

PASSAGE 2

Throughout the ages of human development men have been subjected to miseries of two kinds; those imposed by external nature, and those that human beings misguidedly inflicted upon each other. At first, by far, the worst evils were those that were due to the environment. (Man was a rare species whose survival was precarious. Without the agility of the monkey and without any coating of fur, he has difficulty in escaping from wild beasts; and in most parts of the world could not endure the winter's cold.) He had only two biological advantages: the upright posture freed his hands, and intelligence enabled him to transmit experience. Gradually these two advantages gave him supremacy. The number of the human species increased beyond those of any other large mammals. But nature could still assert her power by means of flood and famine and pestilence, and by exacting from the great majority of mankind incessant toil in the securing of daily bread.

In our own day, our bondage to external nature is fast diminishing as a result of the growth of scientific intelligence. Famines and pestilence still occur, but we know better, year by year, what should be done to prevent them. Hard work is still necessary but only because we are unwise; given peace and cooperation, we can, whenever we choose to exercise wisdom, be free of many ancient forms of bondage to external nature.

But the evils that men inflict upon each other have not diminished in the same degree. There are still wars, oppressions; and hideous cruelties; and greedy men still snatch wealth from those who are less skilful or less ruthless than themselves. Love of power still leads to vast tyrannies or to mere obstruction when its grosser forms are impossible. And fear, deep scarcely conscious fear, is still dominant motive in very many lives.

(303 words)

PASSAGE 3

The best aid to give is intellectual aid, a gift of useful knowledge. A gift of knowledge is infinitely preferable to a gift of material things. There are many reasons for this. Nothing becomes truly one's own except on the basis of some genuine effort or sacrifice.

Peace -

Topic: Kinds of human Miseries

Two miseries have brought difficulties for humans. The first, environmental hazards like wild-animals and extreme cold, and the second, human-wars against each other. Moreover, two skills, free hands and intellectual made him superior to all animals. However, men still face threat of floods and famine. With science of wisdom, man is able to tackle these problems. Hence, men can get freedom from environmental threats. On the contrary, human evils are unending. Wars among humans and lust for money have made dominant and sub-ordinate human position. Therefore, power and fear have become dominant attributes of human life.