

Comprehension 5: CSS 2018, 1983

Q. Read the following passage carefully & answer the questions that follow: (20)

The third great defect of our civilization is that it does not know what to do with its knowledge. Science has given us powers fit for the gods, yet we use them like small children. For example, we do not know how to manage our machines. Machines were made to be man's servants; yet he has grown so dependent on them that they are in a fair way to become his master. Already most men spend most of their lives looking after and waiting upon machines. And the machines are very storm master. They must be fed with coal, and given petrol to drink, and oil to wash with, and they must be kept at the right temperature. And if they do not get their meals when they expect them, they grow sulky and refuse to work, or bust with rage, and blow up, and spread ruin and destruction all around them. So, we have to wait upon them very attentively and do all that we can to keep them in a good temper. Already we find it difficult either to work or play without the machines, and a time may come when they will rule you altogether, just as we rule the animals.

And this brings me to the point at which I asked, "What do we do with all the time which the machines have saved for us, and the new energy they have given us?" On the whole, it must be admitted, we do very little. For the most part we use our time and energy to make more and better machines; but more and better machines will only give us still more time and still more energy, and what are we do with them? The answer, I think, that we should try to become more civilized. For machines themselves, and the power which the machines have given us, are not civilization but aids to civilization. But you will remember that we agreed at the beginning that being civilized meant making and linking beautiful things. Thinking freely, and living rightly and maintaining justice equally between man and man. Man has a better chance to do these things than he ever had before; he has more time, more energy, less to fear and less to fight against. If he will give his time and energy which his machines have won for him to making more beautiful things, to finding out more and more about the universe, to removing the causes of quarrels between nations, to discovering how to prevent poverty, then I think or civilization would undoubtedly be the greater, as it would be the most lasting that there has ever been.

Questions:

1. Instead of making machines our servants the author says they have become our masters. In what sense has this come about? (4 marks each)
2. The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. But the author says that this has been a curse rather than a blessing. Why?
3. What exactly is the meaning of 'civilization'? Do you agree with the author's views?
4. 'Making more beautiful things' - What does this expression mean? Make a list of the beautiful things that you would like to make and how you would make them?
5. Mention some plans you may have to prevent poverty in the world. Who would receive your most particular attention, and why?

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(i)

The author says that machines have become our masters instead of being servants because humans have grown excessively dependent on machines. They spend much of time in maintaining machines and ensuring their proper functioning. Instead of being free, they remain occupied with looking after machines. Thus, humans look like as servants rather than masters.

(ii)

The use of machines has brought us more leisure and more energy. The author says this is a curse rather than a blessing because man uses this saved time and energy to create more and better machines. Instead of focusing on becoming more civilized, he prefers to invent and maintain machines. As a result, he remains

than engaging in any truly civilized activities.

(iii)

Civilization is the state in which man lives in harmony with nature and his fellow beings. A civilized person exercises free thought, leads a righteous life, and uphold justice and equality in society. The author's view is valid because man has invented machines that save time and energy, but he spend them in more inventions rather than for truly civilized pursuits.

(iv)

The expression "making more beautiful things" means using the energy and time saved by machines to become a truly civilized person. I would first seek mental peace by spending time in nature and staying away from screens. Secondly, I will try to distinguish between right and wrong to live a

righteous life. Ethiridly, I believe in doing justice by being honesty in my actions and fair in my dealings with others. In this way, I can add real beauty to my life.

(V)

Poverty alleviation can be achieved through gender equality, as women form half of the population but their potential remains largely untapped. Many educated women are unable to contribute because of social barriers and gender discrimination. If society is educated about gender equality, women will receive the freedom and opportunities to contribute productively. In this way, their participation can play a vital role in eradicating poverty.

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استعماریت پسند انگریزی اقدار کے سامنے خوش آمدانہ اور فرمانبردانہ طرز
 عمل کے برخلاف، جسے برطانوی حکمرانوں نے فروغ دیا تھا اور جسے اہل ہند
 نے اس دور میں اختیار کر رکھا تھا، سید احمد خاں اور اُن کے اعلیٰ مرتبت اور
 روشن دماغ فرزند سید محمود دونوں نے ایسا رویہ اختیار کر کے کی کوشش کی
 گویا وہ انگریزوں کے مساوی اور ہم مرتبہ ہوں۔ سن ۱۸۶۷ء کے آگرہ دربار
 کا واقعہ نہ صرف مسلمانوں کو بلکہ پوری ہندوستانی قوم کو بخوبی معلوم تھا۔ سید
 احمد خاں نے اس دربار سے اس لئے علیحدگی اختیار کی تھی کہ وہ
 ہندوستانیوں کو انگریزوں کے مقابلے میں کم تر درجے کی نشست فراہم نہ
 کئی تھی۔ اس دربار میں سید احمد خاں کو ایک تمغہ عطاء کیا جانے والا تھا۔ بعد
 میں میرٹھ کے کمشنر و پلیس کو یہ خدمت تفویض کی گئی کہ وہ علی گڑھ
 ریلوے اسٹیشن جا کر سید احمد خاں کو تمغہ پیش کریں۔

Against the welcoming and submissive attitude toward colonial English ~~rules~~ values, that was promoted by British rulers and adopted by Indian people, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and his gifted son, Syed Mahmood, strove to restore the equal status with the Britishers. The 1857 Agra Durbar incident was well understood not only by the Muslims but by the entire Indian nation. The separation from the Durbar was dedicated to Sir Syed Ahmad Khan because Indians were given seats of lower rank than the British. In that Durbar, Sir Syed Ahmad Khan was to be awarded a medal. Later, it was assigned to Meerath Commissioner Williams ~~that~~ to go to the railway station and present the medal to Syed Ahmad Khan.