

Semester IV (B.A. in English)

Paper 8: (ENG-HC-4016 British Literature: The 18th Century)

Jonathan Swift

(1667 - 1745)

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Important Works

Anglo-Irish Satirist essayist, Political Pamphleteer & Poet.

(ii) Also a priest.

(iii) Regarded as the finest prose satirist in the English language (by Encyclopaedia Britannica)

A Tale of Tub (1704)

written for the Universal Improvement of Mankind.
in form of Prose Parody

An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity (1712)

A satirical essay defending Christianity against contemporary assaults by its various opponents, including freethinkers, deists, ascetics etc. (and so-called dissenters)

Gulliver's Travels (1726)

Satire of human nature, Politics of Ireland & entire Europe

4 parts

A Modest Proposal (1729)

A satirical essay on the plight of Irish starving beggars & issues like cannibalism.

Part I

A Voyage to Lilliput

Part II

A Voyage to Brobdingnag

Part III

A Voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi, Luggnagg and Japan

Part IV

A Voyage to the Land of Houyhnhnms

We have to study these two parts.

Gulliver's Travels.

Chief Introduction (of all the 4 Parts)

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Part I

Part II

Part III

Part IV

A Voyage to Lilliput

A voyage to Brobdingnag

A Voyage to Laputa, Balnibarbi, Luggnagg and Japan

A Voyage to the land of Houyhnhnms

begins with short preamble by Lemuel Gulliver (about his previous voyages) duration (4 May 1699 to 13 April 1702)

(20 June 1702 to 2 June 1706)

5 August 1706 to 16 April 1710

7 September 1710 - 5 December 1715

After shipwreck he lands in an island country of Lilliput where the inhabitants are not more than 6 inches tall.

This second voyage was different from Lilliput.

His ship attacked by pirates and abandoned him in a rocky island near India.

Here he encounters the Houyhnhnms, a race of talking horses (Symbolic)

People were about 72 feet tall.

They treated him as an object for exhibition.

Rescued by the flying island of Laputa (where people were fond of Music, Mathematics & Astronomy).

He becomes a member of a horse's household & adopts their way of life, rejecting his fellow humans

He was carried from place to place in a 'travelling box' (small house)

Once the travelling box was seized by a giant eagle which drops Gulliver and the box into the sea where he was picked up by sailors who return him to England.

Then to Balnibarbi (where people had blind pursuit of science without practical results)

Then to Island of Luggnagg (encounters Struldbruggs, people who are immortal) Then to Japan.

Though! This was a terrible voyage he enjoyed it a lot.

We will discuss Part III & IV in details

Here he notices conflict and rivalry between Lilliput & Blefuscu (neighbouring state)

He witnesses many ups and downs in Lilliput & escapes to Blefuscu.