

Précis 13: CSS 2010

Write a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20)

Of all the characteristics of ordinary human nature envy is the most unfortunate; not only does the envious person wish to inflict misfortune and do so whenever he can with impunity, but he is also himself rendered unhappy by envy. Instead of deriving pleasure from what he has, he derives pain from what others have. If he can, he deprives others of their advantages, which to him is as desirable as it would be to secure the same advantages himself. If this passion is allowed to run riot it becomes fatal to all excellence, and even to the most useful exercise of exceptional skill. Why should a medical man go to see his patients in a car when the labourer has to walk to his work? Why should the scientific investigator be allowed to spend his time in a warm room when others have to face the inclemency of the elements? Why should a man who possesses some rare talent of great importance to the world be saved from the drudgery of his own housework? To such questions envy finds no answer. Fortunately, however, there is in human nature a compensating passion, namely that of admiration. Whoever wishes to increase human happiness must wish to increase admiration and to diminish envy.

↓
Stormy

What cure is there for envy? For the saint there is the cure of selflessness, though even in the case of saint's envy of other saints is by no means impossible. But, leaving saints out of account, the only cure for envy in the case of ordinary men and women is happiness, and the difficulty is that envy is itself a terrible obstacle to happiness.

But the envious man may say: 'What is the good of telling me that the cure for envy is happiness? I cannot find happiness while I continue to feel envy, and you tell me that I cannot cease to be envious until I find happiness.' But real life is never so logical as this. Merely to realize the causes of one's own envious feeling is to take a long step

towards curing them.

PRÉCIS.

Title: Happiness: A Cure for Envy.

Envy is the most malicious trait of human nature. A person who ^{possesses} it tries to harm others and makes himself dismal. ^S Such a person is not happy with what he ^{possesses}, but feels gloomy on what belongs to others. If he has the opportunity of depriving others ^{of} their possessions, he will do so. Such kind of desire is lethal for excellence and skill. Instead of feeling envy for others' possessions, we should praise and feel good for them. It aids in increasing happiness and ^{diminishing} envy. Envy itself is a huge barrier for a joyous life. In order to cure it, one should ^{take} certain measures and find its causes.

Total number of words in the passage = $336 \frac{1}{3} = 112$

Total number of words in the above precis = 112.

Use of first person is not allowed in Precis.

Idea and structure are generally ok. Mistakes identified.