

C. 1. Nature is not human. We love the earth dearly, but the earth would indifferently let me perish of starvation. We are fond of the company of the great sun in the sky, but it would not help if we were dying of thirst. Rather it would burn us. The fate of people who have been in an open boat at sea without water to drink have proved the mercies of the sun. They died a miserable death because the sun would not give them a drop of rain. The rays of this same sun smiled beautifully on the flowers. In the south the sun is an enemy for night, coolness, and rain are friends of man. Then there is the sea. It offers us water but it is not drinkable because it is so salty. Fresh water is no kinder than the salty sea for neither will hold up a sinking boat. A drowning man casts up his arms in vain for the waters will invariably come to their level over his head and fill the spot occupied by his body. If a man falls from a cliff, the air separates and does not try to save him. Below, the earth dashes him to pieces.