

Q. No. 8 Make a Précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title. (15+5=20 Marks)

The world dismisses curiosity by calling it idle, or mere idle curiosity - even though curious persons are seldom idle. Parents do their best to extinguish curiosity in their children because it makes life difficult to be faced every day with a string of answerable questions about what makes fire hot or why grass grows. Children whose curiosity survives parental discipline are invited to join our university. Within the university, they go on asking their questions and trying to find the answers. In the eyes of a scholar, that is mainly what a university is for. Some of the questions that scholars ask seem to the world to be scarcely worth asking let alone answering. They ask questions too minute and specialized for you and me to understand without years of explanation. If the world inquires of one of them why he wants to know the answer to a particular question he may say, especially if he is a scientist, that the answer will in some obscure way make possible a new machine or weapon or gadget. He talks that way because he knows that the world understands and respects utility. But to you who are now part of the university, he will say that he wants to know the answer simply because he does not know it. The way a mountain climber wants to climb a mountain simply because it is there. Similarly a historian when asked by outsiders why he studies history may come out with argument that he has learnt to repeat on such occasions. Something about knowledge of the past making it possible to understand the present and mould the future. But if you really want to know why a historian studies the past, the answer is much simpler: something happened, and he would like to know what. All this does not mean that the answer which scholars find to their questions have no consequences. They may have enormous consequences but these seldom from the reason for asking the question or pursuing the answer. It is true that scholars can be put to work answering questions for the sake of the consequences as thousands are working now, for example, in search of a cure for cancer. But this is not the primary function of the scholar, for the consequences are usually subordinate to the satisfaction of curiosity.

The Curious Nature of a Man

Precis :

By calling it idle, people get rid of curiosity. Even the parents destroy curiosity from children for not answering their curious questions. But after becoming scholars, the university offers them to ask the questions freely. Despite this freedom they can't speak truth if they are asked for their searching. Because they know that the world considers curiosity unvaluable without benefit. Therefore, a climber and an historian remain unable to tell the real reason for their doings. But it doesn't mean that curiosity satisfies only with answer, rather it provides benefit like curing the cancer. However, the priority is to explore a thing.