

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

(20)

The fear of human beings when faced with the mysteries of life and their weakness by comparison with the vastness of nature created in them a need to communicate with the divine, with the superior powers which they believed regulated the universe and determined their own fates. Knowledge of wishes of the gods was always a sure guide for human behavior. In ancient Greece, the precise nature of these wishes was 'decoded' by the art of giving oracles, practiced by soothsayers who had the gift of understanding the signs or signals sent by the gods.

The soothsayers uttered their oracles by interpreting flashes of lightening, rolls of thunder or the flights of certain birds of prey (omens); alternatively, they might observe the direction in which the fire burned when a sacrifice was made, examine the entrails of animals which had just been sacrificed, or base judgments on the sacrificial beast's willingness to approach the altar. The interpretation of dreams was popular too, and so was palmistry. The most notable soothsayers of ancient Greece were Tiresias, Calchas, Helenus, Amphiaraus and Cassandra.

However, there were abundant instances in which the gods did not manifest themselves to the faithful in the forms of signs but spoke directly to an intermediate who for a short time was overcome by a 'divine mania' and transcended his own human essence. Here the prophet- or more usually the prophetess- entered a state of ecstasy in which he or she delivered the message from the gods to the suppliants.

These practices for foreseeing the future were the basis on which the ancient Greek oracles operated. Each oracle was located within a properly-organized sanctuary and was directly associated with one or other of the gods. Apollo was the archetypal soothsayer for the Greeks the god who was responsible for conveying to mortals the decisions pronounced by Zeus. The most important of all the oracles, that at the Delphi, delivered the messages with the intervention of Apollo, while the oldest that of Dodona, functioned with the assistance of Zeus.

Q. 3. Read the following passage carefully and answer the questions given at the end.

(20)

* 2022 - Preci's

Oracles: The Voice of Greek Gods

Human beings need ^{to} communicate with divine

main idea is picked and discussed over all there is issue of coherence and relevance

sentences are not clear need improvement in expression not satisfactory 7/20

power } in order to determine their ~~own~~ fate. ^{rephrase this sentence} ~~to~~ acknowledge the wishes of gods ^{the helps human to}

live precly and pairly. In old times, soothsayers would ~~decode~~ gods

~~signals in other form~~ wishes which they would ordain in ^{the} form of oracles. Gods

Oracles had many ^{rephrase it} means, few of them

were through lightening and thunder. Moreover,

Palmistry and ~~dream~~ interpretation were

way ^{to} common. While sometimes, gods

transcended their messages ^{directly} through a "divine

mania". ~~The major reason for perceiving the~~

^{repeated point} ~~this~~ this idea of transcending oracles

were much prevelant in ^{ancient} Greek. one of the

major figures in Greeks was Apollo who

used ^{rephrase the last sentence} to pronounce Zeus, the Gods

oracle to the world in the oldest

sactuary of Dodona.

Word Count : 113