

2. Please briefly comment on **one** of the passages below. Do you remember when and where the conversation occurs? Why is it significant? How does it comment on the state of society in Gilead, and/or on Gilead as a utopia/dystopia?

Passage 1:

"Most of those old guys can't make it anymore," he says. "Or they're sterile." I almost gasp: he's said a forbidden word. *Sterile*. There is no such thing as a sterile man anymore, not officially. There are only women who are fruitful and women who are barren, that's the law.

"Lots of women do it," he goes on. "You want a baby, don't you?"

"Yes," I say. It's true, and I don't ask why, because I know. *Give me children, or else I die*. There's more than one meaning to it. (p. 61)

Passage 2:

"There is more than one kind of freedom. Freedom to and freedom from. In the days of anarchy, it was freedom to. Now you are being given freedom from. Don't underrate it." (page 24)