***Moby Dick***

***Chapter 30 – The Pipe***

***Summary:***

* After Stubb goes below, Captain Ahab orders a sailor to get him a stool and a pipe and sits smoking on the deck.
* The narrator (probably not Ishmael at this point) thinks Ahab looks like a Norse king.
* Ahab discovers that smoking the pipe doesn’t soothe him, throws it overboard, and goes back to pacing on the deck. (See, we told you that smoking wasn’t a good mood stabilizer back in Chapter 27, and we were right.)

***Synopsis***:

When Stubb had departed, Ahab stands leaning over the bulwarks, where he remarks that smoking no longer soothes, and he tosses the lighted pipe into the sea then paces around the ship.

Melville demonstrates Ahab's power and influence over his crew through the effect that Ahab has on Stubb, who is shaken by his confrontation with Ahab. This bolsters the idea that Ahab is a fearsome man not to be opposed, not only because of his physical and direct influence over others but also because of the psychological stress that he places on others. Ahab is capable of creating a sense of turmoil and unease in Stubb, who finds no solace for his anxiety concerning Ahab.

***Summary and Analysis Part by Part:***

***Summary Part 1:***

In this very short chapter, [Ahab](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/moby-dick/characters/ahab) smokes a pipe and sits on the quarterdeck, appearing, according to the narrator (who is perhaps still [Ishmael](https://www.litcharts.com/lit/moby-dick/characters/ishmael), although Ishmael is not present in the scene), to be the “king” of his domain—the Pequod and the sea filled with whales. But Ahab gets no joy out of smoking his pipe, and throws it angrily into the ocean.

***Analysis Part 1:***

In this fateful scene Ahab casts away the final piece of enjoyment to him, on earth, that does not have to do with pursuing the whale. Ahab will throw other things overboard later on, including the instruments used to direct the ship in the open ocean. His life becomes narrower and narrower, focused solely on Moby Dick.