

6. Paraphrase
10. All Great Thinkers live and move on a high plane of thought. It is only there they can breathe freely. It is only in contact with spirits like themselves they can live harmoniously and attain that serenity which comes from ideal companionship. The studies of all great thinkers must range along the highest altitudes of human thought. I cannot remember the name of any illuminative genius who did not drink his inspiration from fountains of ancient Greek and Hebrew writers ; or such among the moderns as were pupils in ancient thought, and, in turn, became masters in their own. I have always thought that the strongest argument in favour of the Baconian theory was, that no man, however indubitable his genius, could have written the plays and sonnets that have come down to us under Shakespeare's name who had not the liberal education of Bacon. How this habit of intercourse with the gods makes one impatient of mere men. The magnificent ideals that have ever haunted the human mind, and given us our highest proofs of a future immortality by reason of the impossibility of their fulfilment here, are splintered into atoms by contact with life's realities. Hence comes our sublime discontent. You will notice that your first sensation after reading a great book is one of melancholy and dissatisfaction. The ideas, sentiments, expressions, are so far beyond those of ordinary working life that you cannot turn aside from one to the other without an acute sensation and consciousness of the contrast. And the principles are so lofty, so super-human that it is a positive pain, if once you become imbued with them, to come down and mix in the squalid surroundings of ordinary humanity. It may be inevitable. A habitual meditation on the vast problems that underline human life, and are knit into human destinies—thoughts of immortality, of the littleness of mere man, of the greatness of man's soul, of the splendours of the universe that are invisible to the ordinary traffickers in the street, as the vastness of St. Peter's is to the spider that weaves her web in a corner of the dome—these things do not fit men to understand the average human being, or tolerate with patience the sordid wretchedness of the unregenerate masses. It is easy to understand, therefore, why such thinkers fly to the solitude of their own thoughts, or the silent companionship of the immortals ; and if they care to present their views in prose or verse to the world, that these views take a sombre and melancholy setting from "the pale cast of thought" in which they were engendered.

—P.A. Sheehan

QUESTIONS

1. On what plane must great thinkers live and move ?
2. Is a liberal education necessary to produce great literature ?
3. Why does the reading of a great book, according to the author, make one melancholy and disappointed ?
4. What are the things that make it hard to understand the average human being ?

acquisition of wealth, although it does not hold up large fortunes as difference to worldly things, things which to realize that the

COMPREHENSION

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Questions:

①: On what plane must great thinkers live and move?

Ans: All great thinkers must live and move in plane of thoughts. It is the place where they can think independantly. moreover, they want to achieve serenity from ideal companions. That's why thinkers live and move in plane of thought.

② As a liberal education necessary to produce great literature?

Ans: Liberal education is not necessary to produce great literature. Here, is the example of Shakespeare is evidence of great literature where don't need any liberal education only geniusness is required.

③ Why does the reading of a great book, according to the author, make me melancholy and disappointed?

Answer: The reading of great book make one melancholy and disappointed because the reality is different from writer's thought. That is why, it will be prove depressed for reader.

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④ What are the things that make it hard to understand the average human being?

Answer: The things which are hard to understand for average human being is that vast problems.

concept of long liveness, explanation of universe are hard to understand for common man in streets.