

Gulliver's Travels - Part III

by Jonathan Swift

- Total 11 chapters in this part.
- Chapterwise summary as follows:

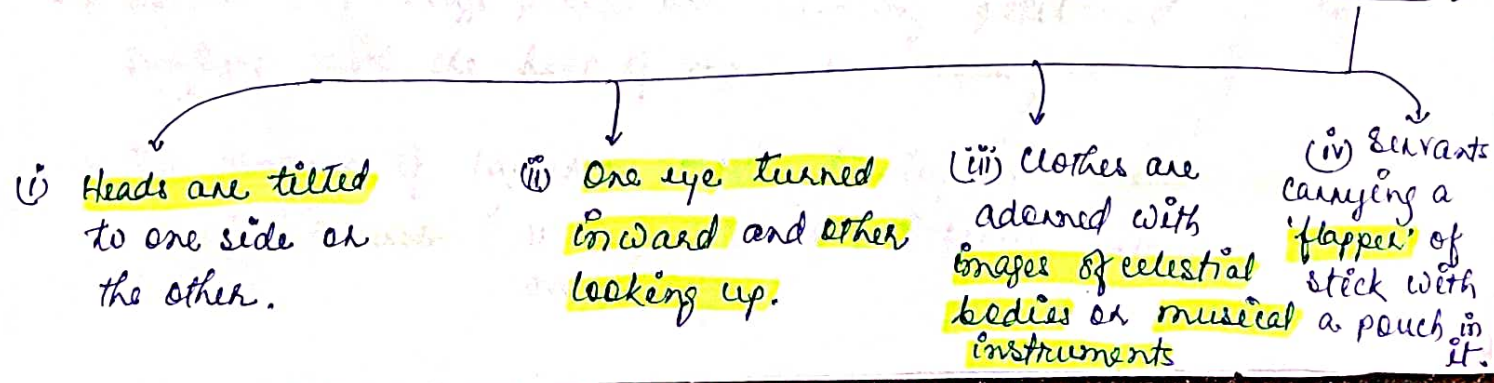
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Chapter I

- Gulliver stayed at home only for 10 days after returning from his 2nd voyage.
- Started a new voyage to East Indies.
- Attacked by pirates / not killed but abandoned him by sending him out to the sea in a small boat only four days' worth of food.
- He finds some islands, landed in one of them (actually a landmass)
- sets up a camp, then notices that the sun mysteriously disappeared for sometime.
- also notices that the island is floating (not fixed) above him.
- The people or inhabitants were crawling.
- He shouted for help / They lower the island and send down a chain by which he is drawn up.

Chapter II

→ Gulliver is immediately surrounded by people (who are quite odd).



a device

- The job of the "flapper" is to hit someone mid-conversation in order to keep them focused.
- Gulliver was conveyed to the king, who was sitting behind a table loaded with mathematical instruments.
- They waited for an hour as the king was in deep thought.
- He was ~~to~~ struck with the flapper, then the king started to say something.
- Then Gulliver's ear was also struck with the flapper as well.
- He could not understand as the languages were not same.
- A teacher is sent to instruct Gulliver. (to teach language)
- learnt several sentences.
- Discovers that the name of the island is LAPUTA.

  
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↓  
 meaning "floating island"  
 in their language.

- A tailor is sent to provide him new clothes. / then the king orders the island to be moved.
- The island is then taken to a point above the capital city of the kingdom, Lagado.
- On the way king's people are collecting petitions from the subjects with the help of ropes sent down to the lands below.
- The language of Laputans relies heavily on Mathematical & Musical concepts (as they value these theoretical disciplines above everything)

Page 3 → They hated practical geometry. (thinking it vulgar)

The hatred is so much deep that they make sure that there are no right angles ( $90^\circ$ ) in their buildings.

→ They are very good with charts & figures but weak in practical matters.

→ They practice astrology (focusing basically on the changes in the celestial bodies)

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### Chapter - III

→ Here it is said that the island is exactly circular (consist of 10,000 acres of land)

→ At the centre, there is a cave for astronomers containing all their instruments and a lodestone six yards long.

↓  
it moves the island with its magnetic force.

→ When the king wants to punish a particular region of the country, he can keep the island above it (depriving the lands from rain & sunlight)

→ The king and his family reside in this floating island.

Analysis

of

Part III — Chapter I, II & III

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(i) Satire on abstract knowledge.  
(whereas the first two voyages are satire on politics & ethics)

(ii) Swift's attack to science, learning & abstract thought  
→ he criticises excessive rationalism / or reliance on theory  
(during the Age of Enlightenment)

(iii) Laputa is more complex than Lilliput or Brobdingnag.

because strangeness is not based on size of the bodies  
(In the earlier voyages power was exercised through bodily strength)

here power is exercised not through physical size but through technology.

The government floats over the subjects and control them using technology.

(iv) The floating island is an allegorical image that represents the distance between the government and the people it governs.  
(the king has never been below / that is the government is not easily accessible to the subjects.)