

«LAPUTA»

**THE THIRD VOYAGE OF
JONATHAN SWIFT IN
GULLIVER'S TRAVELS**

HISTORICAL ERA



The book was created in the Georgian era. It is a period of British history which takes its name from, and is normally defined as spanning the reigns of the first four Hanoverian kings of Great Britain who were all named George: George I, George II, George III and George IV.

The era covers the period from 1714 to 1830. It was a time of immense social change in Britain, with the beginnings of the Industrial Revolution which began the process of intensifying class divisions, and the emergence of rival political parties like the Whigs and Tories.



Jonathan Swift



- **Jonathan Swift (30 November 1667 – 19 October 1745) was an Anglo-Irish satirist, essayist, political pamphleteer (first for the Whigs, then for the Tories), poet and cleric who became Dean of St Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin**
- **Occupation:**
 - **Satirist**
 - **Essayist**
 - **Political pamphleteer**
 - **Poet**
 - **Priest**
- **Language: English**
- **Nationality: Irish**
- **Notable works:**
 - **Gulliver's Travels**
 - **A Modest Proposal**
 - **A Tale of a Tub**
 - **Drapier's Letters**

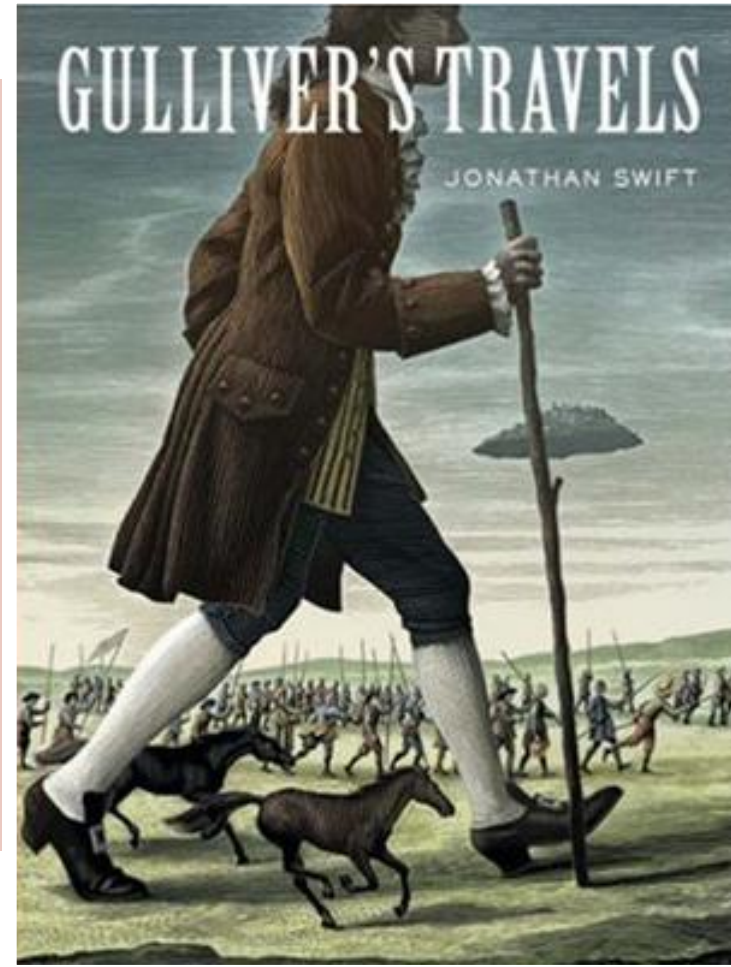


J. Swift.

Plot of Gulliver's Travels



Gulliver's Travels recounts the story of Lemuel Gulliver, a practical-minded Englishman trained as a surgeon who takes to the seas when his business fails. In a deadpan first-person narrative that rarely shows any signs of self-reflection or deep emotional response, Gulliver narrates the adventures that befall him on these travels.



Laputa.Plot

Gulliver encounters a pirate ship with a Japanese captain and a Dutchman. The Japanese sailor assures him that he and his crew will not hurt him. He then unintentionally insults the Dutchman saying that he "was sorry to find more mercy in a heathen, rather than in a brother Christian." ("Heathen" is a derogatory term used for describing a person who does not belong to a widely held religion, *definition from Google*) His comment enrages the Dutchman, and the pirates decide to leave Gulliver stranded in the middle of the ocean with provisions that should last for four days. He reaches a small island on the fifth day and spends the night there.

The next morning, Gulliver wakes up and sees what he thinks is a cloud. It turns out to be a floating island. He calls up to its inhabitants and they welcome him.

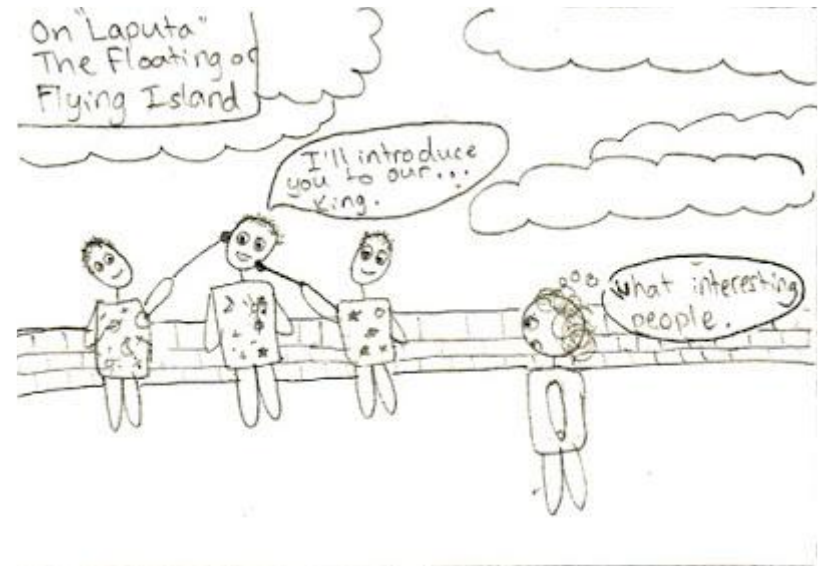


The people he meets on the island, called Laputians are quite unique. They have their heads tilted and their robes are adorned with patterns of astronomical signs and musical instruments. The Laputians also have very short attention spans, so servants called "flappers" are employed to tap on either the mouth or ear to remind them to speak or listen, respectively.

Gulliver meets the Laputian King. Well, sort of. For the first few hours, the king is busy trying to solve a mathematical problem before noticing Gulliver's presence. He is not interested in England's government.

The buildings on Laputa are poorly built despite their advancements in mathematics. They are too engrossed in math, music and astronomy that they do not have any practical skills necessary in life. (Even their clothes are ill-fitting!)

Gulliver learns that Laputa floats above Balnibarbi (an actual island surrounded by the ocean). He also learns that Laputa can deliberately move in ways that can cause destruction below. If a city in Balnibarbi causes some kind of insurrection, the King has Laputa cover the region so that no sunlight or rain can be received. The island moves side-to-side and up and down by an enormous magnet.



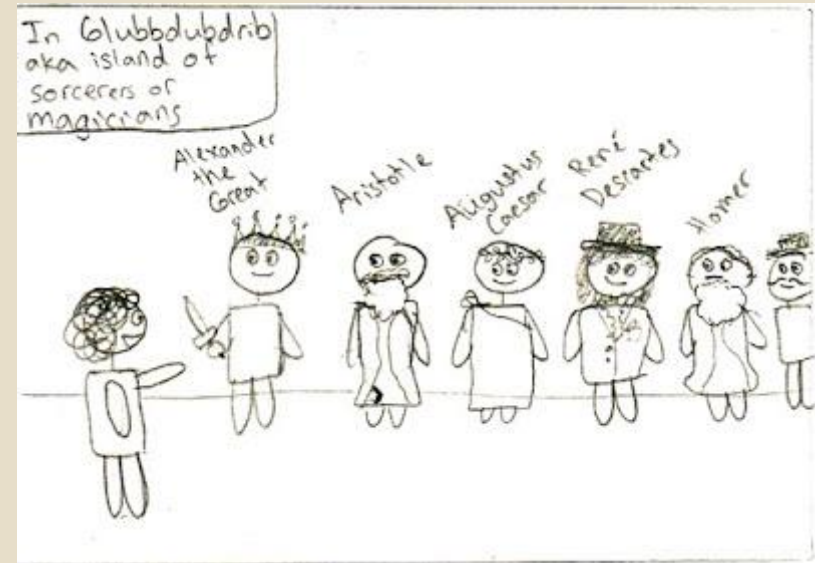
Gulliver leaves Laputa, as he finds it very boring. He goes to Balnibarbi and meets Lord Munodi, who is very hospitable towards him.

Gulliver visits the Grand Academy of Lagado. Lagado is the capital of Balnibarbi. He finds scientists working on experiments that he finds pointless. (See some of the experiments in images.)

Gulliver then goes to Glubbudrib, which means "island of the sorcerers" or "...of magicians". There, Gulliver meets and stays with the Governor. He learns that the Governor has the power to bring back people from the dead for a short period of time. Gulliver decides to call upon many famous historical figures to ask them questions. (They cannot lie.)

Gulliver travels to Luggnagg, pretending to be a Dutchman. He thought of Luggnagg as a "rest stop" before going to Japan, where he hoped to embark a ship that carries him back to England. The Japanese traded with the Dutch, not the English.

In Luggnagg, Gulliver is discovered to be an Englishman and is taken as a prisoner. But after meeting the King (by crawling to him while licking the floor), he (the King) covers for him and pretends that Gulliver is Dutch.



Before leaving, Gulliver learns of the Struldbrugs of Luggnagg. These people are immortal and are marked with a coloured spot on their foreheads. Gulliver believes that being immortal would be a great advantage, as one would be able to learn from past mistakes and continue making improvements, amass a great amount of wealth, etc. But he learns that Struldbrugs are actually very unhappy and jealous of mortals.

Gulliver sails to Japan.

Gulliver meets some Dutchmen and convinces them to allow him to travel to Amsterdam with them. From there he returns to England.



CHARACTER ANALYSIS

● CHARACTER ANALYSIS

- Laputa is a fictional place from the book *Gulliver's travels* by Jonathan Swift. It is a fictional flying island or rock, about 4.5 miles in diameter, with an adamantine base, which its inhabitants can maneuver in any direction using magnetic levitation.
- Laputa's population consists mainly of educated people, who are fond of mathematics, astronomy, music and technology, but fail to make practical use of their knowledge. Servants make up the rest of the population.
- The Laputans have mastered magnetic levitation and discovered the two moons of Mars (which in reality would not be discovered for another 150 years). However, they are unable to construct well-designed clothing or buildings, because they take measurements with instruments such as quadrants and a compass rather than with tape measures. Laputa is a male-dominated society. Wives often request to leave the island to visit the land below; however, these requests are almost never granted because the women who leave Laputa never want to return.
- Laputa is more complex than Lilliput or Brobdingnag because its strangeness is not based on differences of size but on the primacy of abstract theoretical concerns over concrete practical concerns in Laputan culture. but, physical power in Laputa is important as in Lilliput and Brobdingnag. Here, power is exercised not through physical size but through technology. The government floats over the rest of the kingdom, using technology to gain advantage over its subjects. The floating island is both a formidable weapon and an allegorical image that represents the distance between the government and the people it governs.



THE SATIRE OF ROYAL SOCIETY

The third voyage to Laputa is probably the least impressive of the novel. The satire in this section is purposed mainly for the high society that fail to practice their knowledge. Gulliver's first purpose in this section is to mock the extreme ideas of some philosophers and scientists from the Royal society and what he feels are the problems with the science of his day.

The flying island of Laputa is England, and the stationary island of Lagado is Ireland. The king, living in Laputa, has never even been to Lagado and, thus, has no real knowledge of Lagadoan needs or concerns. When the Lagadoans rebel, Laputa cuts off their means of survival, and threatens to crush them.

In the Laputans and their Flappers, Swift is mocking "intellectuals" who are so deep in thought that they have lost touch with practical concerns.

The ill-fitting clothes and other disastrous projects Gulliver observes are Swift's way of mocking the Royal Society which at one point, wanted to use scientific knowledge to make the crafts more efficient. However, most of the knowledge gained by the Society is theoretical and offers no new or useful technologies.

Gulliver's journeys to other islands in this section allow Swift to mock the human tendency to revere the past and historical figures; ignoring the fact that these people were merely human.

Swift also mocks the vanity and emptiness of human desires by showing how the Struldbrugs, who possess immortality; something most humans profess to desire are selfish, petty, cynical, and eternally sad.

Laputa



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LAPUTA

CASTLE IN THE SKY



