

25. YEAR 1995

1. Make a precis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

When you see a cockroach on a bed-hug your first reaction is one of disgust and that is immediately, followed by a desire to exterminate the offensive creature. Later, in the garden, you see a butterfly or a dragonfly, and you are filled with admiration at its beauty and grace. Man's feelings towards insects are ambivalent. He realizes that some of them for example, - flies and cockroaches are threats to health. Mosquitoes and tsetse flies have in the past sapped the vitality of entire tribes or nations. Other insects are destructive and cause enormous losses. Such are locusts, which can wipe out whole areas of crops in minutes; and termites, whose often insidious ravages, unless checked at an early stage, can end in the destructing of entire rows of houses.

Yet men's ways of living may undergo radical changes if certain species of insects were to become extinct. Bees, for example, pollinate the flowers of many plants which are food sources. In the past, honey was the only sweetening agent known to man in some remote parts of the world. Ants, although they bite and contaminate man's food are useful scavengers which consume waster material that would otherwise pollute the environment. Entomologists who have studied insect fossils believe them to have inhabited the earth for nearly 400 million years. Insects live in large numbers almost everywhere in the world, from the hottest deserts and the deepest caves to the peaks of high mountains and even the snows of the polar caps.

Some insects communities are complex in organizations, prompting men to believe that they possess and ordered intelligence. But such organized behaviour is clearly not due to developed brains. If we have to compare them to humans, bee and ant groups behave like extreme totalitarian societies. Each bee or ant seem to have a determined role to play instinctively and does so without deviation. The word "instinct" is often applied to insect behaviour. But some insect behaviour appears so clear that one tends to think that some sort of intelligence is at work. For example, the worker bee, upon reaching to the hive after having found a new source of nectar, communicates his discovery by a kind of dance which tells other bees the direction and distance away of the nectar.

Ambivalent Relationship of Humans and Insects

Humans have been ^{ambivalent} equivocal about insects for years. The complex organization of pests impacts humans. With the evolution of 400 million years, bugs do not deviate from the organized roles dictated by their instincts. Flies and cockroaches spread diseases; mosquitoes and tsetse lessen the strengths of nations. Moreover, locusts and termites destroy the food and habitats of people. In the wake of such circumstances, men wish to get rid of insects, but a few bugs also benefit humans in many ways. Bees not only pollinate the flowers but also intelligently communicate with fellow workers to increase the production of honey. Similarly, ants decompose the waste goods to abate pollution from the

environment. Thus, humans have
mixed feeling of love and hate
for insects.

the basic purpose of writing precis is to reflect original ideas in your
passage

29. YEAR 1999

1. Make a precis of the following passage about one third of its length and suggest a suitable title.

To have faith in the dignity and worth of the individual man as an end in himself, to believe that it is better to be governed by persuasion than by coercion, to believe that fraternal goodwill is more worthy than a selfish and contentions spirit, to believe that in the long run all values are inseparable from the love of truth and the disinterested search for it, to believe that knowledge and the power it confers should be used to promote the welfare and happiness of all men, rather than to serve the interests of those individual and classes whom fortune and intelligence endow with temporary advantage -- these are the values which are affirmed by the traditional democratic ideology. The case of democracy is that it accepts the rational and humane values as ends and proposes as the means of realizing them the minimum of coercion and the maximum of voluntary assent. We may well abandon the cosmological temple in which the democratic ideology originally enshrined these values, without renouncing the faith it was designed to celebrate. The essence of that faith is belief in the capacity of man, as a rational and humane creature to achieve the good life by rational and humane means. The chief virtue of democracy and the sole reason for cherishing it is that with all its faults it still provides the most favourable conditions for achieving that end by those means.

Advantages of Democracy

Democracy is the best form of governance. It is centered on the rational and humane values as ends. It achieves these ends through faith in dignity of men, convincing others rather than using force, love for truth and welfare of general public. Such means result in high degree of consent among the masses. It is not always necessary to follow the footsteps of the original thinkers of democracy as the real value of democracy lies in the capacity of men to achieve the good life by rational and humane means. Democracy has few disadvantages but it is the most favorable model of governance to meet these ends.