

The speaker adopts a solemn voice, using imagery based on contrasts to suggest the change from a mood of hope (*light*) to a present and future empty and forlorn world (*darkness everywhere*). Syntactically, the speaker appears uncertain initially (*I do not know what to tell you*) but confirms the one truth he does now know (*we will not see him again ... that is a terrible blow*) and confirms that truth by the use of direct statements (*We will not run to him*), the use of the future tense underlining the idea of a bleak outlook. There is a sense of unity in the way that the speaker places himself on the same level as those he governs (*I do not know what to tell you ... Our ... we called him*), conveying the idea that they are part of the same family which has lost its role model and figurehead, its 'father'.

The speaker proves his fallibility again by admitting he *was wrong*, doubling back to develop and sustain his extended image of light and dark: the future is not bleak. The repeated reference to the *light*, the progressive change in tenses (*was no ordinary light ... illumined ... will illumine*) and the parallel

Friends and comrades, *the light* has gone out of our lives and there is *darkness everywhere*. I do not know *what to tell* you and how to say it. Our beloved leader, Bapu as we called him, the father of the nation, is no more. Perhaps I am wrong to say that. Nevertheless, we will *not see him again* as we have seen him for these many years. We *will* not run to him for advise and seek solace from him, and that is a terrible blow, not to me only, but to millions and millions in this country, and it is a little difficult to soften the blow by any other advice that I or anyone else can give you.

The light has gone out, I said, and *yet I was wrong*. For the *light* that shone in this country was no ordinary light. The *light* that has illumined this country for these many years *will illumine* this country for many more years, and a thousand years later that *light will still be seen* in this country, and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts.

structures (*for these many years ... for many more years ... and a thousand years later*) create a sense of a progressively uplifting note of hope and vision.

The words move from one particular place (*this country*) to a reference to *the world*, offering an impression that the hope symbolized by the lost leader is an inspiration far beyond the reaches of this time and place.

The phrases draw on ideas of expansion and immortality, a sense that though the physical being of their leader may be gone, his spirit will live forever (*innumerable ... eternal*), infusing the rest of humanity in their *hearts*.

There is a structural contrast in evidence: although the speaker may have shown that he himself is human in the way he has been uncertain and changed his initial observation, Gandhi has moved beyond that mortal level.

For that light represented the living truth ... the eternal truths, reminding us of the right path, drawing us from error, taking this ancient country to freedom.