



*Compositum jure, fide, animi, sanctaeque recessus
Mentis, et in octavo generis poeibus honesto.*

TRAVELS

INTO SEVERAL

Remote Nations

OF THE

WORLD.

IN FOUR PARTS.

By *LEMUEL GULLIVER*,
first a SURGEON, and then a CAPTAIN
of several SHIPS.

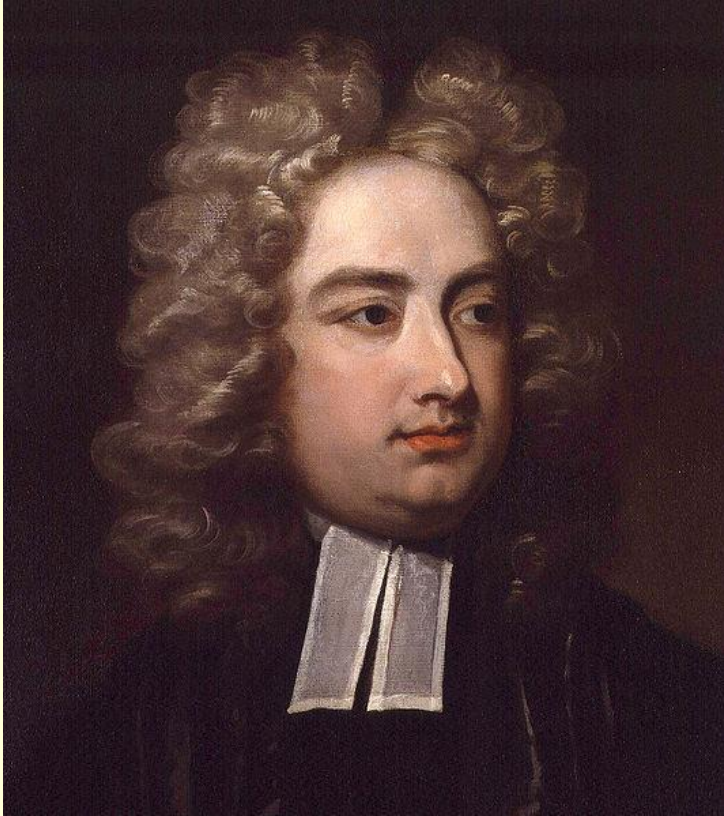
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Gulliver's Travels

Jonathan Swift



- Born in Dublin in 1667.
- Educated himself in political theory and modern history before attending Trinity College.
- Took orders as an Anglican priest and served in church for brief period.
- Quit to become prose satirist.
 - Switched from Whig to Tory (Tories were friends of the church and friendly to Queen Anne)
- Met a girl named Esther “Stella” Johnson when she was 8 and they were very close, “violent friends,” until the day she died
- He married some other woman—
Vanessa— for reasons no one knows
 - Her passion for him was apparently unrequited

- Swift moved back to Dublin when Queen Anne died in 1714 because the Tory party's supremacy ended.
- He wrote *Gulliver's Travels* when he was 59.
- Some people feel that his eccentric behavior in later years bordered on insanity, but some believe he suffered from what is now called *Ménière's Disease* (symptoms include dizziness and deafness).
- Swift upheld the aristocratic tradition and stood behind the church as an institution, though he was skeptical of them, as well as science and technology.
- He believed in the doctrine of *Rational Freedom*, which said that the power of the state derived from the entire people, with no one tyrannical person or group imposing its will on society.



Gulliver's Travels is both **SATIRE** *and* **PARODY.**

Why?

- *It satirizes human nature, European government, and petty religious differences.*
- *It parodies travel books popular during the Restoration Period.*

What You Should Ask Yourself

- What is Jonathan Swift saying about government?
- How does Lemuel Gulliver change as the story progresses?
- Are people inherently corrupt (born that way) or do they become corrupted?