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Matthew Arnold, laments in the poem "Dover Beach" for the lack of spirituality and loss of faith. Arnold has used the metaphor of "sea" to demonstrate the the loss of faith among people during Victorian age. The poem begins with the description of the natural beauty of Dover Beach, where the sea is calm suggesting a world that is peaceful, harmonious and filled with joy. There is no thoughts,

emotions or doubts but only image that are quiet.

Matthew Arnold was deeply troubled by the loss of faith. He referred the ancient Greek playwright, Sophocles, who long ago heard the eternal note of sadness on the Aegean sea, which brought to his mind human misery. Arnold not only compares the human misery with the sea but also he used the metaphor of sea for the faith

in God. The human faith in God was once so strong and protective "like the folds of a bright girdle". It was suggestive that the sea of faith in God was strong and protective for the people from all the doubt and despair just like a girdle of sea wraps itself around the continents and island of the world. poet further says that the faith

in God and religion had provided a relief from the sufferings and doubts about the existence, has now been removed by the development of science. This led man to question about the faith and ultimately decline it. This decline has caused the human mind to remain uncovered and unprotected like "naked shingles", remained after retreating of waves from the shore. It brings to mind a dreary feeling of helplessness

as though the mind is left stripped and bare on the vast and dreary edges of unknown land. The most bitter expression of the poet's view about loss of faith is presented in the last stanza. The world without the faith in God and religion, is like a darkling plain, unreal and deceptive. It is like a battlefield at night where soldiers run after shadows and fire at them, unable to tell friend from foe.

When we think of faith the first thing that springs to mind is belief in religion based on spiritual conviction rather than evidence. However, it is also the ability to have complete trust or confidence in someone or something. A loss of faith is an ongoing struggle experienced by people in all ages and is explored by poet Matthew Arnold. His poem's powerful observations on the withdrawal of faith in

society ensure its timeless appeal and provide an important reminder to maintain love and hope, long after its first publication. "Dover Beach" was written by a man deeply troubled by the doubts arising from changing religious and social ideals. Arnold uses irregular iambic pentameter throughout his lyrical poem with lines and stanzas of varied length. This is a reflection of his turbulent mind and the

changing social and religious ideologies. Despite this irregularity, the poem still carries signatures of Victorian poetry including a depressing subject matter and grim message.

Arnold presents the uncertainty of the future of humans. The world of science and technology seems to be a dream world, so beautiful, so varied, extremely sensuous and so new. The poet feels

that there is no real joy and happiness left in this world, it is only a deceptive and beautiful mirage. Arnold expresses the flaws of modernism in this poem. He believes that modernization of the world will certainly bring a complete loss of faith.