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Nurture your dreams

Comprehension story 3

Read the passage below and answer the questions that follow.

If you must give expression to prejudice and hatred and intolerance, do not speak it, but write it in sands, near the water's edge. When the dawn of Intelligence shall spread over the eastern horizon of human progress, and Ignorance and Superstition shall have left their last footprints on the sands of time, it will be recorded in the last chapter of the book of man's crimes that his most grievous sin was that of Intolerance. The bitterest intolerance grows out of religious, racial and economic prejudices and difference of opinion. How long O God, until we poor mortal will understand the folly of trying to destroy one another because we are different religious beliefs and racial tendencies? 05

Our allotted time on this earth is but a fleeting moment. Like a candle, we are lighted, shine for a moment, and flicker out. Why can we not learn to so live during this brief earthly visit that when the great Caravan called Death draws up and announces this visit is completed, we will be ready to fold our tents and silently follow out into the great unknown without fear and trembling? 10

I am hoping that I will find no Jews or Gentiles, Catholics or Protestants, Germans, Englishmen or Frenchmen when I shall have crossed the bar to the other side. I am hoping that I shall find only human souls, brothers and sisters all, unmarked by race, creed or color, for I shall want to be done with intolerance so I may rest in peace throughout eternity 15

YOU visualize two animals demonstrating the futility of combat, Two male dears have engaged in a fight to finish, each believing that he will be the winner. Off at the side the female awaits the victor, little dreaming that tomorrow the bones of both combatants will bleaching in the sun. 20

“Poor foolish animals” someone will say. Perhaps, but not very different from the man family. Man engages his brothers in mortal combat because of competition. The three major forms of competition are sex, economic and religious nature. 25

Twenty years ago a great education institution was doing a thriving business and rendering a worthy service to thousands of students. The two owners of the school married two beautiful and talented women, who were especially accomplished in the art of piano playing. The two wives become involved in an argument as to which one was the more accomplished in this art. The disagreement was taken up by each of the husbands. They became bitter enemies. Now the bones of that once prosperous school “lie bleaching in the sun”. 30

The two deers we visualized earlier locked horns over attention of the female. The two-man deer locked horns over the selfsame impulse. 35

In one of the great industrial plants two younger foremen “locked horns” because one received a promotion which the other believed he should have had. For more than five years the silent undertow of hatred and intolerance showed itself. The men under each of the foremen became inoculated with the spirit of dislike which they saw cropping out in their superiors. Slowly the spirit of retaliation began to spread over the entire plant. The men became divided into little cliques. Production began to fall off. Then came financial difficulty and finally bankruptcy of company. 40 45

Now the bones of a once prosperous business “lie bleaching in the sun,” and the two foremen and several thousand others were compelled to start over again, in another field.

Down in the mountains of West Virginia lived two peaceful families of mountain-folk-the Hatfield and the McCoy. They had been friendly neighbors for three generations. A razor-back pig belonging to the McCoy family crawled through the fence into the Hatfield’s family’s corn field. 50

The Hatfield turned their hound loose on the pig. The McCoys retaliated by killing the dog. Then began a feud that lasted for three generations and cost many lives of Hatfields and McCoys.

55

In a fashionable suburb of Philadelphia certain gentlemen of wealth have built their homes. In front of each house the word "INTOLERANCE" is written. One man builds a high steel fence in front of his house. The neighbor next to him, not to be outdone, builds a fence twice as high. Another buys a new motor car and the man next door goes him one better by purchasing two new cars. One remodels his house adding a colonial style porch. The man next door adds a new porch and a Spanish style garage for good measure. The big mansion on top of the hill gives a reception which brings a long line of motor cars filled with people who have nothing in particular in common with the host. Then, follows a series of "receptions" all down the "gold-coast" line, each trying to outshine all the others.

60

65

The "Mister" (but they don't call him that in fashionable neighborhoods) goes to business in the back seat of a Rolls Royce that is managed by a chauffeur and a footman. Why does he go to business? To make money, of course! Why does he want more money when he already has millions of dollars? So he can keep on out-doing his wealthy neighbors.

70

Poverty has some advantage – it never drives those who are poverty – stricken to "lock horns" in an attempt to out-poverty their neighbors.

Whenever you see men with their "horns locked" in conflict you may trace the cause of the combat to one of three cause of intolerance – religious difference of opinion, economic competition or sex competitions.

75

The next time you observe two men engaged in any sort of hostility towards each other, just close your eyes and THINK for a moment and you may see them, in their transformed nature, very much resembling the

80

male deer we pictured earlier. Off at one side you may see the object of the combat – a pile of gold, a religious emblem or a female (or females)

Remember, the purpose of this essay is to tell some of the TRUTH about human nature, with the object of causing its reader to THINK. Its writer seeks no glory or praise, and likely he will receive neither in connection with this particular subject.

85

Andrew Carnegie and Henry C Frick did more than any other two men to establish the steel industry. Both made millions of dollars for themselves. Came the day when economic intolerance sprang up between them. To show his contempt to Frick, Carnegie built a tall sky-Scraper and named it the “Carnegie Building”. Frick retaliated by erecting a much taller building, alongside of the Carnegie Building, Naming it the “Frick Building.”

90

These two gentlemen “locked horns” in a fight to finish, Carnegie lost his mind, and perhaps more, for all we of this world know. What Frick lost is known only to himself and the keeper of the Great Records. In memory their “bones lie bleaching in the sun” of posterity.

95

The steel men of today are managing things differently. Instead of locking horns they now “interlock directories,” with the result that each is practically a solidified, strong unit of whole industry. The steel men of today understand the difference between the meaning of the words COMPETITION and CO-OPERATION; a difference which the remainder of us would do well to understand, also.

100

Questions:

Suggested answers

(a) Suggest a suitable title for the passage (02 marks)

Intolerance, completion, hatred or prejudice

(b) What does the writer meant by;

- (i) "...it never drives those who are poverty stricken to "lock horns."..? line (72-73) (04 marks)

lack ambition for poor to become poorer, lack of compulsion to compete for poverty

- (ii) "... their bones lie bleaching in the sun"? (line 95) (04marks)
Wasted efforts/energies, lost hope, despair, misery, unhappiness

- (c) In not more than 100 words, summarize the cause of Intolerance (10marks)

THE CAUSES OF INTOLERANCE

Intolerance is mostly caused by economic competition, religious differences of opinion, racial differences, competition for female(s), envy, hatred, superiority and difference of opinion such political affiliations.

- (d) Explain the meaning of the following words and phrases as used in the passage, using you own words wherever possible

- (i) grievous (line 06) (02 marks)

severe/ serious/fatal/dangerous

- (ii) fleeting moment (line 10.) (02 marks)

short time, short lived, brief moment

- (iii) fold our tents (line 13) (02 marks)

quit, leave, vacate, withdraw,

- (iv) futility of combat (line 20) (02 marks)

pointless fight, useless fight

- (v) silent undertow (line 40) (02 marks)

strong feelings, sentiments,

- (vi) Inoculated with the spirit of dislike (line 41-42) (02 marks)

Incited/compelled/impelled into hatred

Got involved in hatred

- (vii) Feud (line 54) (02 marks)

Hostility, resentment, anger

- (viii) Transformed nature (line 79) (02 marks)

Situation/state of /condition

- (ix) "locked horns" line 92 (02 marks)

Involved in a struggle

Contended with

Battled

Embattled
(x) Posterity (line 95) (02 marks)
Future generation, generation to come

(20 marks)

Spellings, Punctuation and Grammatical Expression (SPGE) (10 marks)

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Thanks

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