

Q. 2. Write a précis of the following passage and also suggest a suitable title:

(20)

All the evils in this world are brought about by the persons who are always up and doing, but do not know when they ought to be up nor what they ought to be doing. The devil, I take it, is still the busiest creature in the universe, and I can quite imagine him denouncing laziness and becoming angry at the smallest waste of time. In his kingdom, I will wager, nobody is allowed to do nothing, not even for a single afternoon. The world, we all freely admit, is in a muddle but I for one do not think that it is laziness that has brought it to such a pass. It is not the active virtues that it lacks but the passive ones; it is capable of anything but kindness and a little steady thought. There is still plenty of energy in the world (there never were more fussy people about), but most of it is simply misdirected. If, for example, in July 1914, when there was some capital idling weather, everybody, emperors, Kings, arch dukes, statesmen, generals, journalists, had been suddenly smitten with an intense desire to do nothing, just to hang about in the sunshine and consume tobacco, then we should all have been much better off than we are now. But no, the doctrine of the strenuous life still went unchallenged; there must be no time wasted; something must be done. Again, suppose our statesmen, instead of rushing off to Versailles with a bundle of ill-digested notions and great deal of energy to dissipate had all taken a fortnight off, away from all correspondence and interviews and what not, and had simply lounged about on some hillside or other apparently doing nothing for the first time in their energetic lives, then they might have gone to their so-called peace conference and come away again with their reputations still unsullied and the affairs of the world in good trim. Even at the present time, if half of the politicians in Europe would relinquish the notion that laziness is crime and go away and do nothing for a little space, we should certainly gain by it. Other examples come crowding into mind. Thus, every now and then, certain religious sects hold conferences; but though there are evils abroad that are mountains high, though the fate of civilization is still doubtful, the members who attend these conferences spend their time condemning the length of ladies' skirts and the noisiness of dance bands. They would all be better employed lying flat on their backs somewhere, staring at the sky and recovering their mental health.

Energies ~~are~~ Misdirected

The writer highlights that those individuals bring evil who are always enthusiastic for doing work.

But, they do not know what and when ought to do. Similarly, devil is busiest as he discourages laziness and offends on waste of time. So, the middle in world ~~not~~ is due to neither laziness nor active virtue, rather passive one. Therefore, energy is present in individuals but it is misdirected. For strenuous life, one must do something and it requires great deal of energy.

The avoidance of laziness in 1914 and then in ~~in~~ rushing for Versailles had changed the history of the world. Presently,

we must gain by it if European politicians ~~relinquish~~ ^{av} laziness is crime. On other side, in religious conferences they waste time on condemning skirt length and dance bands. It signifies that evil remains high. So, they must employ themselves to take rest and correct mental health.

main idea is picked but there is no coherence in whole précis
scattered thoughts and scattered points
not satisfactory