



VALUE-BASED QUESTIONS

Q1. Honesty is considered the best policy for earning one's bread and butter. Stealing is a sin and a punishable act. Vagabonds tend to forget this essential goodness. Elucidate the dictum in the light of the following lines: "He made them himself at odd moments, from the material he got by begging in the stores or at the big farms. But even so, the business was not especially profitable, so he had to resort to both begging and petty thievery to keep body and soul together."

Ans:

Honest Means of Livelihood

Every human being has to earn his bread and butter. Means vary from person to person, but one has to face many obstacles and odd situations in life. These means can be fair or foul, honest or dishonest. Unfortunately, the modern man hankers after money and has become commercial-minded. People are not afraid of the Almighty. They wish to accumulate riches by hook or by crook. They have no respect for humanity and moral values. The social norms and time-tested principles bemoan somewhere in a corner. The mortals of this computer age focus only on pecuniary gains. They are desirous of becoming rich overnight. And it is sure that no one can make easy money without resorting to corruption. One should always remember that those who are honest get respect in society and feel themselves satisfied. They don't have to feel guilty. But those who are corrupt hide themselves behind the veils when caught. A person should always be honest and sincere. The factory workers, farmers, teachers and poor artisans live an honest life and are appreciated everywhere. Freud rightly proclaimed in his letter to Wilhelm Fliess that 'Being entirely honest with oneself is a good exercise'. A few honest men are better than numerous bad ones.

Q2. It is rightly said that the crown and glory of life is character. Alphonse Karr, a French journalist, said, "Every man has three characters: that which he shows, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has". Substantiate the saying taking ideas from the following expressions: "...It was quite honest, either. You must admit that, and I should not be surprised if the sheriff would like to have something to say in the matter."

Ans:

"The crown and glory of life is character
When wealth is lost, nothing is lost;
When health is lost, something is lost;
When character is lost, everything is lost".

Charming said that the great hope of society is individual character. Character plays a pivotal role in the life of a human being. It is as significant for a man as a crown for a king. It is the glory of a man's life. Character reflects the traits and personality of a person. A man of character retains moral strength and faces the music of life bravely. A man is judged by his character. A person who has good character is respected and honoured in society. It is often said that our lot depends on our character. One rises in life in proportion to the strength of one's character. Character gives self-satisfaction to a person. He can lead a happy and contented life. He accumulates wealth in heaven instead of building treasures on the earth. It is

only character that distinguishes man from beasts. Goethe remarked that "Talent is nurtured in solitude; character is formed in the stormy billows of the world."

"Not in the clamor of the crowded street,
Not in the shouts and plaudits of the throng,
But in ourselves, are triumph and defeat. —Longfellow

Q3. Man is a gregarious animal. Aristotle wrote in Politics, "He who is unable to live in society, or who has no need because he is sufficient for himself, must be either a beast or a god". Loneliness gnaws a man from within. Write an article on the topic mentioned above in your own words. You can take ideas from the following lines: "...he knocked on the door to ask shelter for the night. Nor was he refused. Instead of the sour faces which ordinarily met him, the owner, who was an old man, without wife or child, was happy to get someone to talk to in his loneliness."

Ans:

Loneliness: A Terrible Moment

Enduring loneliness requires perseverance and strength of mind. The state of alienation may depress a person. He may become insane. Everybody cannot bear the pangs of leading a lonely life. Seclusion irritates a mortal as it is known to us that man is a gregarious animal. He needs company to share his views and thoughts. It is also said that solitude is the playfield of Satan. Man gets diverted and takes recourse to illegal ways. The Bible says that 'woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up'. An alienated person leads a miserable and pitiable life. Survival at a deserted place becomes next to impossible for a human being. Solitude gives vent to the feelings of enmity against mankind. A depressed person may go to any extent to avenge his seclusion. Solitude and melancholy are synonymous of each other. Mother Teresa has described loneliness in a fitting manner. She said, "Loneliness and the feeling of being unwanted is the most terrible poverty". Each individual needs love, affection and company. The victims of solitude and loneliness never feel themselves gratified. They never feel themselves the part of the main stream. It breeds negativity and animosity. They become hostile towards the fellow human beings. The repercussions of loneliness are catastrophic and disastrous.

Q4. Voltaire has rightly remarked that 'Love truth, but pardon error'. It is by forgiving that one is forgiven. Sympathy is a divine virtue. It is indispensable for a philanthropist. Elucidate the dictum taking ideas from the following expressions.

"Since you have been so nice to me all day long, as if I was a captain, I want to be nice to you, in return, as if I was a real captain —for I do not want you to be embarrassed at this Christmas season by a thief- but you can give back the money to the old man on the roadside..."

Ans: The Bible proclaims that 'Blessed are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy'. Love begets love and hatred begets hatred. People in this world have a reciprocal relationship. They reciprocate the thing they receive. It is a universally accepted aphorism that 'To err is human, to forgive, divine'. Sympathy has a great power. A sympathetic person receives the blessings of the destitute whom he helps or forgives. People can't imagine the incredible power of sympathy. A person's kind acts and words may save many precious lives. One must not forget that those who sympathise with others get inner satisfaction. It awakens the affection of a human heart. It leaves an indelible impression even on the most rugged nature. Its results are better than a king's power. It helps a man in his endeavour to elevate his fellow human beings from a state of poverty and distress. Dr. Samuel Johnson averred that the wretched have no compassion. When a man suffers himself, it is called misery; when he suffers in the suffering of another, it is called

pity. Forgiveness is, undoubtedly, a divine quality. The philanthropists should inculcate the habit of forgiving others in their character.

“Sweet mercy is nobility’s true badge—Shakespeare

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