

| SPECIAL *Rama Sagar* EDITION |

JONATHAN SWIFT

BOOK

2



# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

INTO SEVERAL REMOTE NATIONS OF THE WORLD

COMPLETE AND UNABRIDGED | WITH EXTENSIVE NOTES

# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

## BOOK 2



# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

*Into Several Remote Nations of the World*

JONATHAN SWIFT



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*Illustrated by Tapas Guha*



First published in 1726. This edition is derived from  
the 1892 George Bell and Sons edition.

All supplementary material in this edition

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Portrait of Jonathan Swift by H R YADAV

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## CONTENTS

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<i>About the Author</i>	7
<i>Introduction</i>	9
<b>PART III — A VOYAGE TO LAPUTA, BALNIBARBI, LUGGNAGG, GLUBBDUBDRIB, AND JAPAN</b>	
1. Chapter 1	12
2. Chapter 2	22
3. Chapter 3	37
4. Chapter 4	46
5. Chapter 5	56
6. Chapter 6	68
7. Chapter 7	79
8. Chapter 8	89
9. Chapter 9	101
10. Chapter 10	107
11. Chapter 11	120
<b>PART IV — A VOYAGE TO THE COUNTRY OF THE HOUYHNNHMS</b>	
1. Chapter 1	127
2. Chapter 2	141
3. Chapter 3	152
4. Chapter 4	164
5. Chapter 5	175
6. Chapter 6	188
7. Chapter 7	202
8. Chapter 8	216
9. Chapter 9	228
10. Chapter 10	239
11. Chapter 11	253
12. Chapter 12	267
<i>General Notes</i>	279
<i>General Questions</i>	284
<i>Suggested Reading and Links</i>	287
<i>Other Books in this Series</i>	288



JONATHAN SWIFT (1667–1745)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Not everyone is born with a silver spoon. Jonathan Swift (1667–1745), however, was born in Dublin to an Anglo-Irish family with several literary silver spoons. Had Swift not become a writer, he could have led a life of happy penury by boasting about his impressive literary lineage. Swift was related to poet John Dryden and Sir Walter Raleigh. He could even claim kinship with William Shakespeare, because his uncle Thomas Swift married a daughter of the poet and playwright Sir William Davenant, a godson of the Bard of Avon.

Swift himself wore many hats before *Gulliver's Travels* made him a household name in English literary circles. He was an essayist, satirist, poet, priest, and political pamphleteer. As a pamphleteer, he first wrote for the Whigs (Liberal Party) before switching over to the Tories (Conservative Party). He was a master of satire, and employed this literary technique brilliantly in many of his works like *A Tale of a Tub*, *A Modest Proposal*, and *Gulliver's Travels*.

Swift originally published his works under pseudonyms or anonymously. Lemuel Gulliver was one of them, others being M B Drapier and Isaac Bickerstaff. It was only after he had established himself as a writer and social satirist that he started writing under his own name.

Swift's later life was beset with health problems. The loss of his close friend and companion Esther Johnson had a toll on Swift,

*Gulliver's Travels*

and his works from this point frequently featured the idea of death. He wrote his own epitaph in Latin, which was poetically translated by W B Yates to read:

*Swift has sailed into his rest;  
Savage indignation there  
Cannot lacerate his breast.  
Imitate him if you dare,  
World-besotted traveller; he  
Served human liberty.*

## INTRODUCTION

When *Gulliver's Travels* was first published in 1726, Swift would not have thought that the book, intended as an incisive satire on the society and politics of the time, would also come to be regarded as a delightful book for children. But it did, and from the publication of the very first edition, it was popular across all ages.

While the amazing adventures of Gulliver, the peculiar people and their even more peculiar customs leave an indelible mark on young, impressionable minds, the keen satire is not lost to more mature readers. The book, therefore, has rightly been described as 'Hans Christian Andersen for children, Boccaccio for adults'. Or as remarked by Swift's friend John Gay in a correspondence between the two on the book: 'It is universally read, from the cabinet council to the nursery.'

Regarding the genre, at first glance, *Gulliver's Travels* resembles a travelogue, a narrative form common during Swift's time. But the recounting of Gulliver's travels makes it all too clear that satire is the driving force of the narrative, and so the book rightfully belongs to that genre of literature. Gulliver stands for the common man—gullible and trusting. And the voyages he undertakes are ostensibly only a result of the progress in science and commerce at the time. But Gulliver's bizarre encounters soon begin to parallel real incidents and real people, turning the book into a powerful allegorical commentary. However, to understand the allusions fully, and thereby appreciate

## *Gulliver's Travels*

the wit and satire, a knowledge of the political and social landscape of England of that time is very necessary.

At the same time, *Gulliver's Travels* is a satire on human nature, making the book relevant and enjoyable even to those who may not have read up on history. According to noted scholar Samuel Holt Monk, the travels are 'a satire on four aspects of man: the physical, the political, the intellectual and the moral'.

Ultimately, the objective of Swift in writing such a story was moral—he strove to expose the conceit, pretension, deceit, and cruelty of man to rid society of these vices.

A classic of all times, *Gulliver's Travels* would refute Mark Twain's comment that a classic is 'a book that people praise but don't read'. Written almost three hundred years ago, the book continues to excite the academia, and thrill children in a way few other books have done.

PART III  
A VOYAGE TO LAPUTA, BALNIBARBI,  
LUGGNAGG, GLUBBDUBDRIB,  
AND JAPAN

## CHAPTER 1

*The author sets out on his third voyage. Is taken by pirates. The malice of a Dutchman. His arrival at an island. He is received into Laputa.*

I had not been at home above ten days, when Captain William Robinson, a Cornish<sup>1</sup> man, commander of the *Hopewell*, a stout ship of three hundred tons, came to my house. I had formerly been surgeon of another ship where he was master, and a fourth part owner, in a voyage to the Levant<sup>2</sup>. He had always treated me more like a brother, than an inferior officer; and, hearing of my arrival, made me a visit, as I apprehended only out of friendship, for nothing passed more than what is usual after long absences. But repeating his visits often, expressing his joy to find I me in good health, asking, “whether I were now settled for life?” adding, “that he intended a voyage to the East Indies<sup>3</sup> in two months,” at last he plainly invited me, though with some apologies, to be surgeon of the ship; “that I should have another surgeon under me, beside our two mates<sup>4</sup>; that my salary should be double to the usual pay; and that having experienced my knowledge in sea-affairs<sup>5</sup> to be at least equal to his, he would enter into any engagement<sup>6</sup> to follow my advice, as much as if I had shared in the command.”

He said so many other obliging things, and I knew him to be so honest a man, that I could not reject this proposal; the thirst<sup>7</sup> I had of seeing the world, notwithstanding my past misfortunes, continuing as violent as ever. The only difficulty that remained, was

to persuade my wife, whose consent however I at last obtained, by the prospect of advantage she proposed to her children.

We set out the 5th day of August, 1706, and arrived at Fort St. George the 11th of April, 1707. We staid there three weeks to refresh our crew, many of whom were sick. From thence we went to Tonquin<sup>8</sup>, where the captain resolved to continue some time, because many of the goods he intended to buy were not ready, nor could he expect to be dispatched in several months. Therefore, in hopes to defray<sup>9</sup> some of the charges he must be at, he bought a sloop<sup>10</sup>, loaded it with several sorts of goods, wherewith the Tonquinese usually trade to the neighbouring islands, and putting fourteen men on board, whereof three were of the country, he appointed me master of the sloop, and gave me power to traffic<sup>11</sup>, while he transacted his affairs at Tonquin.

We had not sailed above three days, when a great storm arising, we were driven five days to the north-north-east, and then to the east: after which we had fair weather, but still with a pretty strong gale from the west. Upon the tenth day we were chased by two pirates, who soon overtook us; for my sloop was so deep laden, that she sailed very slow, neither were we in a condition to defend ourselves.

We were boarded about the same time by both the pirates, who entered furiously at the head of their men; but finding us all prostrate<sup>12</sup> upon our faces (for so I gave order), they pinioned<sup>13</sup> us with strong ropes, and setting guard upon us, went to search the sloop.

I observed among them a Dutchman, who seemed to be of some authority, though he was not commander of either ship. He knew us by our countenances<sup>14</sup> to be Englishmen, and jabbering to us in his own language, swore we should be tied back to back and thrown into the sea. I spoken Dutch tolerably well; I told him who we were, and begged him, in consideration of our being Christians

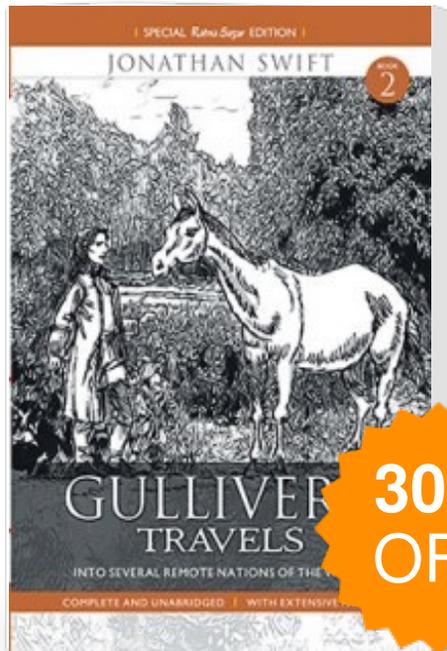
## *Gulliver's Travels*

and Protestants, of neighbouring countries in strict alliance<sup>15</sup>, that he would move the captains to take some pity on us. This inflamed<sup>16</sup> his rage; he repeated his threatenings, and turning to his companions, spoke with great vehemence<sup>17</sup> in the Japanese language, as I suppose, often using the word Christianos.

The largest of the two pirate ships was commanded by a Japanese captain, who spoke a little Dutch, but very imperfectly. He came up to me, and after several questions, which I answered in great humility, he said, "we should not die." I made the captain a very low bow, and then, turning to the Dutchman, said, "I was sorry to find more mercy in a heathen<sup>18</sup>, than in a brother christian." But I had soon reason to repent those foolish words: for that malicious reprobate<sup>19</sup>, having often endeavoured in vain to persuade both the captains that I might be thrown into the sea (which they would not yield to, after the promise made me that I should not die), however, prevailed so far, as to have a punishment inflicted on me, worse, in all human appearance, than death itself. My men were sent by an equal division into both the pirate ships, and my sloop new manned<sup>20</sup>. As to myself, it was determined that I should be set adrift in a small canoe, with paddles and a sail, and four days' provisions; which last, the Japanese captain was so kind to double out of his own stores, and would permit no man to search me. I got down into the canoe, while the Dutchman, standing upon the deck, loaded me with all the curses and injurious terms his language could afford.

About an hour before we saw the pirates I had taken an observation, and found we were in the latitude of 46 N and longitude of 183. When I was at some distance from the pirates, I discovered, by my pocket-glass<sup>21</sup>, several islands to the south-east. I set up my sail, the wind being fair, with a design to reach<sup>22</sup> the nearest of those islands, which I made a shift<sup>23</sup> to do, in about three hours. It

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