

Human beings are afraid of death just as children feel afraid of darkness. The fear of darkness of kids increased by the stories of the heard ghosts and thieves. In the same way, the fear of human being is increased by the stories which they heard about the agony of dying man. If a human being regards death as a kind of punishment for his sins he has committed and if he looks upon death as a means of making an entry into another world, he is certainly taking a religious and sacred view of death. But if a human being looks upon death as a law of nature and then feels afraid of it, his attitude is of cowardice. However, even in religious meditations about death there is sometimes a mixture of folly and superstition. Monks have written books in which they have described the painful experiences which they underwent by inflicting physical tortures upon themselves as a form of self-purification. Thus, one may think that the pains of death must be indescribably agonizing. Such books and such thoughts increase a man's fear of death.

Seneca, the Roman Philosopher is of the view that the circumstances and ceremonies of death frighten people more than death itself would do. A dyeing man is heard uttering groans; his body is seen undergoing convulsions; his face appears to be absolutely bloodless and pale; at his death his friends begin to weep and his relations put on mourning clothes; various rituals are performed. All such facts make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise.

Questions:

1. What is the difference between human beings' fear of death and children's fear of darkness?
2. What is a religious and sacred view of death?
3. What are the painful experiences described by the Monks in their books?
4. What are the views of Seneca about death?
5. What are the facts that make death appear more horrible than it would be otherwise?

(1)

There is a difference between human beings 'fear of death' and children 'fear of darkness'. Fear of darkness increased by horrible stories of ghosts and thieves whereas fear of death increased by stories about the agony of dying man.

(2)

Religious and sacred view of death regards death as a punishment of sins which has committed by any person and death is also a source of entry into another world.

(3)

Monks have written many books in which they have described the process of self purification. In this process, they physically tortures upon themselves to purify their souls.

(4)

Seneca has shared his views about death. According to his philosophy, the circumstances and ceremonies of death frighten people more as compare to death itself.

(5)

These are many facts which make death more horrible than it would be like. heard the thunder as dying person, weird changes on his body, his face became bloodless and yellowish. His friends cry over his death and relatives put on sorrowing clothes. These rituals make death horrible.