AND SUDDUTH (2017). This is illustrated in the example of the denouncement and execution of Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford, who are painted as enemies of Big Brother and Oceania. (George Orwell, 1984) It may be possible that these three individuals were a part of a 'quartet of power' along with Big Brother which overthrew the old regime in a revolution that formed Oceania and were purged by Big Brother who did not want to share power with them, in a way similar to what Gaius Julius Caesar did to Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus¹⁷ after the death of Marcus Licinius Crassus in the year 0053 BC to seize power in Ancient Rome.

Maintaining power by pitting the one against the many

A particular individual is 'singled out' and is kept alive (in public memory) as 'THE ENEMY' to justify the repressive measures in the name of security and protection of the people of the country¹⁸. A good example can be made of Leon Trotsky¹⁹, who was assassinated by Stalin and served as the 'model' for Emmanuel Goldstein in 1984. Hate for Goldstein is mandatory in Oceania and this is demonstrated by the '2 Minutes Hate', a daily affair and another periodic event, aptly termed as the 'Hate Week' wherein Goldstein's activities are demonstrated by the citizens to rile up the citizens against him by channeling their

anger and hatred towards him. The frenzy of hatred is then transformed into reverence and love for Big Brother in a twisted sort of ‘Stockholm Syndrome’. (George Orwell, 1984).

The individuals who are identified as threats and dissidents guilty of thought crime are denounced and brought to the Ministry of Love for re-education. There they are starved, beaten and tortured physically and psychologically to break their spirit and are kicked, beaten and tortured again to break their minds, removing off everything and putting in love for Big Brother, before they are executed in silence. On execution they are cremated and are ‘unpersoned’²⁰, i.e. their ashes are released into the atmosphere to float with the ashes that once served as the records of their existence – proof of their life, birth certificate, educational records, work records, tax records, government held records and so on. This is done to ensure that they are not revered or remembered as martyrs by erasing them from everyone’s collective memory. (George Orwell, 1984).

There is only one party in Oceania: ‘The INGSOC (English Socialist Party). Participation and contribution in and for all of its events is mandatory. The citizens are expected to praise the party and Big Brother to the best of their ability and endure pain, starvation and suffering for his sake. Any individual who thinks for himself is clearly an enemy of the state as an individual’s entire time must be used for the benefit of Big Brother and the party. The rule of the party is enforced by force, courtesy the mass surveillance, torture, beatings dished out liberally by the Thought Police and visible punishment for the dissidents by hanging. Any contact with citizens and POW’s of Eastasia and Eurasia is forbidden and is punishable by death. (George Orwell, 1984).

The numbers who were governed

The total population of Oceania numbers around 300 million people, with 2 percent of the above numbers (6 million) forming the ‘Inner Party’. 85 percent of the population (255 million) comprise of the Proles, leaving the remaining 13 percent of the population (39 million) to suffer under the iron boot of Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984). Judging by these numbers, it is possible that a sizeable portion of the Thought Police is comprised of the Outer Party members³¹, as it would not be possible for the Inner Party members to watch over the entire population of Oceania and Proles are not considered ‘worthy’ to hold the responsibility of enforcing the will of Big Brother and the Party. Every Oceanian who ‘matters’ (Not the proles) has an assigned ‘number’ associated with his name. For example, Winston Smith’s name was ‘6079 Smith W’ on the official records and he would be called by this name for all official purposes. (George Orwell, 1984). This system was probably used for administration and other surveillance purposes.

Membership to the Inner Party is granted by clearing an exam and it is said that a child of an Inner Party member cannot expect himself to succeed his father in the Inner Party if he fails to clear the exam. This was described by Emmanuel Goldstein in his book³². It seems possible that such a mechanism exists for elevating individuals to the Inner Party as well as recruiting people to the Thought Police as greater the numbers, greater the grip on power. (George Orwell, 1984). Inner Party members have a greater degree of freedom, independent thought and amenities than the proles and the Outer Party members and their living areas are double plus good than the squalid hell holes, the proles live in and the sad after shadows of once proud buildings where the Outer Party members live in. (George Orwell, 1984). There is little possibility for the Inner Party and the Thought Police to rebel against Big Brother as the Outer Party members tend to hope to do as there is no resentment against Big Brother in their ranks as the powers and privileges conferred upon them, motivate them to stay loyal to Big Brother. However, the odd Inner Party member rebelling against Big Brother is ‘unpersoned’. (George Orwell, 1984.)

It can be speculated that the Thought Policemen might be arbitrarily abusing their powers to satisfy their sadistic needs by beating people, torturing them, confiscating property along with other acts of corruption and arrest those who resist as ‘dissidents’ as it is common knowledge that a miserable man becomes happy by inflicting more misery⁵² on others. It is mentioned several times in the book that ‘there is no law’ in Oceania (George Orwell, 1984) as the probability of power corrupting someone is very high in an environment that favors the one in control, than the latter as was found by HUBERT WILLIAMS (2002).

The Party's rule is enforced by the Ministry of Love (ironic because it is the very antithesis of love) and managed by the Ministry of Plenty (which rations production and creates artificial scarcity as a means of control), The Ministry of Information (which deletes true information and dishes out false information to the masses) and the Ministry of Peace (which keeps the idea of the party, the country and Oceania intact by waging 'eternal war'). (George Orwell, 1984).

Power through fear. How the Party ruled Oceania

The party maintains its iron grip on power by playing the Outer Party People against each other forever distracted by fear, thereby preventing anyone from rising above his rank to challenge it for power. It also maintains a close vigil on the Inner Party people. The proles are more or less ignored by the Party as they do not consider them important enough to be threatening. A bulk of the effort of the four ministries of Oceania is directed in keeping the proles occupied and busy in work and mindless entertainment – pornography, lotteries, races and so on. (George Orwell, 1984). Content in their life, the proles do not care for Big Brother seeing him as just another picture of a politician and not as the visible face of the supreme oppressor of the country. Winston Smith claims that the Proles are the future, clearly paraphrasing the line seen in the Holy Bible "The meek shall inherit the earth"²¹.

Dictators pay careful attention to the public's perception about them and see to it that they are kept in a favorable light amidst the masses. Propaganda and information manipulation is used for this purpose along with subtle means of brainwashing and influencing²². Regimes who are concerned about their reputation see to it that their population is too 'distracted' or busy to think about overthrowing them and manage them by the age old solution doled out by kings, emperors, dictators and leaders from the past to the present: 'Panem and Circenses' or Bread and Circuses²³. In other words, entertainment and food. It has been observed that revolutions seldom begin in nations where the masses are fed well and are provided with a variety of recreational and entertainment options.

How exactly Oceania came into existence is not described in the book. All the book says that Oceania existed since eternity and it will exist until eternity. It may be possible that Oceania has exaggerated its size and has spent a bulk of its resources into maintaining the illusion of its supremacy. This might be the reason why there is an abnormally high 'presence of force' in Air Strip One and its surrounding areas. One can speculate that Oceania was formed in a way, similar to the way, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was formed as there are frighteningly similar similarities between the Kim family and Big Brother¹⁴.

The apparatus of control: Indoctrination and torture as a means of control in Oceania:

Ever since birth, any Oceanian (except the Proles) is taught that 'All begins with Big Brother and all ends with Big Brother'. He is told that Big Brother is ever present, ever observing, present and vigilant. Whatever work he does, is for the benefit of the Party and Big Brother. A good Oceanian has no 'personal time' and whatever time he has, it is to be devoted to the Party and activities related to the Party. (George Orwell, 1984). Compliance is done by propaganda and by force. The state makes its citizens love Big Brother and hate Emmanuel Goldstein and both are expected to demonstrated whole heartedly, two minutes a day and on a very large scale in a week dedicated for this purpose: The 'Hate week'²⁹. Anyone who does not hate Emmanuel Goldstein enough or love Big Brother can be marked as a potential dissident and can expect himself to 'feel the wrath' of Big Brother in the Ministry of Love.

The exact purpose of Big Brother's government has been described clearly by O'Brien who states that 'their purpose is securation of power. Nothing else'. The government does not care whether you love it, hate it or not as was proved in the contrasting arrests of Mr. Ampleforth an intellectual who was working with Winston Smith in the ministry and Mr. Tom Parsons, Winston Smith's neighbor, a mindless drone who accepted whatever the Party said and was said to be 'most enthusiastic' in his activities and tasks so dictated by the party. Mr. Parsons was arrested by the Patrols because his daughter informed them that her father had said 'down with Big Brother' in his sleep. (George Orwell, 1984).

It is possible that Mr. Parsons’s daughter was lying as a dedicated member like Mr. Parsons would never utter that deadly sentence, ever. In spite of his loyalty he was arrested and hauled in for torture. It is speculated that he was beaten, tortured and executed along with Mr. Ampleforth who was brought in because he was unable to find a rhyming word for God. It is clear that the Party cannot be reasoned²⁴ with and the only thing it seeks is to turn everyone into its image and bring in more pain and misery to the world. (George Orwell, 1984).

The party is not interested in crimes committed by the Proles³⁰ and does not bother them much. It is however, interested in the ‘political prisoners’, dissidents who hate the party or individuals arrested for committing acts that were said as ‘mistakes’ by the Party. Those who are arrested by the Thought Police for crimes or mistakes against Big Brother and the Party are beaten, tortured, forced to sign a series of ‘confessions’, that painted a picture of ‘guilt’ identifying the person who was arrested as guilty of such crimes as distribution of seditious literature, assassination, embezzlement of public funds, sale of secrets, treason, belief in religion, admiration of capitalism, sexual perversion and contact with the enemy. Forcibly ‘re-educated’ into loving Big Brother the former dissidents are executed after a ‘show trial’ with the confession being replayed there for justification of their execution and ‘unpersoning’, with their entire existence denied by having each and every piece of record relating to them, erased from existence. (George Orwell, 1984). All it wants to see is everyone suffer as they are transformed into individuals who resemble its likeness, purged, burnt and cleaned of everything that is human, emptied completely leaving nothing behind except love for Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

The eyes and the ears of Big Brother

The Party maintains a vast network of surveillance devices – Telescreens (one way and two way camera based communication, observation and listening devices installed and placed in almost all visible locations. Hidden microphones with exceptional sensitivity to both listen, record and transmit to the central surveillance hub. Apart from these devices aerial surveillance – Helicopter patrols and on ground surveillance – Thought Police patrols and unofficial surveillance - ‘The Spies’ (a children level group of the party whose members kept watch on their parents and relatives to identify and denounce would be thought criminals, dissidents and saboteurs) and other organizations such as the numerous clubs and groups of the party such as the ‘Junior Anti Sex League’. (George Orwell, 1984). It may be observed that ‘The Spies’ are based on the ‘HitlerJugend’ and the ‘Young Pioneers’ of Germany and Russia²⁵, started by their respective dictators. The only thing the Spies sought was the glory of a ‘hero’ for identifying and denouncing potential threats to the state as such news were published in the newspapers in Oceania. (George Orwell, 1984).

It is mentioned that Oceania has a ‘sizeable’ Army and a Navy, with ‘island sized’ floating fortresses, forming the bulk of its naval force. It may or may not have an Air Force but the possibility cannot be discounted as the ‘enemy’ forces are shown using Fighter Jet aircraft in their war against Oceania, a mention which was made by Winston Smith in his citation of Comrade Ogilvy, a character he ‘invented’ (and was made real by Big Brother) to replace another person, Comrade Withers (who was ‘unpersoned’) for commemoration by Big Brother for his service to the state. (George Orwell, 1984). The State is not concerned with the development of people and spends a major portion of its efforts in maintaining its eternal war and the Thought Police to ensure its grip on power. Scientific research is encouraged only in the case of production of more deadly and effective weapons, better ways and means of surveillance, more efficient ways of extraction of information from unwilling subjects and waging war. Propaganda about the soldiers of the Ministry of Peace is shown and broadcasted to all citizens in Oceania and they are encouraged to endure through hardship and rationing so that their soldiers can have a better time, fighting the enemy on the frontiers. (George Orwell, 1984).

Individuals often reported each other to the Thought Police on suspicion that he or she may be guilty of seditious thought or in a futile attempt to reduce the beatings one got in the Ministry of Love. In many cases, individuals were reported over trivial reasons as in the case of Winston Smith’s neighbor, Mr. Parsons who was denounced by his own children and was sentenced to exceptional punishment. The concept of

‘friends’ and ‘family’ is very different in Oceania as they are nothing but individuals you live with and the ones who work with you in your office. By creating a reign of terror, the Party is able to maintain its power as the citizens are both too weak and scared to rise against it. (George Orwell, 1984).

An exact description of the ‘rank and file’ organization of the Thought Police in Oceania has not been given in 1984, but one can form a rough description of its agents by studying the ‘three tier Organizational structure’ model²⁶, with the ‘grunts’ (constables, sergeants and other personnel) at the bottom, the ‘Commissioned Officers’ at the middle (Police Inspectors, Superintendent level officers etc) and the ‘General level Officers’ at the top (Police Commissioners, Inspector Generals and the Director General level officers). One will definitely shit oneself yellow in fear on understanding the full import of O’Brien description about the true purpose of the party and its plans for its people as they clearly state two things namely: Joy for the oppressor and pain for the oppressed.

What motivated Winston Smith to ‘rebel’ against the Party and Big Brother?

Winston Smith’s hatred against the party sets off the story of George Orwell’s 1984. The hatred Winston Smith feels against the party is visceral and he loathes the Party and Big Brother, for they are responsible for his plight in life. As an employee of the Ministry of Truth, it is Winston Smith’s job to ‘manage history’ and ‘create reality’ by rewriting records, creating new records and destroying existing ones or the ones which were deemed unnecessary or not in congruence with the war against whichever side was in progress (Eurasia or Eastasia), declarations and predictions made by Big Brother, particularly to do with production and rationing of produced items and other raw materials – shoes, clothes, pig iron, chocolate etc. It was also his job to justify and smooth over the ‘unpersoning’ of people so that the persons who vanished, never vanished in the first place (George Orwell, 1984).

Physically, Winston Smith was not in a good health condition³³. He was suffering from weakness in his body caused by a prolonged lack of food, Spartan living conditions and the physical and psychological burden of maintaining a façade of inscrutability and happiness before the ever present surveillance of Big Brother as any hint of ‘dissatisfaction’ was a ‘one way trip’ to certain death, either via Room 101 or 25 years of hard labor in a forced labor camp called as ‘Joycamp’. He was prone to fits of severe coughing. He was suffering from a varicose ulcer near his ankle that itched and he experienced pain when he had to perform the mandatory physical exercises on waking up in the morning. In his work, Winston Smith usually worked long hours, under the glare of Big Brother, slaving over the ‘speak-write’, a voice activated typewriter like device, over the content to be corrected, edited and erased. He was accustomed to a life of drudgery and starvation, interrupted by participation in mandatory party activities. (George Orwell, 1984). One could call Winston Smith a ‘slave’³⁵, a slave of Big Brother, as he lacked the freedom if not the will, to live for himself, by himself and in his own time.

Winston Smith’s health had improved during the time he spent with Julia and had put on a bit of weight and his varicose ulcer had healed a bit. However, his health condition worsened after he was beaten and tortured in the Ministry of Love and is turned into a ‘shadow of a man’, severely emaciated, covered in scars and wounds, some of them healed and the other glowing red, throbbing and oozing masses of pus and pain. It was also described that he had lost much of his hair and his teeth had become so weak that they could be wrenched out by the fingers from his mouth. (George Orwell, 1984).

Winston Smith’s apartment was located on the eighth floor in a dilapidated building named ‘Victory Mansions’, a building owned by the Party and was nonfunctional, when it came to the quality of the amenities and utilities – poorly working lift, backed up sinks etc. The only thing that were working in a very good condition were the surveillance devices installed in it to keep watch on the residents. Winston Smith was able to afford a ‘rare oasis’ of safety in his apartment, in the form of an alcove, as the Telescreen placed in his living room, was placed in a peculiar angle which created a ‘blind spot’, wherein visual surveillance was rendered moot. Winston Smith was using the alcove to write his diary, wherein he was writing seditious thoughts, with the worry that he might be heard writing the diary. (George Orwell, 1984).

Winston Smith's hatred against Big Brother was born out of his desire to gain more information about the past. The 'true past' and not the past that was 'created' by the Party. The more he learnt about the past, the more he realized how good things were in the good old days, causing him to hate the Party and detest Big Brother. Further, he had found a 'dangerous' piece of photographic evidence about the time, before Big Brother seized power and purged his colleagues, Jones, Aaronson, and Rutherford, an evidence which if revealed would have destroyed the Party, if it has survived to see the light of the day. His larder was nearly empty, save for a measly crumb of bread, here and there. The cigarettes he smoked were bland and devoid of tobacco, the gin he drank had an unpleasant oil like consistency and an evil taste, similar to the sharp bite of acid. Also, coffee did not taste as good as he had dimly remembered having before in the past, as the purpose of food was not to improve the state of the body, but to keep one's self alive for another day of work for the Party³⁴. The evil tasting food, the dilapidated conditions of his life and the burning desire within him to know more about the past, the true past, the erasure of it which was his living all came together in a symphony of hatred against Big Brother, a hatred he expressed in writing down the dreaded sentence 'DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER' many times in his diary. (George Orwell, 1984).

It was this hatred against Big Brother that finally did Winston Smith and Julia in as their hatred motivated them to rebel, to take risks and make passionate love for themselves and not for the party. It was this 'reckless behavior' that done them in, in the end and they were arrested by the Thought Police and forcibly 're-educated' by torture and pain into betraying each other and loving Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

How Winston Smith was marked, baited and hunted down by the Thought Police To hunt man

The process of hunting begins with the need to hunt something. It may be either out of 'necessity' as in the case of the forest dweller, the hunter gatherer or the survivalist trying to live off the land. Hunting is not seen as a 'fun' activity if it is done out of the need to feed one's own self or one's family and the choice of the prey to be hunted is usually a small to medium sized animal²⁷. One usually hunts alone if the prey is small sized or in a group of two or three, if the size of the prey sought by the hunters is a bit large²⁸.

It has been observed that 'sport hunters', hunters who track and kill protected, dangerous, and endangered beasts such as lions, rhinos, elephants and other wild beasts do so, because it gives them a 'thrill' of putting one's life on the line³⁶ and provides other ego satisfaction and other happiness of 'earning' their prey as hunting is by no means a 'cheap' sport. Not all sport hunters go after dangerous beasts, preferring easily manageable prey like elk or deer. Sport hunting has been decried as a vile act of crime, with many calling it as 'murder' because it is intentional, pre-planned and coordinated with other individuals.

However, the most difficult and challenging hunt of them all is not the act of hunting wild beasts but of the most dangerous game animal of them all, the human being. As quoted³⁸ by Ernst Hemmingway in the April 1936 edition of the Esquire Magazine that:

"Certainly there is no hunting like the hunting of man and those who have hunted armed men long enough and liked it, never really care for anything else thereafter."

A detailed explanation of the act and the process of a 'man hunt' is described in Richard Connell's short story³⁷, "**The most dangerous game**", first published in the January edition of the Collier's magazine in 1924. The story's protagonist, Sanger Rainsford a big game hunter finds himself on the other side of the riflescope as he is hunted by the antagonist, General Zaroff, another big game hunter on landing on his isolated island, following a shipwreck. General Zaroff apparently is aware of who Sanger Rainsford is and states that he has become bored of trophy hunting and has decided to hunt the most challenging and difficult game of them all, Man. He informs Rainsford that he is his 'prey' and will be hunting him over the course of the next three days in the forest on his island and states that he will be 'set free' if he manages to evade him for three days. General Zaroff also states that, if Rainsford refuses to be hunted, he will have him whipped to death at the hands of his giant manservant, Ivan. Left with a choice of certain death and the prospect of freedom, Rainsford agrees to be hunted by General Zaroff and to his credit, evades his attempts

in hunting him by building a number of traps and finally challenges General Zaroff to a 'fight to the death' with the winner sleeping in the master bedroom in General Zaroff's mansion and the loser being 'chewed to bits' by General Zaroff's hounds. Sanger Rainsford wins the duel and escapes with his life in the end. Human hunting is rare (and illegal) today but it is around as evidenced by the example of an unemployed person, Mork Encino hailing from the state of Utah in the United States, offering would be hunters the opportunity to take his head³⁹, for a sum amount of 12,000 USD. It is speculated⁴⁰ that Mork 'has been hunted', based on the information hosted on his website, where he had offered his head to would be hunters in the world. It is not known, who hunted this human prey.

It can be said that O'Brien was 'hunting' Winston Smith as it can explain his 'obsession' with him as the book describes that he was watching him for seven and more years, probably eleven as he shows Winston Smith a copy of a photograph of Aaronson, Jones and Rutherford which he had seen and destroyed mere seconds after seeing it, eleven years ago. (George Orwell, 1984). It would seem improbable that O'Brien would remember a particular piece of memory, what with Winston Smith editing, deleting and creating hundreds of pieces of new records every day, unless he was minutely observing him since a long time, a fact that was confirmed by him in Room 101.

Why was O'Brien observing Winston Smith?

Life in Oceania is hard. An individual had to work hard for long hours into the day and then the remainder of their time in mandatory Party activities. The home and the hearth was just a place to sleep and to eat. Clothes and shoes were scarce, expensive and of poor quality. Food tasted bad and the only vices a citizen could afford – cigarettes and gin were of poor quality and evil tasting. Family and friends were only true as the meaning of their names and in reality were 'constructs' wherein people lived with each other. Free time was seen as a 'sin' and sex for pleasure was a punishable offence as its only purpose was procreation for the Party and not for personal satisfaction. The lives of the proles was hard, but they had the luxury to drink, fight, have sex for pleasure and indulge in other distractions, forbidden for the members of the Party. The members of the party were taught to look down upon the proles seeing them as 'equal to the animals'. (George Orwell, 1984).

There were no books, no periodicals, no magazines, music, art, entertainment opportunities and movies of any kind, except the ones that praised Big Brother, denounce Emmanuel Goldstein, urges the viewers and the readers to support the troops and the rationing initiatives and elucidate the might and the greatness of the Party and screeches hatred and death to the enemies of Oceania and the agents of Emmanuel Goldstein and the man himself. Any literature, copies of music and films that are not in congruence with the above had been confiscated and destroyed⁴¹ lest they reveal the 'truth' to the citizens of Oceania. Based from information disclosed in the book, it is safe to say that no piece of literature, record discs and film reels have survived the 'great purge' of literature that took place in the year 1960. (George Orwell, 1984).

We already know that O'Brien was observing Winston Smith. He was observing him for around eleven years so disclosed from the comment about the photograph and had once caused a thought to enter into Winston Smith's head - 'We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness', a line that Winston Smith described hearing it in a dream. This line was repeated by Winston Smith to O'Brien when he and Julia met him in his Inner Party apartment to confirm, whether he had said it and based on O'Brien's act of completing the sentence, it could be said that he had mentioned the sentence to Winston Smith. (George Orwell, 1984). This brings the question, 'Why was O'Brien watching Winston Smith'?

The answer is revealed in subtle clues in the book. The most prominent of them being the 'awkwardly' placed Telescreen in Winston Smith's house's living room which afforded him a 'blind spot' wherein Winston Smith was writing the diary, in which he was writing the 'thoughtcriminy' thoughts he was having about Big Brother as he harbored a 'distinctive' distaste for him and what he represented. It is stated in the book that 'everyone' was under surveillance in Oceania, but it could not be stated 'when' one was being watched or not. Winston Smith was being observed by the Telescreen, as evidenced by the feedback

he got from the instructress, who chided him for not exercising properly during the mandatory morning exercises, described as 'jerks' in the book. (George Orwell, 1984).

The book hints that the 'blind spot' created by the Telescreen was discovered by the Thought Police who might have been notified by the engineers who repaired and maintained the surveillance device network as the Telescreen was a machine and required periodic maintenance⁴² or by Tom Parson's children who notified the same to the Thought Police, who were asked not to interfere into the matter by O'Brien. There is no such information in the book that stated that Winston Smith was caught red handed writing away seditious content against the Party and Big Brother in his apartment, thus the hiding place was not discovered (from his perspective). It is possible that O'Brien had asked or ordered the Thought Police to only observe and not target Winston Smith until such time when he gave the order to capture him. This can be proved by the sentence which stated that the Thought Police was watching Winston Smith, intently like a 'bee under a magnifying glass'. (George Orwell, 1984).

Further, Winston Smith had a desire to gain more knowledge of the 'past' and remembered a few snippets of it as he was shown remembering a 'series of skirmishes' during his childhood and his youth wherein Air Strip One was called as Britain and a few wars had broken out with a brief period of peace in between. He was shown frequenting in the Prole sectors wherein he asked some direct questions about the past to an aged Prole, who agreed to answer them thanks to a good quantity of beer, Winston Smith had bought him in a pub. Unfortunately, the aged Prole's memory was not as good as it was before and he remembered only a few bits of trivial information about the true past and could not give a coherent knowledge or information about the past. (George Orwell, 1984).

It was this 'obsession' that Winston Smith had about the past, that motivated him to ask questions about how it was before Big Brother as all the markers and elements that served as a clue about the past – books, monuments, building plaques etc. had been confiscated, defaced, changed and altered as per the needs of the Party. A passing comment hints that the revolution, that brought Big Brother, took before or at the year 1960 as there were no available literature beyond that year, anything beyond that year confiscated and destroyed by the Thought Police. (George Orwell, 1984).

Winston Smith had the willingness, but not the ability to rise up against Big Brother. He had demonstrated his willingness to overthrow Big Brother in writing, a self-conscious act which he himself admitted, will get him killed as it was Thoughtcrime. Further, Winston Smith had access to 'dangerous information', information about the past as an editor and a delete of past records, in the Records Department in the Ministry of Information. But since he was in a world of paranoia, excessive surveillance and being in a poor state of health, it was not possible for him to actually achieve his goal. (George Orwell, 1984).

Thus, O'Brien was interested to see 'how' and 'how far' Winston Smith would go in fulfilling his desire to gain more information about the past and to defy Big Brother and the Party as he knew that he was willing to risk his life for that. He wanted to enjoy the 'thrill of hunting Winston Smith for, for him the thrill of the hunt was in the process of the hunt as was found by APARNA A. LABROO AND JESPER H. NIELSEN (2010) as he knew that he would not be able to run forever, and there would be a day, when he would be caught and brought to the Ministry of love, to have his individuality beaten out and love for Big Brother beaten into him.

How Winston Smith was hunted

The process of the hunt begins with the identification of the need for the hunt. In Winston Smith's case this need was felt within O'Brien when he learnt about Winston Smith's 'active interest' in the past. (George Orwell, 1984). It could be speculated that O'Brien felt the need to hunt is because he was bored and wanted something to distract⁴⁴ him from the monotonous life under Big Brother. It was true that he had better facilities than most of the people – better food, actual wine, comfortable living apartment and the privilege of turning off, the Telescreen for a period of time as he was a member of the Inner Party. But, O'Brien was living a monotonous life and he wanted something to do that would provide him a 'challenge'

that would give him an opportunity to ‘act like a hunter’. O’Brien decided to choose the indirect path, choosing to win Winston Smith’s confidence and then lure him into a trap so that he could be brought into the Ministry of Love to be broken into loving Big Brother.

Winston Smith was ‘marked’ by O’Brien as the prey. O’Brien identified Winston Smith as the ‘prey’. He was identified as the prey because of his ‘interest’ in gaining more information about the past, the knowledge which was forbidden. The more Winston Smith learnt about the past, the more he grew to hate Big Brother as under him, things were not good as they were before. He solidified his hatred by committing Thoughtcrime, by writing ‘DOWN WITH BIG BROTHER’ in his diary, the possession which was equally forbidden. Winston Smith found an unlikely ally in his fight against Big Brother, Julia and they consummated their hatred for Big Brother by having sex, as they saw it as the ultimate act of defiance against Big Brother. Later, O’Brien met Winston Smith by ‘baiting’ him with the belief that he was in the ‘Brotherhood’, an organization started by Emmanuel Goldstein against Big Brother. Mr. Charrington played a vital role in the ‘hunt’ as he provided a ‘false sanctuary’ to Winston Smith and Julia, keeping them in the trap so to speak, until it was time to catch the prey. (George Orwell, 1984).

It was disclosed in the book that the Thought Police ‘knew’ about Winston Smith’s ‘rebellion’ against Big Brother and they had even read his diary. But they were careful in not letting Winston Smith ‘know’ that he had been ‘marked’ and recorded everything he did, spoke and acted for seven years. A few clips of the recordings are played back to Winston Smith in Room 101. (George Orwell, 1984).

The actual ‘bait’ used to hunt and trap Winston Smith and Julia was the prospect of ‘freedom from the unrelenting gaze of Big Brother and the prospect of a better life in the Golden Country, which was the polar antithesis of Oceania. This was the bait that lured both thought criminals farther and farther into the trap. (George Orwell, 1984).

As a very senior officer in the Thought Police, it was O’Brien’s job to oversee the process of capturing, detention, arrest and re-education of Thought criminals. O’Brien is shown to have a sadistic side to him as he is shown relishing the torture and beating dished out to the political prisoners in the Ministry of Love. It was he who tortured and broke Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford, transforming them from the determined leaders of revolution they were into blibbering piles of human flesh, begging to be executed for betraying Big Brother. This sadistic side is brought out when he recalls the memory of him torturing the other three with a relish and his clear and precise description of the goals and objectives of the party ‘in destroying everything that is human and transforming every individuality into collectivity’, collectivity that is love for Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

One can compare O’Brien to a real life example in the form of Irma Grese⁴⁴ an infamous Nazi war criminal who was executed at a young age of 22 for torturing and brutalizing hundreds of women in Auschwitz. She was given the name the ‘Hyena of Auschwitz’ and was said to derive sexual pleasure at the sight of blood, pain and suffering. It was disclosed in her trial that she enjoyed brutalizing the female prison inmates with her whip and indulged in other acts of violence and sexual perversion. Irma Grese served as the ‘mascot’ and the ‘model’ of for the many beautifully brutal Nazi women officers, prison guards and torturers in many a Nazisploitation movie, the best one featuring the noted American actress, Dyanne Thorne in the title role as “Ilsa, She Wolf of the SS⁴⁵”, directed by Don Edmonds, produced by David F. Friedman and written by Jonah Royston. Several fictionalized stories, exaggerated to a greater degree, based on her exploits were also featured in a series of pulp magazines and books featuring handsome, sweaty Allied prisoners of war being beaten, whipped and tortured by beautiful, buxom women dressed in Nazi costumes and regalia colloquially known as ‘Stalag literature⁴⁶’.

It was never made clear in the book, whether O’Brien devoted equal attention to Julia in the same proportion and volume as Winston Smith, but there was the possibility that he might have tortured her. But Julia had proven to be more ‘stronger’ than Winston Smith and was lobotomized instead⁵⁰ as evidenced from the presence of a long thin scar, across her forehead. She was lobotomized because she refused to break under torture until the very end as no one can resist torture and pain forever and had asked the fear

she feared to be ‘done to Winston Smith and not her’, as was evidenced in her confessing to Winston Smith that she had betrayed him as he had done to her. (George Orwell, 1984).

O’Brien succeeded in the end, because he was able to break Winston Smith completely and get him to denounce his humanity for saving his skin and the joy he must have felt hearing Winston Smith’s pleading frightened shriek ‘DO IT TO JULIA! DO IT TO JULIA! NOT ME’ must have been very pleasurable indeed. He did not need Winston Smith anymore as he was of no further use to him, and had him released from the Ministry torture room to the outside world, an empty and broken man left with nothing except love for Big Brother. (George Orwell, 1984).

CONCLUSION:

George Orwell’s 1984 has been regarded as ‘one of the most frightening’ books of the world and it is not difficult to see why. It is surprisingly easy to fool and deceive masses around the world by formenting lies as truth and keeping on emphasizing them, until there is no other competing information to challenge the lie. Fear is the best motivator in the world and by punishing a few in the ‘worst way possible’, best evidenced by King Ashurnasirpal’s⁴⁷ “pillar of human skins” in Ancient Assyria the masses can be kept in line. 1984 has been called as a ‘manual’⁴⁸ for would be dictators to consolidate their power, although it isn’t. The book paints a warning to would be dissidents, describing that they will be hunted, caught, tortured and broken into not only complying with the regime but ‘admiring and loving’ their tormenter as it is ‘the fate of the weak to be devoured’ as aptly quoted by the ‘Unifier of Germany’ himself, Otto Von Bismarck⁴⁹ for they will have no choice but to submit to be crushed by the boot, until they become strong enough to overthrow it as no dictatorship can last forever, and even Big Brother was done in, in the end as evidenced by the Post Script of the book which describes Big Brother in the ‘past’ sentence. What brought down Big Brother in the end was not another revolution, not the brotherhood, not Goldstein but the power of words as by deleting words completely, Big Brother and the Party was simply unable to administer Oceania any more for communication is impossible without language. Thus, Big Brother was done in, in the end, not by the force of arms but by the absence of words. (George Orwell, 1984).

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