

And still it moves. The words of Galileo, murmured when the tortures of the Inquisition had driven him to recant the Truth he knew, apply in a new way to our world today. Sometimes, in the knowledge of all that has been discovered, all that has been done to make life on the planet happier and more worthy, we may be tempted to settle down to enjoy our heritage. That would, indeed, be the betrayal of our trust. These men and women of the past have given everything - -- comfort, time, treasure, peace of mind and body, life itself --- that we might live as we do. The challenge to each one of us is to carry on their work for the sake of future generations. The adventurous human mind must not falter. Still must we question the old truths and work for the new ones. Still must we risk scorn, cynicism, neglect, loneliness, poverty, persecution, if need be. We must shut our ears to the easy voice which tells us that ‘human nature will never alter’ as an excuse for doing nothing to make life more worthy. Thus will the course of the history of mankind go onward, and the world we know move into a new splendour for those who are yet to be.

Questions:

(i) What made Galileo recant the Truth he knew?

Answer

Galileo recanted the truth that he knew because he felt that was the right way to tell it to the whole world. If he had told in the first place, he, like other people, would have been sentenced. As a result, the world would be unaware of his discovery. In short, Galileo recanted the truth because he found it necessary.

(ii) What is the heritage being alluded to in the first paragraph?

Answer

In the first paragraph, the heritage of Galileo is alluded. The reason is that this passage is about his discovery about the earth. Thus, it can be stated that the first paragraph is alluded to the heritage of Galileo.

(iii) What does the ‘betrayal of our trust’ imply?

Answer

The betrayal of our trust implies that we do not work for those who trust in us for making life easier for them. Instead, we opt to walk on a path that is not difficult. In doing so, we betray the trust of others in us.

(iv) Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?

Answer

We need to question the old truths and work for the new ones because this is the right way to prevent human brain from being faltered. Besides, by questioning the old truths and working for the new ones, we can make this world an egalitarian place to live in. If Galileo had not questioned the old truth, humans would have been stuck to the old truths. In short, for providing ease to future generations, we must question the old truths.