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Jules Verne

1,119 words

I have to be a lawyer, but not even few.

My dad had said it, or I won't get any will.

I'm here study law, but I can't stand it anymore.

Follow my path creating dreams, answer the call.

A call of earth, a call of ocean, a call of space.

No more afraid at any case, I will face.

During the 19th century, no one could imagine the world under the sea. Traveling around the world or flying to outer space is something that was never considered possible. It would be interesting to know that an author; Jules Verne, who was recognized as “the father of science fiction”, wrote about the impossible. He opened up to the new style of novel which later had influenced many scientists to create new things. Unlike other sci-fi, Verne's fiction is not fantasy or romance, but it reasonably and accurately predicted the future of science. Therefore, Verne's most important contribution to mankind was inspiration the world of science and imagination that impact the humanity since then. He was known for his work; 20,000 Leagues Under the sea, a journey to the center of the Earth, around the world in 80 days and etc.

Jules Gabriel Verne or Jules Verne was a French author who was born in Nantes, western France. To follow his father's aspiration for his son, Verne was sent to study law in Paris. During the period, he discovered that he was more attracted to literature. As a result, he spent most of his time on writing. It is obvious that his father would eventually find out about his aversion from law to literature. What came unexpected was Verne's father deciding to cut off all financial support to his son. Verne later on became a stockbroker to support his own living. He did not enjoy his job.¹ However, the obstacle cannot impede his dream.

Friendship compensated the hatred of his job. Verne became acquainted with Pierre-Jules Hetzel. He was a publisher who helped Verne improve his writing. Many people might think that Verne was a scientist or maybe a traveler. But, in fact, the research of his works was from newspapers, books and magazines that he read. Some were even from the information that he discussed with his friends. By using a well-researched scientific basis, his novel became a realistic and unique literary work.²

Verne's work had inspired many famous thinkers. Those people generated the advancement of humankind that we see today. Back in 1865, who would imagine a man stepping on the moon, calculate the velocity for leaving the Earth's gravitation and describe the effects of weightlessness while people in those days still traveled by horse, ships and railroads. These are in the book called, "From the Earth to the Moon" written by Jules Verne. Verne had written this book, through his imagination, before Apollo 11 landed on the moon which happened in 1969, over a hundred year

¹ Wikipedia contributor. "Jules Verne." Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia. 9 Feb 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jules_Verne>

² Website Contributors. "Jules Verne: An author before his time." Unmuseum. 9 Feb 2012. <<http://www.unmuseum.org/vern.htm>>

later. Surprisingly, Cape Canaveral, where Apollo 11 was landed was just three miles far from the central coast of Florida. Believe it or not, but this was where spacecraft in Verne's novel had launched. This novel had inspired Yuri Gagarin, the first person in space and Neil Armstrong, the first man who walked on the moon.³

Furthermore, one of innovation in the century, submarine, also was inspired by the work of Jules Verne called "Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea". This novel is about the adventures under the sea of Captain Nemo and his crew with a submarine, Nautilus. The adventures mostly described about the conflict between man and nature.⁴ The inclusion of a submarine was a scientific factor infused within the novel. Verne acquainted submarine to his reader step by step, describe the power of locomotion, underwater pressure, renewal of air and provision of fuel. The description had led his reader felt that the vessel might really exist.⁵ One can clearly see that Verne's work had inspired many aspiring and inquisitive people from the past to present.

"Paris In the 20th Century", or was referred as a lost novel, is one of Verne's fiction. Through this, Verne presented a futuristic version of Paris about 100 years ahead of its time. In this book, Verne forecasted many innovations, which never existed in that period, such as; Skyscrapers, High-speed trains, Gasoline-powered and Computers etc.⁶ This book was written in 1863. It was described as the enlargement of geometric architecture, which referred to the symbol of Paris like the Eiffel Tower

³ Website Contributors. "Five Reasons Jules Verne is still important today." Myfivebest.com. 9 Feb 2012. <<http://myfivebest.com/five-reasons-jules-verne-is-still-important-today/>>

⁴ Emanuel J. Mickel. "The complete Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea." 1991. P.50-52.

⁵ Emanuel J. Mickel. "The complete Twenty Thousand Leagues under the Sea." 1991. P.46-48

⁶ Wikipedia contributor. "Paris in Twentieth Century." Wikipedia, The free encyclopedia. 12 Feb 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Paris_in_the_Twentieth_Century>

and The Louvre Pyramid which later was built in 1887 and 1989, respectively.⁷

Verne had sent the manuscript to Hetzel, his publisher, who immediately rejected it. Hetzel told Verne that his first novel, *Five Weeks in a Balloon*, just achieved and *Paris in the 20th Century* was too much of a fantasy so it might affect his credibility as an author.⁸ Verne then kept the manuscript, which later was found in 1989 by his great-grandson. It was published in French in 1960 and became the best seller in France.

With knowledge, we can only know and understand just from the information that exists in the present. However, with imagination our ability to seek innovation and create groundbreaking ideas is virtually limitless. It is basically an innate ability that allows us to grasp the whole world upon us and manipulate it in any way we want.⁹ In light of the factor above, technology and innovation does not only come from the research or experiment. Imagination is also an important factor that contributes to the world today. Without Jules Verne, who was referred to as the father of science fiction, we might not have a man who walked on the moon or a man who went through the ocean or some of innovation might not been invented. His contribution should not be forgotten since he had been recognized for his imaginative creativity that paved way for modern day advancement.

⁷ Patty English, MS. "Jules Verne: Paris In the 20th Century; A Lost Novel." Hub pages. 12 Feb 2012. <<http://pattyenglishms.hubpages.com/hub/Jules-Verne-Paris-In-the-20th-Century-A-Lost-Novel>>

⁸ *Sydney Morning Herald*. "PARIS IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY." Andrés Vaccari. 12 Feb 2012. <<http://andresvaccari.net/1998/04/05/paris-in-the-twentieth-century/>>

⁹ Albert Einstein. "Albert Einstein quotes" Thinkexist.com. 14 Feb 2012. <http://thinkexist.com/quotation/imagination_is_more_important_than_knowledge-for/260230.html>