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https://www.100test.com/kao_ti2020/159/2021_2022_2007_E5_B9_B4_E5_BA_A6_c70_159901.htm I had an experience some years ago which taught me something about the ways in which people make a bad situation worse by blaming themselves. One January, I had to officiate at two funerals on successive days for two elderly women in my community. Both had died "full of years," as the Bible would say. both yielded to the normal wearing out of the body after a long and full life. Their homes happened to be near each other, so I paid condolence (吊唁) calls on the two families on the same afternoon. At the first home, the son of the deceased (已故的) woman said to me, "If only I had sent my mother to Florida and gotten her out of this cold and snow, she would be alive today. Its my fault that she died." At the second home, the son of the other deceased woman said, "If only I hadnt insisted on my mothers going to Florida, she would be alive today. That long airplane ride, the abrupt change of climate, was more than she could take. Its my fault that shes dead." When things dont turn out as we would like them to, it is very tempting to assume that had we done things differently, the story would have had a happier ending. Priests know that any time there is a death, the survivors will feel guilty. Because the course of action they took turned out badly, they believe that the opposite course - keeping Mother at home, postponing the operation would have turned out better. After all, how could it have turned out any worse? There seem to be two elements involved in our readiness to

feel guilt. The first is our pressing need to believe that the world makes sense, that there is a cause for every effect and a reason for everything that happens. That leads us to find patterns and connections both where they really exist and where they exist only in our minds. 来源 : www.100test.com

The second element is the notion that we are the cause of what happens, especially the bad things that happen. It seems to be a short step from believing that every event has a cause to believing that every disaster is our fault. The roots of this feeling may lie in our childhood. Psychologists speak of the infantile myth of omnipotence (万能). A baby comes to think that the world exists to meet his needs, and that he makes everything happen in it. He wakes up in the morning and summons the rest of the world to its tasks. He cries, and someone comes to attend to him. When he is hungry, people feed him, and when he is wet, people change him. Very often, we do not completely outgrow that infantile notion that our wishes cause things to happen.

1. What is said about the two deceased elderly women? A) They lived out a natural life. B) They died of exhaustion after the long plane ride. C) They weren't accustomed to the change in weather. D) They died due to lack of care by family members. 来源 : www.100test.com

2. The author had to conduct the two women's funerals probably because _____. A) he wanted to console the two families B) he was an official from the community C) he had great sympathy for the deceased D) he was priest of the local church

3. People feel guilty for the deaths of their loved ones because _____. A) they couldn't find a better way to express their grief B) they believe that they were

responsible C) they had neglected the natural course of events D) they didnt know things often turn out in the opposite direction 4. In the context of the passage, "... the world makes sense" (Line 2, Para, 4) probably means that _____. A) everything in the world is predetermined B) the world can be interpreted in different ways C) theres an explanation for everything in the world D) we have to be sensible in order to understand the world 5. People have been made to believe since infancy that _____. A) everybody is at their command B) life and death is an unsolved mystery C) every story should have a happy ending D) their wishes are the cause of everything that happens

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