

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a far way to become his masters. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very stern masters. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or burst with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all round them. So we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule us altogether, just as we rule the animals. And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we to do with them? The answer, I think, is that we should try to become more civilized. For the machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and liking beautiful things, thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance today to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think our civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

#### Questions

1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about?

Instead of making our slaves, machines have become our masters. The reason is that men have to take great care of their machines. In fact, they spend most of their time managing them.

2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why?

There is no doubt that machines have provided us more leisure and more energy. However, this is a curse, blessing instead. The reason behind this sad state of affair is men have to use this energy in making more machines. And making more machines means that they have to look after more machines. As a result, they can not use energy in other positive things.

3. What exactly is the meaning of "civilization"? Do you agree with the author's views?

Civilisation means to live in harmony. It also means to provide ease to humanity. For this to happen, people must do justice between the two men. Besides, they must try to maintain beautiful things in the world. They must also work on making new things. And Author is very right in shedding light in all these things, because these are the requirements of a civilisation.

4. "Making more beautiful things" What does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them.

This expression making more beautiful things mean that one must try to make things which benefit the humanity in letter and spirit. In fact, there are many a beautiful thing which do not exist to a great extent these days. For example, trees, parks and supports activities are not seen everywhere, despite their significance. Where implanting of trees is concerned, I shall launch public campaigns where people are told about their significance for better environment. I shall also ask government to make parks in all the areas, so that people can live a healthy life by taking exercises in fresh air. Besides, I shall conduct supports activities in my town, where people of different areas will participate. Having seen this healthy activity, they will surely try to arrange such events in their own localities.

5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why?

Poverty is indeed a crime. It must end if wealth among poor segments of society is distributed. However, the purpose of disbursing money among them should be making them earn for themselves rather than making them depend on others forever.

6. The author uses phrases like, "fed with coal"; "given petrol to drink"; "oil to wash"; "kept at the right temperature" What machines would require these things ?

The author uses these phrases, because without them, machines can not work well. Instead, they start creating problems for men by bursting. In order to avoid any problem, men have to arrange all these things for their machines.