

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 dying 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's fear of darkness. Fear of darkness is increased by horrible stories of ghosts and thieves, whereas fear of death is increased by stories about the agony of a dying man.

(2)

Religious and sacred views of death regard death as a punishment of sins which have been 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 inflict torture upon themselves to purify their souls.

(4)

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

(5)

These are many facts which make death more horrible than it would be like. These include: hearing the thunder of a dying person, weird changes in his body, his face becoming bloodless and yellowish. His friends crying over his death and relatives putting an sorrowing clothes. These rituals make death horrible.