

PASSAGE 10

About 4000 years ago, the Greeks began to move across from their home in the mountains of Asia towards the Western Mediterranean Sea. At this time they were *wandering* thing was unnecessary because there was no *public* business, there were no *taxes*, and nobody *owned* any land, since the tribe moved from place to place the *whole* time looking for grass for its sheep and goats. There were also no law cases and no lawyers, and men were controlled by a few customs, such as the one that said that if one man killed another, one of the dead man's *relations* had to find and kill the killer.

Sometimes the old men of the tribe would meet together to discuss questions which were very important to the whole tribe, such as a war or long journeys; and occasionally there might be a meeting of all the fighting men in the tribe to say what they thought about such important matters. But such meetings were only for *discussion*, not for governing.

When the Greek shepherds came to what is now Greece, they began to become farmers, growing corn as well as keeping sheep. This forced them to *settle* in one place and build real houses, instead of living only in tents, as they had done before. At first, the men continued to look after the sheep and goats and to fight enemies, while the women did the work in the fields.

As each tribe settled and became a group of villages, the land was divided among the families, but for a long time the tribe continued to be the only owner of the land. But slowly families began to own pieces of land, and arguments began between families about who owned a certain piece of land, and about the lines dividing one piece of land from the next. After a man had died, there were also arguments between his relations as to how his land should be divided. To settle such business, some sort of government became necessary, and for about 400 years the Greeks struggled to learn how to carry out the business of groups of people living a settled life and owning land. During this time, too, people began to be divided into rich and poor by the owning of land, and quarrels between classes, which had never taken place when the Greeks were wandering shepherds, became more and more *dangerous*.

Slowly groups of villages joined together to make cities, which were not like our modern cities, but more like small nations, each quite independent of other cities, *governing* itself and going to war with other cities when it wanted to.

Each of these cities had its own laws and its own army. The rich landowners, who alone could buy good armour and weapons, *loved* war and robbed the poor and weak. The head of the government was the king, who was one of the rich. In his work he was helped by a *council* or group, of other rich men. The king and his council used to sit in the market-place all day, hearing all those who came to them to complain against anyone, and doing all the public business of the city. These public, daily meetings were the beginnings of real government in Europe, even though they were often neither very honest, nor very *effective*, nor very just.

QUESTIONS

1. Choose **SIX** of the following words and give for each of them another word or phrase of similar meaning to that in the context:

taxes

discussion

governing

owned

settle

council

relations

dangerous

effective

• taxes - duties

• discussion - talk

• settle - sedentary

owned: propertised

effective: forced

council = Cabinet

2. Write down the following words and give for each a word or phrase of *opposite* meaning to that used in the passage:

(i) wandering

~~nomadic~~ sedentary

(ii) public

private

(iii) whole

part time

(iv) loved

hated, avoided

3. Give brief answers to the following questions using **ONE COMPLETE** sentence for each. Use your own words, as far as possible, but your answer must be based only on the information in the piece.

(a) Why was a government unnecessary to the wandering Greek shepherds?

For wandering Greek shepherds, the government was unnecessary because there was no public business or private property, and people were controlled by few customs.

(b) What example of an early custom does the writer give?

The example of writer gives is that in ancient times, if one man killed another, one of the dead man's relations had to find and kill the killer.

(c) What did the old men of the tribe discuss when they met together?

When they met together, the old men of tribe were used to discuss crucial matters regarding tribes like wars or long journeys.

(d) What were the quarrels between families usually about?

The quarrels between families were usually about land ownership like owning a particular piece of land, or ~~line~~ dividing one piece of land from other, or inheriting a land from dead man.

(e) In what ways were the Greek cities different from modern ones?

Greek cities were different from modern cities as they were independent self governing nations, and were used to go on war with one another.

(f) Who did the fighting in the time of the Greek cities?

In Greek cities, each city had its army, and rich land owners, who could buy good armour and weapons were used to wage war.

4. What are we told about the different kinds of public meeting that are mentioned in this piece?

You should not use more than 60 words in your answer.

What is told about public meetings is that there ~~was a~~ king used to be a king, who was helped by a council or a group. All of these men were quite rich. They were used to sit in the market place, and were used to make decisions against complains. It was the beginning of new government in Europe. Though this government was not very effective.