

CSS-2010

And still it moves. The words of Galileo, murmured when the tortures of the Inquisition had driven him to recant the Truth he knew, apply in a new way to our world today. Sometimes, in the knowledge of all that has been discovered, all that has been done to make life on the planet happier and more worthy, we may be tempted to settle down to enjoy our heritage. That would, indeed, be the betrayal of our trust.

These men and women of the past have given everything --- comfort, time, treasure, peace of mind and body, life itself --- that we might live as we do. The challenge to each one of us is to carry on their work for the sake of future generations.

The adventurous human mind must not falter. Still must we question the old truths and work for the new ones. Still must we risk scorn, cynicism, neglect, loneliness, poverty, persecution, if need be. We must shut our ears to the easy voice which tells us that 'human nature will never alter' as an excuse for doing nothing to make life more worthy.

Thus will the course of the history of mankind go onward, and the world we know move into a new splendour for those who are yet to be.

Questions

(i) What made Galileo recant the Truth he knew?

Galileo recanted the Truth he knew due to intense torture and pressure imposed on him by acquisition. He was forced to deny what he knew.

(ii) What is the heritage being alluded to in the first paragraph?

The heritage being alluded to is the progress, achievements and discoveries made by past generations to improve our lives. They sacrificed their time, comfort and peace of mind in⁴⁰ whole life.

(iii) What does the 'betrayal of our trust' imply?

The "betrayal of our trust" implies that we are enjoying heritages of our ancestors and not trying to make things better for future generations. we would be betraying the trust and sacrifices of our ancestors.

(iv) Why do we need to question the old truths and work for the new ones?

Questioning old truths and seeking new ones is essential to human progress. It would further help in the advancement of human knowledge and understanding. Moreover, it would also make life worthy for future generations.

(v) Explain the words or expressions as highlighted/underlined in the passage.

And it still moves: It symbolizes the persistence of truth and progress despite obstacles and challenges.

Enjoy our heritage: Appreciate our legacy

The betrayal of trust: Letting someone down

Shut ears: ignore

Near splendour: Brighter future