

21-125

Precis

Title: Energy: basis of character

Norsemen believe in pure strength. Strength is an impression of sturdy independence which they maintain to their day. A good observer can observe things in a small detail. It is an individual who gives strength to state. Determination is also a key of achieving every greatness.

Energy enables man to accomplish more than genius. For success, it is not to labour energetically that matter.

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| 12. <i>Gradual</i> | —continuous |
| 13. <i>Acquire</i> | —possess |
| 14. <i>Tranquility</i> | —peace, calm |
| 15. <i>Deliverance</i> | —salvation |
| 16. <i>Illumination</i> | —light |
| 17. <i>Annihilation</i> | —killing completely, finishing. |

Points for precis making

1. Philosophy means a search of truth.
2. A person who wants to seek truth must be able to distinguish between real and unreal, temporary and lasting things.
3. The aspirant for truth must know that the highest good is realised not through worldly pleasures but through renunciation.
4. Peace of mind is another attribute which a truth seeker must possess.
5. He must prepare himself for losing his individual identity and attaining a higher one.

Precis

The path of philosophy implies a constant search of the truth. A real understanding of truth demands certain qualities. The seeker must be capable of distinguishing between real and unreal, temporary and lasting things. He must realise that highest truth and salvation cannot be achieved through worldly comforts but through their renunciation. This ideal needs a constant search of the lasting joys. He must do away with his false ego. With ego's death many troubles automatically fade away. By disowning his own self, he can own the whole world. (90 words)

Title

- (i) Truth and Salvation
- (ii) Search of Truth and Renunciation.

EXERCISE 3

There is a famous speech recorded of an old Norseman, thoroughly characteristic of the Teuton. "I believe

neither in idols nor demons," said he, "I put my sole trust in my own strength of body and soul." The ancient crest of a pickaxe with the motto of "Either I will find a way or make one," was an expression of the same sturdy independence which to this day distinguishes the descendants of the Norsemen. Indeed nothing could be more characteristic of the Scandinavian mythology, than that it had a god with a hammer. A man's character is seen in small matters, and from even so slight a test as the mode in which a man wields a hammer, his energy may in some measure be inferred. Thus an eminent Frenchman hits off in a single phrase the characteristic quality of the inhabitants of a particular district in which a friend of his proposed to settle and buy land. "Beware," said he, "of making a purchase there; I know the men of that department; the pupils who come from it to our veterinary school at Paris do not strike hard upon the anvil; they want energy; and you will not get a satisfactory return on any capital you may invest there." A fine and just appreciation of character, indicating the thoughtful observer; and strikingly illustrative of the fact that it is the energy of the individual men that gives strength to a State, and confers a value even upon the very soil which they cultivate.

The cultivation of this quality is of the greatest importance; resolute determination in the pursuit of worthy objects being the foundation of all true greatness of character. Energy enables a man to force his way through irksome drudgery and dry details, and carries him onward and upward in every station in life. It accomplishes more than genius, with not one-half the disappointment and peril. It is not eminent talent that is required to ensure success in any pursuit, so much as purpose,—not merely the power to achieve, but the will to labour energetically and perseveringly. Hence energy of will may be defined to be the very central power of character in a man—in a word, it is the Man himself. It gives impulse to his every action, and soul to every effort. Thus hope is based on it,—and it is hope that gives the real perfume to life.