

It will generally be found that where the terrors of life comes to outweigh the terrors of death a man will put an end to his life. But the terrors of death offer considerable resistance: they stand like a sentinel at the exit gate. This is a deterrent, because the body is the phenomenal form of the will to live. The struggle with that sentinel is as a rule, however, not as hard as it may seem to us from a distance: the reason is the antagonism between spiritual and physical suffering. For when we are in great or chronic physical pain we are indifferent to all troubles: all we are concerned about is recovering. In the same way, great spiritual suffering makes us insensible to physical pain: we despise it: indeed, if physical pain should come to outweigh the other \_\_\_\_\_\_\_. It is this which makes suicide easier: for the physical pain associated with it loses all significance in the eyes of one afflicted by excessive spiritual suffering. [3점]

① it holds back our will to live at the final gate

- 2 we lose any interest in sustaining life
- 3 we cannot resist the sentinel anymore
- ④ it becomes a beneficial distraction
- ⑤ it does not open the gate anywhere







