

Q2. Read the following passage and answer the questions given at the end, in YOUR OWN WORDS. (20)

We look before and after, wrote Shelley, and pine for what is not. It is said that this is what distinguishes us from the animals and that they, unlike us, live always for and in the movement and have neither hopes nor regrets. Whether it is so or not I do not know yet it is undoubtedly one of our distinguishing mental attributes: we are actually conscious of our life in time and not merely of our life at the moment of experiencing it. And as a result we find many grounds for melancholy and foreboding. Some of us prostrate ourselves on the road way in Trafalgar Square or in front of the American Embassy because we are fearful that our lives, or more disinterestedly those of our descendants will be cut short by nuclear war. If only as "squirrels or butterflies are supposed to do, we could let the future look after itself and be content to enjoy the pleasures of the morning breakfast, the brisk walk to the office through autumnal mist or winter fog, the mid-day sunshine that sometimes floods through windows, the warm, peaceful winter evenings by the fireside at home. Yet all occasions for contentment are so often spoiled for us, to a greater or lesser degree by our individual temperaments, by this strange human capacity for foreboding and regret - regret for things which we cannot undo and foreboding for things which may never happen at all. Indeed were it not for the fact that over breaking through our human obsessions with the tragedy of time, so enabling us to enjoy at any rate some fleeting moments untroubled by vain yearning or apprehension, our life would not be intolerable at all. As it is, we contrive, everyone of us, to spoil it to a remarkable degree.

Questions

1. What is the difference between our life and the life of an animal? (3)
2. What is the result of human anxiety? (3)
3. How does the writer compare man to the butterflies and squirrels? (3)
4. How does anxiety about future disturb our daily life? (3)
5. How can we make our life tolerable? (3)

Answer: 1

The difference between our life and the life of an animal is that we regret for our past action and yearn for things that may happen in the future. On the other hand, animals live in the present moment and they have neither hopes nor regrets.

Answer: 2

The result of human anxiety is that he is aware of ^{his} life in general but not aware of the present moments of life when he is actually experiencing it. As a result, humans find many reasons for grief and foreboding.

Answer: 3

The writer illustrated that a ^{man} prostrate before the American Embassy, because he is so fearful about the nuclear war in the future that will endanger his life and those of his descended. In contrast, butterflies and

Squirrels do not worry about the future. Therefore, humans should also not worry about future and enjoy the present moments.

Answer: 4

Anxiety about future disturb our daily life by spoiling all the moments of contentment on worrying about future happenings.

Answer: 5

We can make our lives tolerable by reducing our obsessions with the tragedy of past and future and enjoying the fleeting moments of our day to day life without any yearning or apprehension.