



ENGLISH (H) VI SEMESTER. BRITISH LITERATURE

'GULLIVER'S TRAVELS' - VOYAGE IV

It is about Gulliver's voyage to Houyhnhnms' land.

Gulliver lands up in a place abounding some repulsive animals, thickly hairy in some parts of their body, had long claws but no tails and could climb trees like squirrels; he sights these Boutes, who

begin discharging excrements on him. Just then he saw a horse, seeing whom the boutes disappeared.

Gulliver was surprised to see them so orderly and intelligent. and while talking they referred to 'Yahoo'.

He can sense the apparent physical resemblance between Yahoo and himself, and this fact makes him hate himself. The master - Horse

(Houyhnhnm) was convinced that Gulliver was a Yahoo but he was perplexed at his un-Yahoo

qualities like his capacity to learn new language

(Gulliver displays this special quality in all the different voyages) civility, cleanliness and clothes.

However, the master Houyhnhnm is unable to

understand why Gulliver should wear clothes to hide some parts of his body. Despite the basic similarities between him and Yahoo, Gulliver requests him not to address him as a Yahoo.

While the Master Houyhnhnm is unable to accept that in all other countries men like Gulliver are the presiding rational creatures and horses are brute animals, Gulliver too informs him that the reality of horses being rational creatures and human-like Yahoos being brutish would be difficult to convince others. Houyhnhnms' incl. on rationality is to such a great degree that it is confined to countries like theirs and where horses do not rule, they are regarded by Yahoos.

Chapter 4 expresses deep distress of Houyhnhnm Master when Gulliver tells him about the inferior position of horses, that they were beaten and even castrated and worst of all, trained to serve Yahoos. Houyhnhnms are largely ruled by reason and show very little passion and no lust, anger or greed, thus Master is unable to understand men's habit of lying.



Chapters 5 and 6 explain Gulliver's accounts of religious causes of wars, human beings' deformity to what kind even in the men of God. He freely talks about the corruption in various parts of England, be it foreign policy, law courts; one finds Gulliver getting completely influenced by honesty and reason of Houyhnhnms. They also reveal Gulliver's honest description of human beings avaricious nature, the greed of government officials of England, and their resorting to heinous crime for power.

(ch 7) These confessions make Gulliver believe agree that Houyhnhnms were epitome of Honesty and contrasted with man's passions. He found man's honour unworthy and incapable of defense before the sharply intelligent Houyhnhnms. It made Gulliver decide never to go back to his kind but to live and die surrounded by the noble horses.

Rest of the Book IV focuses on reasons that make Houyhnhnms superior, viz; temperance, industry, exercise cleanliness in both male and female. The presentation

of Houyhnhnm life seems to be exhorting human beings to do some self-inspection, self-examination and self-judgment nevertheless. He stayed in a good while amongst them and was feeling very tranquil and healthy but he got message that their assembly had decided, he must leave. There is ironical suggestion in the fact that Gulliver had begun imitating their gait's gesture.

He leaves the place but is greatly upset how he will live among his own people and their vicious and corrupt ways. Needless to say, he hated the very sight of the captain of the ship he had boarded although he was courteous and generous. Gulliver remarks that Pedro de Mendez was so polite and showed such a moving concern for him that he decided to treat him as a creature having some little portion of reason.

One Comment -

Gulliver nevertheless emerges very arrogant and proud in the league of Houyhnhnms. Even for his own family he has nothing but hatred and contempt. His pursuit of reason and virtues, divorced from feeling & emotion, has resulted in madness and so prefers living with horses than his family. Most importantly, but Swift is not Gulliver and he does not share Gulliver's madness or hatred of mankind.