

**Q. Read the following text carefully and answers the questions below: (20)**

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?

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day / date:

Name: Narda Ghaffoor

Batch: 054

LMS-ID: 33615



### Question: 1

There exists a distinct difference between fear of death experienced by human beings and terror of darkness felt by children. Both get intensified by stories. However, the children's fright of darkness amplifies due to tales of spirits and thieves. While human's horror of death is accelerated by the stories about the agony of dying people.

## Question: 2

Human beings often adopt religious and revered view about death. They consider death as a means of accountability for the bad deeds committed in the temporal world. They also regard death as the transitional period between the two worlds. Hence, these conceptions prevent humans from dismissing death as merely a threat and an inherent rule.

## Question: 3

Monks have narrated detailed accounts of the horrors of death in their books. Historically, they have reported undergoing various forms of physical suffering to attain self-purification. Sometimes, there exists a combination of superstition and absurdity in their writings. However, these documented experiences keep instilling more fear of death in a person.

Question: 4

Seneca is a Roman philosopher who has written extensive accounts about his view of death. He has implied that the fear of death itself is nothing exceptional. It is actually the rituals and conditions associated with a dying man that provokes terror of death in the human race.

Question: 5

Death seems more painful and tormenting than it actually is. On the deathbed, a dying person moans in extreme pain. His body experiences spasms and his face appears colourless. Moreover, the rituals of death, along with grieving and weeping of family and relatives, intensify the fear surrounding it. As a result, death is often perceived as more terrifying experience than it actually is.