

1. Fanny and Lenina appear to believe that promiscuity is a kind of social duty of which they sometimes tire. They are conditioned not to have strong feelings about anyone. Mustapha Mond explains that love is like water under pressure in a pipe. If the pipe is pierced once, a strong jet is the result, but if it is pierced many times, each jet is just a small leak. Mond argues that strong feelings lead to instability:

No wonder these poor pre-moderns were mad and wicked and miserable. Their world didn't allow them to take things easily, didn't allow them to be sane, virtuous, happy. What with mothers and lovers, what with the prohibitions they were not conditioned to obey, what with the temptations and the lonely remorse, what with all the diseases and the endless isolating pain, what with the uncertainties and the poverty—they were forced to feel strongly. And feeling strongly (and strongly, what was more, in solitude, in hopelessly individual isolation), how could they be stable? (41)

Are we the "pre-moderns" to which Mond refers? Is he right that we are emotionally unstable? Is his description of our situation accurate? Do love, marriage, and strong attachments create the problems in our society? Is the avoidance of love, marriage, and strong attachments to children and other individuals a good solution to the problems of our society?