

Empower Contradictory and Whimsical Culture in Gulliver's Travels Part I & II

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Abstract

The culture contradictions in two grotesque lands provide the whimsical experiences of the traveler. Swift explains the culture and politics in satiric way. He mocked England's government and politics by describing the Lilliput and Borbidingang's ruling. The people's way of living expressed through their culture. The Lilliput was reversed from Borbidingang in all the ways. The Lilliputians has no reason, logic and justice in ruling. They followed certain culture in burial and in selecting official in the court which shows their stupidity. The Borbidingians look for their country but didn't had perfectness in anything. The Lilliputians were little but have a massive view for their living, while Borbidingians were massive but little in their thoughts.

The culture in a country either magnifies or dignifies the people's way of living. It portrays who they are and what they are up to. People create culture and politics for own conveniences. People's indulgence over other country's culture and politics have a great impact on redressing the mistakes in own practices. Swift exposed immorality in culture and politics of England through the protagonist, Gulliver's voyages.

Jonathan Swift wrote Gulliver's Travels, in which he expressed the four kinds of lands that follow contrast cultures. Gulliver caught up in shipwrecks that unfortunately landed in grotesque countries where he explored the contradiction of culture and politics among those lands with England. Gulliver's first voyage to Lilliput made readers to know how England's culture and politics handled in that period which in his second voyage to Borbidingang made them to understand England's culture and politics.

Gulliver spends his days as a refugee in Lilliput. The Lilliput mirrored England in many ways. The conflicts among people showed the improper way of ruling of the Capital. The conflicts between High-heels and Low-heels in Lilliput compared to the conflicts between Tories and Whigs in England. The few people support royals and few supports parliament. This happens when the people have dissatisfaction in ruling. The selecting of ministers in Lilliput happened by conducting the rope dancing game. The winner assigned as a minister in the empire. Meredith Spies says

Lilliput the most famous of the places as everyone who has heard of Gulliver's Travel tend to remember the diminutive people and Gulliver being a giant amongst them, has an emperor who chooses his ministers by how well they walk on a tightrope. Swift used a metaphor to criticize the way British political leaders had to walk a thin line between doing what the king wanted and doing what they felt was right. (Spies web)

This showed the qualification for ministers was a disgrace in the view of Gulliver. Likewise in England, electing ministers happened with unacceptable qualification. Those selected ministers being as a cat on the wall to don't know whether they should follow the Government's order or should perform for their thought.

The Lilliput portrayed to be little-Endians and Blefuscu portrayed to be Big-Endians which mirrored the Protestants and Catholics conflict in England. The Lilliputians want to crack the egg from small end and Blefuscu want crack from big end. This exposes the different cultures and religious beliefs of them which depicted the religious fight between Protestants and Catholics in England. Ramji Lal tells

The pigmies of Lilliput are an example of the disproportion of man like Gulliver himself. Their appetites, their vices, their ambition, and their passions are too big for their small stature. They appear to Gulliver to be venomous and petty, even as Gulliver to be venomous and petty, even as Gulliver and his kind must appear to be some highest order of beings (Lal 104)

Lilliputians are mean to fight amongst themselves all the time. They build their own weapons and are awesome in mechanics. The Lilliputians' thoughts were too massive. They want to explore things outside their country. They didn't care and desired war for everything to have a rule over the whole world.

Gulliver thought his culture and politics was superior to the others until his second voyage bechanced. Gulliver entered as Lilliputian in Borbingdang. The voyage to Borbingdang showed Gulliver how their Government and warfare were so far better than his country. Gulliver explained the making of gunpowder and the way of using the guns to the Emperor of Borbingdang. When he describes the manufacture of weaponries, it expressed the developed stage as well as cruelty of the England. Gulliver expects the king to be impressed with the large English army, but the king amazed at the idea that the government would have a standing army when they were at peace and lived in a free country. Paul Turner in his work says about the shock of king.

King of Brobdingnag is humane enough to be shocked by European warfare. He acts, as we have seen, as an extension of part one view point: he judges, as a superior being, the moral shortcomings of little odious vermin described to him by Gulliver (Turner 22).

The expectation of Gulliver in impressing the king about warfare by explaining gun powders also shutters.

The politics of the Lilliputians are similar to those in England, and Swift makes sure to highlight the differences of the two main parties the way in a way that they mirror those of the Tories and Whigs, in all this Lilliputians are tiny but their sixe is nothing to feel safe about. They have machinations in terms of everything, from their everyday life, to the making of war machinery, to the way that people backstab each other and out of court. They are little people with massive personalities.

The King of Brobdingdang ruled perceptiveness on ruling is to keep the country peace and free. By providing freedom to speech, primarily he developed the welfare of the people. The Borbingdangians were uncivilized and stupidity exposed in their whimsical culture over treating the accused persons in court. The pigmies of Borbingdang were more than 50 feet in height. They were only massive in height but explored little. They don't look or involve into the other countries performances.

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