

1. Make a precis of the following passage about one third of its length and suggest a suitable title.

Lying is indeed an accursed vice. We are men, and we have relations with one another by speech. If we recognized the horror and gravity of an untruth, we should more justifiably punish it with fire than 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. Laying - 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 tongue has got the knack of lying, it is difficult 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. I have a decent lad as my tailor, whom I have never heard to utter a single truth, even when it would have been to his advantage.

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

The Pythagoreans regard good as certain and finite, and evil as boundless and 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. St Augustine said that we are better off in the company of a dog we know than in that of a man whose language we don not understand. Therefore, those of different nations do not regard one another as men and how much less friendly is false speech than silence.

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Title: Lying: A Supreme Evil

Lying is detestable and morally wrong. Speech is the source of human interactions. If one acknowledges the profundity of lying, one must censure it more harshly. Some people take strict actions to rectify their children's naive mistakes. People should resist lying and stubbornness, otherwise, they would become part of child's behaviour. Besides, outstanding men become the captives of lying. Moreover, if the untruth were single-faced, one would consider its conflicting statement as truth. Alternatively, falsehood has vast dimensions. Pythagoras considered virtue as obvious and vice as indefinite. Furthermore, one should avoid lying even in the face of self-harm. Likewise, St Augustine favoured the company of dog over wicked man. Hence, silence is better than lying.