

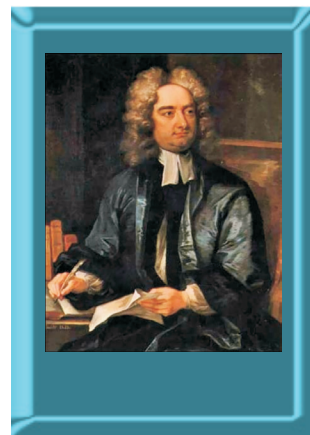
GULLIVER IN LILLIPUT - I

Jonathan Swift



Jonathan Swift (1667-1745), Anglo-Irish satirist is considered as one of the greatest masters of English prose. His many pamphlets, prose, letters, and poetry are all marked by highly effective and economical language. Swift was born in Dublin and educated at Trinity College in that city. He obtained employment in England in 1689 as secretary to the diplomat and writer Sir William Temple.

He wrote about politics, literature, and human society. *Gulliver's Travels* (1726), Swift's masterpiece, is commonly considered a children's story but was originally intended as a satire on humankind. It is an allegory with deep meaning.



Gulliver, the captain of the English ship, gets ship wrecked in the Atlantic and is thrown up on the island of Lilliput, inhabited by the race of little people not more than six inches tall. He is tied up and made prisoner by the Lilliputians but later they come to trust him and set him free.

I

One morning, two weeks after I had obtained my freedom, Reldresal, the Chief Secretary for Private Affairs, came to my house, attended only by one servant. He wanted to have a private conversation with me, because he had been sent by the Emperor to discuss with me some important problems of state.

I received him with honour and offered to lie down so that he could conveniently speak to me; but he preferred to let me hold him in my hand during our conversation.

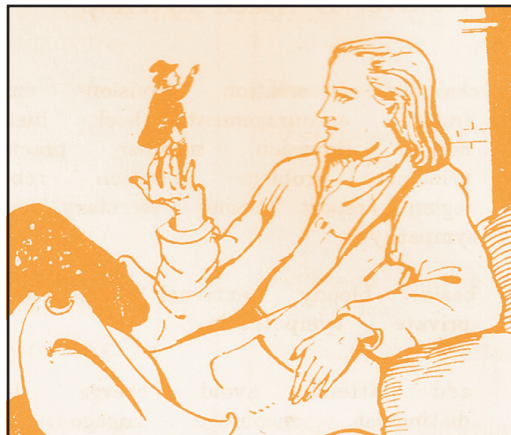
He congratulated me on my freedom, and added that I had obtained it so soon partly on account of the many difficult internal and external problems that faced the state just then. It was thought that if I was released, I might be of help to the state in solving them.

Reldresal told me that Lilliputians were divided into two parties called High Heels and Low Heels, according to the high or low heels of their shoes, which distinguished one party from the other. They opposed each other bitterly, and hated each other so much that the members of one party would hardly eat, drink or talk with those of the other. Although the High Heels were more

numerous than the Low Heels, His Majesty the Emperor was in favour of the Low Heels, and himself wore low heels only. So the Government was in their hands now. Reldresal himself was a member of the Low Heels party. They feared, however, that the young Prince was sympathetic to the High Heels; at least, it was clear that one of his heels was higher than the other; and that gave him a limp in his walking.

II

To add to their problems, they now had to face a great external danger. The country was threatened with an invasion from Blefuscu, which, Reldresal told me, was the other great empire of the Universe. As for my report that there were other regions in the world inhabited by men like myself, he hardly believed it; according to their scientists and historians Lilliput and Blefuscu were the two great regions of the universe. These mighty powers had been engaged in a bloody war for thirty-six 'moons'*. The war began about a question of religious principle, namely, whether one should break an egg at the bigger end or at the smaller end. The ancient practice of course was to break it at the bigger end. But the present Emperor's grandfather, when he was a boy, happened to cut one of his fingers when breaking an egg at the bigger end. So the Emperor, his father, published an order prohibiting the practice of breaking eggs at the bigger end. There was bitter opposition to the new law, and there were frequent rebellions on account of it; one emperor lost his life, and another his crown, in these rebellions. Many hundred books were published about the question, but people were prohibited from reading the books of the Big Endians.



At least 11,000 people suffered death at various times because they preferred death to dishonour. Many rebels escaped to Blefuscu; the Emperor of Blefuscu gave them his sympathy and encouragement, thus interfering in the internal affairs of Lilliput.

He frequently charged the Lilliputian Emperor with causing a division in religion by encouraging people to disobey a basic teaching of their ancient religion, which is given in the 54th chapter of their holy book: *'All believers shall break their egg at the convenient end.'*

But Reldresal thought that his charge was baseless, for, which was the convenient end was a question for each man to decide according to his conscience.

The two empires were engaged in a war over this question and there were frequent battles. Just now the men of Blefuscu were intending to invade Lilliput. The scouts sent out by Lilliput had reported that a fleet was getting ready to start. In this situation, the Emperor wanted my help in defending Lilliput against the invaders.

*Lilliputians used a smaller time scale than we do. "A moon" is 28 days or about a 12th part of a year.

I avoided entering into a discussion of their party questions or religious principles with Reldresal. I told him that as a foreigner I had no right to interfere in them. But I asked him to tell the Emperor that I was his loyal soldier, ready to defend his honour and the honour of the country in case there was an invasion.

Glossary

invasion /ɪn'veɪ.ʒən	attempt to conquer.
empire 'empaɪə	a group of countries ruled by a single person.
historian hɪ'stɔ:ri.ən	someone who writes about or studies history.
bloody 'blʌdi	extremely violent and involving a lot of blood and injuries.
prohibit prə'hɪbɪt	to officially forbid something.
scout skaut	a person, especially a soldier.
charge tʃɑ:dʒ	accuse formally.



Thinking about the Text

1. Why did Reldresal visit Gulliver?
2. How did Gulliver receive Reldressal?
3. What were the two political parties in Lilliput? What was their difference?
4. Why was the Government in the hands of the Low Heels though they were less numerous than the High Heels?
5. What was the external danger that the country had to face?
6. What was the question of religious principle that gave rise to the war between Lilliput and Blefuscu?
7. Why was the ancient way of breaking an egg prohibited in Lilliput?
8. How did the people take the new law?
9. What was the Emperor of Blefuscu's part in the internal troubles of Lilliput?
10. What was the teaching of their ancient religion about the right way of breaking eggs?
11. What, in Reldressal's opinion, was the meaning of teaching?
12. What did Gulliver promise to do for the Emperor?



Language Work

- a) Use the following phrases in your own sentences:

Wait upon

Carry out

Attend on

Depend on

Discuss with

Engage in

Engage with

Charge with

Prefer to

On account of

- b) Give the adjectives of the following nouns and use them in your own sentences:

Attention

Base

Convenience

Empire

Majesty

Honour

Opposition

Religion

Sympathy

Invasion

- c) Use the following words as nouns and verbs in your own sentences:

Charge

Converse

Divide

Honour

Principle

Rebel

Report

d) Find from the lesson words or phrases which mean the following:

1. wait upon a person (and carry out his orders).
2. to talk together about something; consider (a question or problem) carefully.
3. a difficult question; a matter that needs a solution.
4. like (something) better.

(Section I, para 1)

1. say something more.
2. because of.
3. coming from the outside, having to do with the outside.

(Section I, para 2)

1. separate into groups or parties; cut into parts.
2. the back part of one's foot; (in the lesson) the part of one's shoe that touches the back part of one's foot.
3. (a phrase) depending on.
4. be a mark of difference; help to tell one thing from another.
5. stand or fight against; be against.
6. one who belongs to a group or party.
7. (a phrase) on the side of; giving support to.

(Section I, para 3)

1. an area; a part (of the world).
2. a custom ; the way a thing is generally done.
3. make known to the public.
4. command (people) not to do something.
5. take part (in other people's affairs and cause them difficulty).
6. say that a person has done wrong; accuse.
7. give courage or help.
8. bring news; come and say.

(Section II, para 1)

1. keep away from.
2. a truth or rule (for example, of religion).

(Section II, para 2)



Writing Work

Explain how war broke out between the empires of Blefuscu and Lilliput.

Discussion

Discuss with your group mates a fairy tale that you have read or a movie you have seen.

Suggested Reading

Gulliver's Travels by Jonathan Swift

Gulliver in Lilliput-II

Gulliver Captures a Fleet

I

The empire of Blefuscu is an island situated to the north-east of Lilliput. It is separated from Lilliput by a channel about 800 metres wide. I had not seen Blefuscu; and now I avoided appearing on that side of the coast in case some of the enemy should see me. So far they had no news of me.

Our scouts reported that the enemy fleet lay at anchor in the harbour ready to start with the first favourable wind. I walked to the north-east coast and, hiding myself behind a small hill, in case the enemy should see me, I looked at their ships through my field glasses. I distinguished at least fifty warships and a great number of other ships for transporting men and supplies. I framed a plan to capture the warships. I got the advice of the most experienced seamen of Lilliput, who told me that the channel was about five feet deep in most places and nowhere more than six. I ordered a great quantity of the strongest cable and bars of iron. The cable was as thick as pack-thread, and the bars were of the size of knitting-needles. I twisted the cables together and made fifty strong cords. Then I made fifty hooks by twisting three bars together at a time, and fastened the hooks carefully to the cords,

Armed with these I waded into the channel, swam a little way, and in about half an hour got near the enemy fleet. The enemy was so frightened to see me that they leapt out of their ships and swam ashore. I guess they were at least 30,000 in number. I took out the cords and fastened a hook to the prow of each warship, leaving the transport alone.

II

While I was engaged in this work, the men of Blefuscu shot at me several thousand arrows as big as knitting-needles; many of them stuck in my hands and face and gave me sharp pain. I quickly took out my eye-glasses, and put them on in case the arrows should strike my eyes, and then went on with my work.

When I had fastened the hooks to the prows of all the warships, I tied their ends together into a knot. Taking the knotted end in my hand, I pulled; but not a ship moved, for they were all held fast by their anchors. So I let go the cords and began to cut the cables that fastened the anchors. Then I took up the knotted end of the cords again, and with ease drew after me the entire fleet of the enemy.

When the men of Blefuscu saw this, they shouted in despair; at first they had not guessed my intention. When I was out of danger, I stopped a while to pull out the arrows that stuck in my face. I rubbed on an ointment that the Lilliputians had given me for the purpose, and it relieved the pain at once.

The Emperor of Lilliput, attended by all his court, was waiting on the shore to see the outcome of this great adventure. They saw the entire fleet advance in the shape of a large half-moon, but could not distinguish me because I was up to my neck in water. So they thought that I had been drowned and that the enemy fleet was advancing for battle. They felt greatly relieved when they saw me. I held up my hand from the water and cried in a loud voice, “Long live the mightiest Emperor of Lilliput!” The Emperor received me with honour and made me a Great Lord on the spot.

Glossary

anchor 'æŋkər	device to hold ship in place.
armed (adj) ɑ:md	using or carrying weapons.
wade weɪd	to walk through water with difficulty.
prow prau	the front part of a boat or ship.
knot nɒt	a fastening made by tying together the ends of a string, rope, cloth, etc.
fleet fli:t	group of ships, or all of the ships in a country's navy.
ointment 'ɔɪntmənt	thick oily substance.
outcome 'aʊtkʌm	a result or effect of an action, situation, etc.
relieve ri'li:v	to provide relief for a bad situation or for people in need.



Thinking about the Text

1. Where was Blefuscu situated and what separated it from Lilliput?
2. Why did Gulliver avoid appearing on the north-east coast of Lilliput?
3. How deep was the channel? What were the devices with which Gulliver armed himself?
4. Why did Gulliver seek the advice of the most experienced sailor?
5. What did the Blefuscan soldiers do while Gulliver was fastening hooks to the warships?
6. What did Gulliver do to save his eyes?
7. Why did the ships not move when Gulliver pulled them?
8. What did Gulliver do to relieve the pain caused by the arrows?
9. What did the Emperor and his court think on seeing the fleet at a distance?
10. How did Gulliver show his loyalty to the Emperor?
11. How did the Emperor reward him for his services?



Language Work

(a) Find from the lesson words which mean the following:

1. (an adjective meaning) placed (in a certain position).
2. divide; keep apart.

(Section I, para. 1)

1. make out; make out from other things.
2. a thick strong rope.
3. fix; tie.

(Section I, para 2)

1. To the shore.

(Section I, para 3)

1. a substance used on the skin to relieve pain, etc.
2. make (pain etc.) less; free somebody from worry.

(Section II, Para 3)

(b) Find the verbs from which the following nouns have been formed:

Intention

Engagement

Situation

Relief

Distinction

Advancement

Beginning

Knitting

Transportation

(c) Use the following phrases in your own sentences:

leave alone

let go

on the spot

in case of

look up

give up

give in

give way

give away

help out

at least

be situated in a place

distinguish from

lie at anchor

d) Punctuate the following:

1. while they stood amazed at the sight ariel said to antonio and the king you are two men guilty before god and man think of your evil deeds
2. O wonder said miranda when she saw so many people together how many wonderful people are there here how beautiful mankind is



Writing Work

Give a brief account of how Gulliver captured the Blefuscan fleet?

Discussion

Discuss any TV serial based on a legendary tale with your group mates.

Suggested Reading

Animal Farm by George Orwell.

Tongue Twister

You've no need to light a night-light
On a light night like tonight,
For a night-light's light a slight light,
And tonight's a night that's light.
When a night's light, like tonight's light,
It is really not quite right
To light night-lights with their slight lights
On a light night like tonight.