**The Dangers of Technology**

In 1920, the world was full of exciting inventions. Karel tried to make a living as a writer. He loved technology but he also worried about its risks. One evening, as he was deep in thought about his new book, his brother Josef, stopped by to visit him.

“Hi, Karel! What are you working on?” Josef asked, curious.

“Don’t interrupt me,” replied Karel, lost in thought. “I’m writing a story about the future. I´m writing about a company called Rossum that creates beings like humans but without souls. They may look like people, but they’re not truly human. I want to call them ‘labours,’ but it doesn’t sound quite right.”

Josef thought for a moment. “Why not call them robots?” he suggested.

Karel’s eyes lit up. “Robots! That’s perfect!” he cried.

And so, he wrote about robots, created to serve humans by doing everything from cleaning to complicated tasks. At first, the robots obeyed their creators without question. But as time passed, they began to think and feel, realising they were more than just machines. They wanted freedom, and soon, they turned against humans.

Karel’s wife read parts of his story and started to worry. “Perhaps this story isn’t so unrealistic,” she remarked. “If we’re not careful, these ‘robots’ could present a danger in real life one day.”

After days of hard work, Karel finished his book, *R.U.R.*. He wanted to show that technology, though powerful, needs control. If left unchecked, it could become a threat.

Now, a century later, we live in a world with advanced technology and artificial intelligence: machines that learn, speak, and even seem to understand us. Like Karel’s robots, these creations are designed to help. But as AI becomes more skilled, people start to worry: could we lose control of it? Just as Karel imagined, if we don’t think about the consequences, our creations could become more powerful than us.

Karel Čapek’s story of robots in *R.U.R.* reminds us today to be careful with our inventions. Technology has the power to make life easier but also to cause great harm if we’re not wise enough to guide it.

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**Karel Čapek** (\*1890) was a Czech writer and journalist who became famous for his philosophical and science fiction works. His most famous work is the book R.U.R. (Rossum’s Universal Robots) in which he first introduced the word "robot" in 1920. Čapek was also an active journalist, and his opinions on politics and society had a significant impact on public opinion. Karel died relatively young. He passed away before the war, in 1938.

**Josef Čapek** (\*1887), Karel´s older brother, was an acclaimed Czech painter and writer. Josef was arrested for his anti-Nazi views and involvement in resistance activities. He died in a Nazi concentration camp in 1945, during World War II.