
Previous Questions of the essay: On Superstition

by A.G. Gardiner

Long answer questions:

1. How does A. G. Gardiner put rationale behind superstition through anecdotal style? Give argument based on your reading of the text On Superstitions

→ In the essay "On Superstitions," A. G. Gardiner employs an anecdotal style to present a rational perspective on the subject of superstition. Through a series of anecdotes and personal experiences, Gardiner skillfully dissects various superstitious beliefs and offers logical explanations for their origins and persistence.

One way Gardiner puts rationale behind superstition is by examining the human tendency to seek patterns and connections in random events. He highlights how our minds naturally strive to find cause-and-effect relationships, even when they do not exist. Gardiner shares anecdotes where people attribute their successes or failures to superstitious practices, such as wearing a lucky charm or avoiding certain numbers. By presenting these anecdotes, Gardiner encourages readers to critically analyse the correlation between superstitious rituals and actual outcomes, questioning whether there is any logical basis for such beliefs.

Furthermore, Gardiner delves into the historical and cultural contexts that contribute to the perpetuation of superstitions. He explains how certain rituals and beliefs are deeply ingrained in society due to tradition, social conditioning, and a lack of scientific understanding. Gardiner argues that superstitions persist because they provide a sense of comfort, control, and an illusion of predictability in an uncertain world.

Through his anecdotal style, Gardiner engages the reader's curiosity and prompts them to reflect on their own superstitious beliefs or encounters. He presents rational explanations for these beliefs, urging readers to question the validity of superstitions and rely on logic and evidence instead.

Overall, Gardiner's anecdotal style in "On Superstitions" effectively demonstrates how superstitions can be examined and rationalised. By sharing relatable stories and analysing

the underlying psychological and cultural factors, Gardiner encourages readers to approach superstitions with a critical mindset and consider alternative perspectives based on reason and evidence.

2. Critically examine A. G. Gardiner's ideas 'On superstitions'.

- A. G. Gardiner's essay "On Superstitions" provides a thought-provoking exploration of the nature and impact of superstitions. Gardiner approaches the subject with a critical and rational lens, challenging the irrational beliefs and practices that persist in society.

One key idea that Gardiner emphasises is the role of superstition in filling the gaps of human knowledge and understanding. He argues that superstitions arise when people are unable to explain or comprehend certain phenomena through scientific or logical means. In such instances, individuals resort to superstitious beliefs as a way to make sense of the unknown or unpredictable aspects of life. Gardiner critiques this tendency, highlighting the importance of seeking knowledge and relying on scientific inquiry to dispel irrational beliefs.

Another important aspect of Gardiner's argument is the social and cultural context in which superstitions thrive. He discusses how superstitions are often passed down through generations, ingrained in traditions and cultural practices. Gardiner questions the blind adherence to these beliefs, urging readers to examine the reasoning behind their superstitious practices and consider whether they truly hold any logical basis.

Furthermore, Gardiner emphasises the detrimental effects of superstitions on individual and societal progress. He argues that superstitious beliefs can hinder critical thinking, stifle intellectual growth, and perpetuate a reliance on irrational explanations rather than scientific inquiry. Gardiner's critique serves as a call to challenge and overcome superstitions, advocating for a society that values reason, evidence, and logical thinking.

In his exploration of superstitions, Gardiner exhibits a persuasive writing style, presenting logical arguments backed by evidence and reasoning. He encourages readers to question their own beliefs and traditions, promoting intellectual curiosity and a rational approach to understanding the world.

Overall, Gardiner's ideas on superstitions are a strong critique of irrational beliefs and practices. Through his essay, he challenges readers to examine the basis of superstitions, question their validity, and embrace a more rational and enlightened worldview.