

To Marguerite : Continued by Matthew Arnold

Summary:- The poet wrote this poem inspired by his beloved of early days, Marguerite. He was not able to consummate his love for Marguerite because of some reasons not clearly mentioned anywhere in the poems associated with her name. He may be talking of isolation because of his inability to be united with Marguerite. The poem gets a wider meaning when we view the isolation mentioned in the poem as the sad lot of the whole mankind. That appears the theme of the poem. In the treatment of the isolation of mankind, the poet appears very modern. ~~The~~ In this poem the sea has a significance, different from what one finds in other poems of his. Here it disunites lands (mankind), and reminds the islands (isolated individuals) of their sad predicament. But the basic idea that the sea is life, which is found in other poems too, comes up in the poem. The image, of the islands in the sea, which stands for men in life is clearly projected in the first stanza. The poem is wound up in a line that has rightly become famous for its pithiness; "The unplumbed salt estranging sea".