

PRÉCIS

Central Superior Services Examination (CSS) 1987

Passage.

The incomparable gift of brain, with its truly amazing powers of abstraction, has rendered obsolete the slow and sometimes clumsy mechanisms utilized by evolution so far. Thanks to the brain alone, man, in the course of three generations only, has conquered the realm of air, while it took hundreds of thousands of years for animals to achieve the same result through the process of evolution. Thanks to the brain alone, the range of our sensory organs has been increased a million fold, far beyond the wildest dreams, we have brought the moon within thirty miles of us, we see the infinitely small and see the infinitely remote, we hear the inaudible, and we have dwarfed distance and killed physical time. We have succeeded in understanding them thoroughly. We have put to shame the tedious and time consuming methods of trial and error used by Nature, because Nature has finally succeeded in producing its masterpieces in the shape of the human brain. But the great laws of evolution are still active, even though adaptation has lost its importance as far as we are concerned. We are now responsible for the progress of evolution. We are free to destroy ourselves if we misunderstand the meaning and the purpose of our victories. And we are free to forge ahead, to prolong evolution, to cooperate with God if we perceive the meaning of it all, if we realize that it can only be achieved through a whole-hearted effort toward moral and spiritual development. Our freedom, of which we may be justly proud, affords us the proof that we represent the spearhead of evolution: but it is up to us to demonstrate, by the way in which we use it, whether we are ready yet to assume the tremendous responsibility which has befallen us almost suddenly.

Man's Role in Evolution

The powerful and matchless human brain has outweighed the slow evolutionary process. By utilizing his brain, he can manipulate air and even his sensory organs behind their natural capacities. Although, human brain is the supreme creation of Nature, it does not mean that evolution has come to its end. The extension of the process of evolution now depends on humans. Man can enter the evolutionary process if he strives for the development of his morality and spirituality. Human is the leader of evolution, as proved by his freedom. But still, ^{only} his appropriate utilization of his responsibility can determine his eligibility for this leadership.

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