

PRÉCIS EXERCISES

PRÉCIS EXERCISE 1

Q: Make a précis of the following passage in about one third of its length and suggest a suitable title. (20)

Lying is indeed an accursed vice. We are men, and we have relations with one another only by speech. If we recognized the horror and gravity of an untruth, we should more justifiably, punish it with any other crime. I commonly find people taking the most ill-advised pains to correct their children for their harmless faults and worrying them about heedless acts which leave no trace and have no consequences. Lying and in a lesser degree obstinacy - are, in my opinion, the only faults whose birth and progress we should consistently oppose. They grow with a child's growth and once the knack of lying it is difficult

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to imagine how impossible it is to correct it; Whence it happens that we find some otherwise excellent men subject to this fault and enslaved by it.

If, like the truth, falsehood had only one face, we should know better where we are, for we should then like the opposite of what a liar said to be the truth. But the opposite of a truth has a thousand shapes and a limitless field.

The Pythagoreans regard good as certain and finite, and evil as boundless as uncertain. There are a thousand ways of missing the bull's eye, only one of hitting it. I am by no means sure that I could induce myself to tell a brazen and deliberate lie even to protect myself from the most obvious and extreme danger. An ancient father says that we are better off in the company of a dog we know than in that of a man whose language we do not understand. Therefore, those of different nations do not regard one another as men, and how much less friendly is false speech than silence. (Montaigne)

(CSS 1998)

Tomorrow

PRÉCIS EXERCISE 2

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Précis

Parents Efforts to Regulate their Children.

Main idea revolved around lying

Montaigne describes lying as an arrogance in children that is outcome of their parents negligence. Parents become the victims of an adverse consequence despite efforts to avoid them to be a wasteful. Unlike truth, falsehood can be led into various difficulties.

Therefore, it is indeed a moral fault that should be justified by strict form of correction. Insignificantly, if child left unchecked for lying at their tender age, thus it will be arduous to correct them later. Consequently, the writer portrays truth as finite and certain. Whereas, untruth as baseless and boundless.

Original words = 293
Actual words = 96.