

Q3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language: (20)

The civilization of China - as everyone knows, is based upon the teaching of Confucius who flourished five hundred years before Christ. Like the Greeks and Romans, he did not think of human society as naturally progressive; on the contrary, he believed that in remote antiquity rulers had been wise and the people had been happy to a degree which the degenerate present could admire but hardly achieve. This, of course, was a delusion. But the practical result was the Confucius, like other teachers of antiquity, aimed at creating a stable society, maintaining a certain level of excellence, but not always striving after new successes. In this he was more successful than any other man who ever lived. His personality has been stamped on Chinese Civilization from his day to our own. During his life time, the Chinese occupied only a small part of present day China, and were divided into a number of warring states. During the next three hundred years they established themselves throughout what is now China proper, and founded an empire exceeding in territory and population any other that existed until the last fifty years. In spite of barbarian invasions, and occasional longer or shorter periods of Chaos and Civil War, the Confucian system survived bringing with it art and literature and a civilised way of life. A system which has had this extra ordinary power of survival must have great merits, and certainly deserves our respect and consideration. It is not a religion, as we understand the word, because it is not associated with the super natural or with mystical beliefs. It is purely ethical system, but its ethics, unlike those of Christianity, are not too exalted for ordinary men to practise. In essence what Confucius teaches is something is very like the old-fashioned ideal of a 'gentleman' as it existed in the eighteenth century. One of his sayings will illustrate this: 'The true gentleman is never contentious he courteously salutes his opponents before taking up his position, so that even when competing he remains a true gentleman'.

Questions:

1. Why do you think the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion?
2. How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'Proper' China?
3. Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?
4. Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system, and not a religion?
5. Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' ideal of a gentleman.

Q1: Why do you think, the author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion?

Answer:

The author calls Confucius' belief about the progress of human society as a delusion because he thinks that the ^{ancient} rulers of the followers of Confucius' belief rein as per the will of their people. They were engaged themselves in establishing a stable state and ~~and~~ maintain excellency to some extent. They do not endeavor more ~~to~~ to proceed the state further. This apparently makes the happy but they kept them in deception in reality.

Q2: How did Confucius' thought affect China to develop into a stable and 'proper' China?

Answer:

Confucius' thought affected China to develop into a stable and proper China in a sense that the then ancient rulers were only engaged to make the people happy. In this way,

they made themselves to become more prominent and successful. Consequently, they occupied a small part of contemporary china and partitioned the state into many conflicted states.

Question 3:

Why does the author think that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration?

Answer:

The author thinks that Confucian system deserves respect and admiration because in the uncertain and tumult situations, they responded composedly and wisely. They promoted the peace through Art, aware the people through literature, and adopted a civilized fashion of life. In this way, they sustained and made themselves respectable and praiseworthy.

Question 4:

Why does the author call Confucian system a purely ethical system and not a religion?

Answer:

The author calls Confucian system is purely an ethical system rather than to be considered it a religion because he thinks that religion is associated with certain intuitional beliefs which will be difficult for ordinary man to practice in this life. While Confucian system is based on ethics which is easily practicable for a common man in his life.

Question 5:

Briefly argue whether you agree or disagree to Confucius' idea of a gentleman?

Answer:

I agree about the Confucius' idea of a gentleman, because ethics and morality influence. One can be only impressed through the moral character of other. One can't win the hearts of others by power. One can only rule the hearts through ethics.