

ASSIGNMENT – 5

1. Write a précis of the given passage:

There is an enemy beneath our feet – an enemy more deadly for his complete impartiality. He recognizes no national boundaries, no political parties. Everyone in the world is threatened by him. The enemy is the earth itself. When an earthquake strikes, the world trembles. The power of a quake is greater than anything man himself can produce. But today scientists are directing a great deal of their effort into finding some way of combating earthquakes, and it is possible that at some time in near future mankind will have discovered a means of protecting itself from earthquakes. An earthquake strikes without warning. When it does, its power is immense. If it strikes a modern city, the damage it causes is as great as if it had struck a primitive village. Gas mains burst, explosions are caused and fires are started. Underground railways are wrecked. Building collapse, bridges fall, dams burst, and gaping crevices appear in busy streets. If the quake strikes at sea, huge tidal waves sweep inland. If it strikes in mountains regions, avalanches roar down into the valley. Consider the terrifying statistics from the past 1755: Lisbon, capital of Portugal- the city destroyed completely and 450 killed. 1970: Peru: 50,000 killed. In 1968, an earthquake struck Alaska. As this is a relatively unpopulated part, only a few people were killed. But it is likely that this was one of the most powerful quakes ever to have hit the world. Geologists estimate that during the tremors, the whole of the state moved over 80 feet farther west into the Pacific Ocean. Imagine the power of something that can move an entire continent! This is the problem that the scientists face. They are dealing with forces so immense that man cannot hope to resist them. All that can be done is to try to pinpoint where the earthquake will strike and work from there. At least some precautionary measures can be taken to save lives and some of the property.

2. Write a précis of the given passage:

Men are not made in the same mould, like a lot of bricks. It would have ill-suited the wants of the world, if it had been so. Consequently, even in the same country, men differ in disposition and manners and opinions. Their sentiments, aims and objectives, thinking, all differ. So long as there are different minds, there will be different views on all matters that admit of opinion. It is necessary for us, therefore, to cultivate a generous spirit of forbearance and tolerance towards those who may think and act differently from ourselves. Even though we may be convinced that they are wrong, if we know

them to be sincere, we should still bear with them and give them credit for their sincerity. This is the virtue of tolerance or bearing with others when we may differ from them. Tolerance should be shown in all differences of opinion on even the highest matters of life and death; and here it is of more value than anywhere else. When we cannot agree with one about a point of science, or philosophy, or faith, we can at least agree to differ from him, and there is an end. We must always remember that we are all likely to make mistakes and possess weaknesses, and that we ourselves need the same forbearance and sympathy. We are, besides, all of the same human brotherhood, and should, "like brothers, agree".