

Q #03

(1.)

Alongside certain convergence of the two, human's fear of death differs from children's dread for darkness in that the former is rooted in actual experience of seeing a fellow human die. Whereas, children's fear is born of fabricated fables. Moreover, by implication, fear of the Great Certainty is a widespread concern among humans; contrarily, children's fright is age-bound. Thus, the two fears differ in plausible reality and accompanying age factor.

(2.)

Sacred or religious view of death is to perceive it as a portal to hereafter and as a retribution for one's sins.

(3.)

Monks have described in their books painful experiences of undergoing corporal tortures. Although undertaken for the purpose of purifying soul, such ~~experiences~~ recollection of such experiences only exacerbates man's anguish of death.

(4.)

Seneca viewed death in cultural context and concluded that the ceremonies and circumstances performed for dead human instill fear and agony in hearts of the attendants. According to him, such settings make death look like Grim Reaper with a long sickle.

(5.)

Various experiences associated with a dying man include: strange groans emanating from dead human; small seizures in lifeless body; paleness face; crying relatives; and mourning clothes as well as other customs. All these combine to create a sombre, sad and fearful milieu around dead man. These are, therefore, the facts also propounded by Seneca, that typify death as frightening and painful demise.

Q.3. Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow. Use your own language. (5x4 = 20)

Human Beings feel afraid of death just as children feel afraid of darkness; and just as children's fear of darkness is increased by the stories which they have heard about ghosts and thieves, human beings' fear of death is increased by the stories which they have heard about the agony of the dying man. If a human being regards death as a kind of punishment for the sins he has committed and if he looks upon death as a means of making an entry into another world, he is certainly taking a religious and sacred view of death. But if a human being looks upon death as a law of nature and then feels afraid of it, his attitude is one of cowardice. However, even in religious meditation about death there is something a mixture of folly and superstition. Monks have written books in which they have described the painful experience which they underwent by inflicting physical tortures upon themselves as a form of self-purification. Such books may lead one to think that, if the pain of even a finger being squeezed or pressed is unbearable, the pains of death must be indescribably agonizing. Such books thus increase a Man's fear of death.

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ENGLISH (Précis & Composition)

Seneca, a Roman Philosopher, expressed the view that the circumstances and ceremonies of death frighten people more than death itself would do. A dying man is heard uttering groans; his body is seen undergoing convulsions; his face appears to be absolutely bloodless and pale; at his death his friends begin to weep and his relations put on mourning clothes; various rituals are performed. All these facts make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise.

Questions:

- (1) What is the difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness?
- (2) What is a religious and sacred view of death?
- (3) What are the painful experiences described by the Monks in their books?
- (4) What are the views of Seneca about death?
- (5) What are the facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise?