

***“My soul is more than matched; she’s overmanned; and by a madman!”***

With these words Starbuck, opens Chapter 38 entitled “Dusk”. His complaint acknowledges that his unshakeable and righteous faith is overpowered by Ahab’s blind determination and will. In the previous chapter (“Sunset”), Ahab says about himself “...*I am madness maddened.*” This self-aware admission of unrestrained, irrational single-mindedness ultimately dooms the Pequod. In a later chapter (“The Musket”), Starbuck has the opportunity to save the voyage and the crew by shooting Ahab while he sleeps. While deliberating his course of action he beseeches God for guidance. Hearing no answer, he does what he believes to be “right” - he puts away the musket. Feeling that his decision will lead to the death of them all, he does the only thing left - **he sings the blues!**