

Q.1 Write a Précis of the following passage and suggest a suitable title: (20+5=25)

Throughout the ages of human development men have been subjected to miseries of two kinds; those imposed by external nature, and, those that human beings misguidedly inflicted upon each other. At first, by far the worst evils were those that were due to the environment. Man was a rare species, whose survival was precarious. Without the agility of the monkey, without any coating of fur, he has difficulty in escaping from wild beasts, and in most parts of the world could not endure the winters cold. He had only two biological advantages: the upright posture freed his hands, and intelligence enabled him to transmit experience. Gradually these two advantages gave him supremacy. The numbers of the human species increased beyond those of any other large mammals. But nature could still assert her power by means of flood and famine and pestilence and by exacting from the great majority of mankind incessant toil in the securing of daily bread.

In our own day our bondage to external nature is fast diminishing, as a result of the growth of scientific intelligence. Famines and pestilence still occur, but we know better, year by year, what should be done to prevent them. Hard work is still necessary, but only because we are unwise; given peace and co-operation, we can, whenever we choose to exercise wisdom, be free of many ancient forms of bondage to external nature.

But the evils that inflict upon each other have not diminished in the same degree. There are still wars, oppressions, and hideous cruelties, and greedy men still snatch wealth from those who are less skilful or less ruthless than themselves. Love of power still leads to vast tyrannies, or to mere obstruction when its grosser forms are impossible. And fear deep scarcely conscious fear is still dominant motive in very many lives.

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NATURAL AND SOCIAL EVILS AGAINST MAN

Throughout history, mankind has suffered at the hands of nature and that of his fellow beings. Unlike animals, man was not built to withstand the harsh calamities of nature. Intellectual capabilities and the ability to use his hands made man the superior mammal. Yet man was still subjugated to nature's wrath and worked effortlessly for his daily sustenance. Technological advancements made man better equipped to deal with natural disasters. However, man continues to exploit and oppress his fellow beings in the quest for power.