Student’s Name

Institution Affiliation

Instructor’s Name

Course Title

Submission Date

Dover Beach

Matthew Arnold’s “Dover Beach” describes the changes that have occurred among the people in England over the years. The poem orchestrates the changing tides to be genesis of all the problems that the world is facing through symbolic features that make up the poem’s fiber. He also posits a nuanced relationship with his surrounding with his companion, with whom he showers warmth and love, contrary to the 19th century nature of relationships. The speaker notices the broken leaps of faith in the Victorian period which has resulted in feeble relationships and more misery. However, his portrayal of male-female relationships that existed at the time are widely ignorant of the facts and real conditions of women at the time.

“Dover Beach” majors on the consequences of the crisis of faith during the Victorian period, in the way that it defined people’s relationships. As the speaker stands at the Dover beach, he can see a flicker over in France, which ultimately dims. The poem says, “Gleams and is gone; the cliffs of England stand”, signifying the dimming of faith in the book of Genesis. However, Arnold largely ignores the persistent continuation of male privileges and the plight of women at the time, which had not changed one bit. The poem therefore diverts the audience’s attention to recognize changing trends in religion and faith, but does not negate the persisting trends in male dominance.

According to Stanley, Arnold had a remarkable conservative personality in how he viewed the world. Arnold sees the world through the meek lenses of ingenuity where everything should remain the same. Indeed, he uses the waters in the ocean to explain how the changing times may never come back to the way things were, and that is worry. However, he talks to his lover and tells her to not change like the world has. This can be interpreted as his desire to continue enjoying his spot as the man at the expense of equality and fairness.

The poem also expediates the element of representation in male-female relationships in during the Victorian period. At the tail end of the speaker’s desire to maintain a stable relationship, he encourages is companion to remain the same so that they continue to represent the traditional couple, on which the world represents (Alexander). The poem says, “Ah, love, let us be true; To one another! for the world”. Everything the speaker is for world to acknowledge their stature as a true couple, and with little regards to the woman’s desires and contentedness.

Finally, the poem poses the losses the world has encountered through the faith crisis. The speaker maintains that there are more problems than ever because of how people have given up on their faiths. He besieges his audience to reembrace the faith that resulted in joy, peace and happiness. However, his standpoint seems titled towards the angle of rectifying the faith in the bible than in the people. In his idea, everything would be perfect if his lover continues to subdue and stay with him, majorly to please the world.

In conclusion, the poem “Dover Beach” by Arnold gives an account of the changes that have come along the faith crisis. The poem oversees the destruction of nature and human relationships, as the days have changed to the point that there is nothing more to admire. However, the poem ignores the epitomic subject of women subjugation which was dominant at the time, as the seeks to adopt a conservative approach to maintain the status quo through his words to his lover.

Works Cited

Alexander, Lynn Mae. Women, Work, and Representation: Needlewomen in Victorian Art and Literature. Athens: Ohio University Press, 2003.

Stanley, Arthur Penrhyn. The life and correspondence of Thomas Arnold, D.D., late head-master of Rugby school, and regius professor of modern history in the University of Oxford. 4th ed. 2 vols. London: B. Fellowes, 1845.