

1.

All around us buildings shook. We decided to leave the town. We stopped once we had left the buildings behind us. The carts(马车) were moving on opposite directions, though the ground was perfectly flat, and they wouldn't stay in place even with their wheels blocked by stones.

In addition, it seemed as though the sea was being sucked(吸) backwards, as if it were being pushed back by the shaking of the land. Certainly the shoreline moved outwards, and many sea animals were left on dry sand.

Behind us were frightening dark clouds that opened up to show fire--like lightening, but bigger. Not long after that the cloud reached down to the ground and covered the sea. Now came the dust, though still thin. I looked back. A dense cloud appeared behind us, following us like a flood pouring across the land. Then a darkness came that was not like a moonless or cloudy night, but more like being in a closed and unlighted room. You could hear women and children crying, men shouting. Some were calling for parents, others for children; they could only recognize them by their voices.

Darkness and ashes came again, a great weight of them. We stood up and shook the ash off again and again, otherwise we would have been covered with it and crushed(压垮)by the weight.

At last the cloud became thinner and thinner until it was no more than smoke or fog. Soon there was real daylight. The sight that met our still terrified eyes was a changed world, buried in ash like snow.

—from Pliny's letter to a friend

1. Pliny left the town after ____.

- A. the eruption B. the sky became dark
C. the buildings began shaking D. the sea went back

2. The carts wouldn't stay still because ____.

- A. the earth was shaking B. the sea sucked them backwards
C. the wheels had stones under them D. the lightening frightened the horses

3. It was dark because ____.

- A. it was very late at night B. clouds of ash covered the sun
C. there was a very bad storm D. there was no moon that night

4. People tried to find their relations by calling out their names and ____.

- A. listening to their voices B. running about looking for them
C. shaking the ash off people D. watching people as they ran past

2.

It was a cold night in Washington, D. C., and I was heading back to the hotel when a man approached me. He asked me for some money so he could get something to eat. I had read the sign: "Don't give money to beggars." So I shook my head and kept walking.

I wasn't prepared for a reply, but he said, "I am really homeless and I am really hungry! You can come with me and watch me eat!" But I kept on walking.

The incident bothered me for the rest of the week. I had money in my pocket and it wouldn't have killed me to hand over a dollar or two even if he had been lying. On a freezing cold night, I still assumed the worst of a human being.

Flying back to Anchorage, I couldn't help thinking of him. I tried to rationalize (找借口) my failure to help by assuming government agencies, churches and charities were there to feed him. Besides, you're not supposed to give money to beggars.

Somewhere over Seattle, I started to write my weekly garden column for The Anchorage Daily News. Out of the blue, I came up with an idea. Bean's Café, the soup kitchen in Anchorage, feeds hundreds of hungry Alaskans every day. Why not try to get all my readers to plant one row in their gardens devoted to Bean's Café?

Before long my idea took off. People would fax me or call when they took something in. Those who only grew flowers donated them. Food for the spirit. And relief for my conscience.

As more and more people started working with the "Plant a Row" concept, Many companies gave free seed to customers and displayed the logo, which also arose in national gardening public actions. Row markers with the "Plant a Row" logo were distributed to gardeners to set apart their "Row for the Hungry."

It is unexpected that millions of Americans are threatened by hunger. If every gardener in America---and we're seventy million strong---plants one row for the hungry, we can make quite a decrease in the number of neighbors who don't have enough to eat. Maybe then I will stop feeling guilty about abandoning a hungry man I could have helped.

5. Why did the author turn down the beggar's request?

- A. He was previously reminded not to do so. B. He was eager to walk back to the hotel.
C. He thought that it was beyond his duty. D. He was short of money at that moment.

6. Which of the following is the closest to the underlined phrase "took off" (Para 6) ?