

Lying: An Accursed vice

Lying is a worst evil. If people estimate the dangers of a liar, he would be treated like a criminal.

People often rebuke their children for acts that have little bad consequences. Instead, they should

scold them for lying and stubbornness.

If neglected, these habits would become permanent part of children's

conduct. Even nice persons sometimes

fall prey to lie. Above all, it is

very difficult to distinguish a lie

from truth because it has limitless

forms. So, truth is a certain act

while evil is an uncertain act.

Furthermore, according to an old

saying the company of an animal

is better than a liar.

Words in the passage: 300

Words in the preface: 105

Q.2: Make a précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title.

34 Lying is indeed an accursed vice. We are men, and we have relations with one another only by speech. If we recognized the horror and gravity of an untruth, we should more justifiable, punish it with any other crime. I commonly find people taking the most ill-advised pains to correct their children for their harmless faults and worrying them about heedless acts which leave no trace and have no consequences. Lying and in a lesser degree obstinacy - are, in my opinion, the only faults whose birth and progress we should consistently oppose. They grow with a child's growth and once the knack of lying it is difficult to imagine how impossible it is to correct it; Whence it happens that we find some otherwise excellent men subject to this fault and enslaved by it.

If, like the truth, falsehood had only one face, we should know better where we are, for we should then like the opposite of what a liar said to be the truth. But the opposite of a truth has a thousand shapes and a limitless field.

The Pythagoreans regard good as certain and finite, and evil as boundless as uncertain. There are a thousand ways of missing the bull's eye, only one of hitting it. I am by no means sure that I could induce myself to tell a brazen and deliberate lie even to protect myself from the most obvious and extreme danger. An ancient father says that we are better off in the company of a dog we know than in that of a man whose language we do not understand. Therefore, those of different nations do not regard one another as men, and how much less friendly is false speech than silence.
(Montaigne)