

PRIMARY SOURCE

Two-to-Three-Paragraph Quotation—Multiple Choice

Directions: Use the quotation from the Buddha and your knowledge of world history to answer the questions that follow.

Earnestness is the path of Nirvana; thoughtlessness the path of death. Those who are in earnest do not die; those who are thoughtless are as if dead already.

Having understood this clearly, those who have progressed in earnestness delight in earnestness, and rejoice in the knowledge of the elect.

These wise people, meditative, steady, always exerting strong powers, attain to Nirvana, the highest happiness.

If an earnest person has roused himself, if he is not forgetful, if his deeds are pure, if he acts with consideration, if he restrains himself, and lives according to law—then his glory will increase.

By rousing himself, by earnestness, by restraint and control, the wise man may make for himself an island which no flood can overwhelm.

Source: The Buddha, from *The Way of Truth*

1. Nirvana is

- A. the principle or law that orders the universe.
- B. the total effect of a person's actions and conduct during the successive phases of the person's existence
- C. the Buddha's word for release from selfishness and pain.
- D. All of the above

2. According to the passage, the earnest person's "glory will increase"

- I if he rouses himself and "is not forgetful."
 - II "if his deeds are pure" and "he acts with consideration."
 - III "if he restrains himself" and "lives according to law."
- A. I and II
 - B. II and III
 - C. I and III
 - D. I, II, and III

Test Your Knowledge

In what ways does the earnest person have to rouse him or herself and practice "restraint and control"? What sort of island "which no flood can overwhelm" will he create for himself?