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18th sept. 2020

FOR M.A. 1st semester (English)

Swift as a great satirist:

Jonathan Swift has written many books as - 'A Tale of Two Cities, Draphts, Letters, Gulliver's Travels, A Modest Proposal, An Argument Against Abolishing Christianity etc. He was master of two styles of satire i.e. - Horatian & Juvenalian. He is known as Anglo-Irish satirist, Essayist, politician, poet etc. He was one of the greatest satirist of the world. He was very conscious that he had to make his mark in the world of literature through the medium of satire. He observes "Indeed, nature herself has taken care, that fame & honour should be purchased at a better pennyworth by satire than by other production of the brain; the world being sooner provoked to praise by lashes, as men are to love." According to him -

"satire is a sort of glass, wherein beholders do generally discover everybody's face but their own, which is the chief reason for that kind of reception it meets in the world and that so very few are offended with it."

It goes to Swift's credit that he seldom indulged in personal satire. He says "There are two ends that men propose in writing satire one of them less noble than the other, as regarding nothing further than personal malice; the other is a public spirit, prompting men of genius & virtue, to mend the world as far as they are able."

P.T.O (continued on)

Like Horace the swifitian satire is not high amusing, masked & allegorical. It is seldom harsh bitter & direct like that of Juvenal although in wide range it has affinity with the latter rather than the former.

Thus we find swifitian satire is both vexatious & reformative. It is not angry & bitter but persuasive & delightful. His satirises almost every major institution of his time - government, church, literature & royalty & in comic satire he is incomparable writer of the world.

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