

3.) "Matthew Arnold distinguished far too bluntly it seems to me, between the two activities he overlooks the capital importance of criticism in the work of creation itself".

This passage has been taken from T.S. Eliot's celebrated critical essay "The Function of Criticism".

Eliot has presented the role of criticism in evaluating a piece of work of art also the attitude of the critics whose principles are evolved in it. He has referred to the attitude of Arnold towards the two words "critical" and "creative". Arnold has the inherent weakness of confusing the creative and critical terms. Arnold's criticism centres round the touchstone method. Eliot has strongly criticised Arnold's criticism chiefly on the basis that Arnold distinguishes between the creative mind and the critical mind. However, if Eliot's jargon of criticism "critical" and "creative" are two different activities.

Eliot has pointed out the shortcomings of the Arnoldian Principles of Criticism.

1) "The function of criticism is to judge the work of art on its own terms and not on the terms of the critic's own time and place."