

Précis Writing

Sample Paragraph for Practice

Sample Passage:

There are, I suppose, two ways of celebrating a great man's centenary. Either we can take him off his pedestal for the moment, admire his great qualities and say how much he did to enrich the human race; then, having dutifully done this, we put him back again, if possible a little higher up and further out of reach than before and conveniently forget about him; or we may bring him right down from his pedestal, examine his life more carefully than before, in the light of a rather longer perspective, and keep him well down among us to inspire us in facing the world's problems.

In the case of Jinnah especially, the only valid way to celebrate his centenary is the second. Already he is in danger of being regarded too much as a mere figure on a statue, far off above our heads. Our job during this centenary year is to bring him down to earth again, as a living man among men, which is the only thing he ever wanted to be. I am tempted to say: Let us strip him of his leadership and look at him, if we can, as plain Mr. Muhammad Ali Jinnah if you like.

Having said this, let me hasten to add that as perspective lengthens, I find that Jinnah's greatness grows upon me; it does not diminish. Of course he had his human failings, his errors of judgment and all the rest, like any other man. But these need not concern us especially today. What we want to see, as far as we are able, is the long term value of his way of life and of the principles he tried to live by. And if we are honest in looking at him, we must be prepared for some shocks. He was always, and must always be, a disturbing man, who tries to shake us out of our complacency.

Perhaps the main thing to learn from Jinnah's early independence campaigns is that even people who seem to suffer from a slave mentality can learn to stand up to overwhelming power. Years before I ever visited Pakistan or met Jinnah a Pakistani student whom I think that Jinnah has done for us is to show us how to stand up on our own feet. He has put backbone into us. I think Jinnah wanted all men to believe that, if they have faith in some great cause, they are not strong enough. 'You are as strong as you think you are' he would say, "you are as strong as I am".

Jinnah's Centenary

According to the author, there are two ways to celebrate a renowned man's centenary: either we just admire his statue, praise him, and forget about him, or to bring him among the individuals like a live man to carefully examine his life. In case of Jinnah's centenary, it is necessary to bring him down to earth. Despite the natural human failings in him, one ~~should~~ ought to seek the blessing of complacency. One should learn from Jinnah's early **campaigns** that even with a slave mentality a person can stand up to overwhelming power.

Although ² he exemplified
 that ^{determined} how to become
 determine and gain the
 power to break ^{shackles} the shackles
 of slavery, ~~but~~ ^{yet} perhaps
 he wanted all men to
 believe that despite faith
 in some great cause, they still
 are not strong enough.

Original = 341

Prece = 129

Sentence structure needs improvement. Try to write simple sentences.

