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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.

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

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

# Comprehension

(a) Human beings' fear of death is increased due to the stories which they have heard about the pains of dying man. Children's fear of darkness is increased due to stories which they have heard about the ghosts and thieves.

(b) Religious view of death and sacred view of death defines in this way, death is a kind of punishment for the evils. The meaning of death is that, making an entry in the another world, human being surely taking a religious view of death and sacred view of death, he looks upon death as a law of nature and he feels afraid of it.

(c) The painful experiences described by the monks in their books in this way, physical tortures as a form of self-purification. The pain of a finger being pressed is unbearable, the pain of death must be indescribably agonizing. This book is increased a man's fear of death.

(d)

The view of Seneca about death define in this way, ceremonies and circumstances of death frighten person more than death itself would do.

(e)

The facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise, because a dying man is heard uttering groans, and his face is bloodless and pale, his friends begin to weep, and various rituals are performed.