



The Golem Reimagined: Jewish Mysticism and Posthuman Identity in *He She and It*

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Abstract

*Jewish Mysticism is the spiritual and mythical secret of Judaism in which it gives understanding of God, through Kabbalah. Kabbalah a Mystical tradition in which Golem is created with the help of clay, mud using some magical chants to defend their own Jewish community. Golem and Yod Through the lens of posthuman theory and cyberpunk futurism, Marge Piercy's novel *He, She, and It* reimagines the Jewish Golem by blending technological theory with mystical tradition. Piercy spotlight to determined concerns about the limits of the human by placing the cyborg Yod next to the rabbinic Golem of Prague. In The novel, the character of Golem created under Kabbalistic ideas and the parallel character yod created under cybernetic programming. As both a machine and a human like, Golem and Yod's liminal existence highlights issues that are essential to posthuman, such as morality, consciousness, belonging and identity. This article examines the moral problem found in Jewish mysticism, and reevaluates them with the subject of artificial intelligence and cyborg, it attempts to find a solution in *He, She, and It* founded the Golem as a prototype for the posthuman, illustrating that how it defines "human" constantly haunted by other virtual replicas*

Keywords: Golem, mysticism, artificial intelligence, human, posthuman

Introduction

Jewish Mysticism is a Multidisciplinary study of Judaism in which it focused on knowledge and experience of divine through religious prayers. Through mystical practices extremely they feel connecting to God and exhibit the universal truth. It encompasses movements like kabbalah where Golem created by the spiritual and mythical side of Judaism is embodied by Jewish mysticism. J. Immanuel Schochet says that "The general term for Jewish mysticism is "Kabbalah". "Kabbalah" means "tradition". Kabbalah is not a compound of personal insights. It is not a collection of reports of what various sages and saints had to say on the meaning of life and ultimate values - based on their mystical

experiences or visions. It is not a system born in a vacuum". The Prominent study deals with the combination of sacred text, their languages and metaphysical interpretations to explain how God, and other creation are related. The Golem, a clay creature which means it created out of mud with all prayers and practices for protection and ambiguity. The writings of Pramod Nayar align with Braidotti and Wolfe, further underscoring the ontological interconnection between humans and machines. (2014a, 1-5)

The story deals with the convergence of technology and tradition, Shira shipman the protagonist put in effort to bring back their town Tikva Jewish community with the help of her own



creation yod. When she tries to get help from Malkah grandmother to protect Tikva, Malkah shared her memories about Golem.

The Golem myth is reimagined in Marge Piercy's cyberpunk novel *He, She, and It* (1991) In Lime light of posthuman theory and futurism. Piercy combines modern concerns about limits of human with ancient mystical traditions by contrasting Yod, a technologically programmed cyborg, with the rabbinic Golem of Prague. This essay explores how Piercy uses Jewish mysticism to explore morality, humanity, and belonging, ultimately establishing the Golem as a model for life after death.

Jewish mysticism reinforces the power of divine language through kabbalah; Mitchell P Marcus states “the aspect of Kabbalah takes as central the role of speech and, as I will argue, the role of the informational in God's creation of the world. This tradition extends notions that are central to normative Judaism; public Jewish daily prayer begins with the phrase “*Baruch she'amar vehayah ha'olam*”; in English, “Blessed be the One who spoke and the world came to be”. I begin with a short digression into the role of computer science in showing scientifically that the world itself is more than just material, turn to an examination of one aspect of the Kabbalah, and then look at the practice of computer science as a modern realization of this aspect of the Kabbalah”. the Golem of Prague is the symbol of both rescue and danger; although it defends the Jewish community, it is a creature of lacking, which raises questions regarding authority and control. It is activated through sacred letters or chants. As a result, the Golem becomes a liminal figure. The Golem is a rich metaphor for posthuman discussions because of its liminality. Not only are they genetically manufactured, but they also possess threshold aspects. Specifically, the clones' foundational human structure and their corporeality classify them as “cyborged clones,” aka posthuman (Nayar 2014b, 11). Concerns regarding its ethical tools are similar to those surrounding, and artificial intelligence today. Thus, Jewish mysticism offers a mythic outline for exploring current concerns regarding the limits of humanity. As a result golem formed as a threshold

creation. As Gershom Scholem pointed The connection between this use of practical Kabbalah to create golems and computer programming was well recognized when the first computer in Israel was named “Golem”, [4]

Yod the other character created with the help of wires and codes by shira shipman to protect tikva.Piercy blends the two extreme dimension. This parallel structure demonstrates how, the two designed creation having different cultural backgrounds one mystical, the other technological both characters fulfill comparable roles as defenders. Like the Golem, Yod was designed rather than born. Yod is made of circuits, codes, and programming, whereas the Golem is made of clay and moved by holy letters. Nevertheless, the two characters differences both faces the same issue to accept the artificial life and its role in human society. Piercy emphasizes that the ethical and spiritual challenges of Jewish mysticism are still relevant in the era of cybernetics and artificial intelligence by reimagining the Golem through Yod.

Yod under ethical posthumanism in contrast to the Golem he is equal in expressing responsibility. His fight to be seen as more than a machine reflects the posthuman theme of ambiguity in the contrast between human and nonhuman beings. This worry was also hinted at in the Golem myth, which depicted a creature with human-like abilities but no immortal soul. The creators in both situations must deal with the moral outcome of "playing God."

By arguing these two figures brought from different background is unstable and dominated by others. Whether in the form of cybernetic organisms energetic by code or clay figures initialized by mystical chants. Further challenges the definition of “human.” The Golem serves as a prototype for posthuman life because of the variance that delved both stories between freedom and control.

Conclusion

The Golem legend and Jewish mysticism offer a strong framework for rethinking humanity's limits in the posthuman age. Marge Piercy blends technological futurism with spiritual tradition in *He,*



She, and It by reimagining the cybernetic creation of Yod and the mystical creation of the Golem. Both characters draw attention to determined issues regarding morality, artificial life, and the boundaries of human power. Together, the Golem a spiritual character and Yod a cyborg shows that what it means to be "human" is never set in stone but is always up for debate. Piercy demonstrates how ancient traditions foreshadow contemporary discussions on artificial intelligence and posthumanism by referencing Jewish mysticism. In the end, the Golem proves to be both a legendary representation of Jewish defense and a model of the posthuman, serving as a constant reminder that the question of what it means to be human is always framed by its artificial counterparts.

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