

LA VISIONE DEL MONDO  
SETTECENTESCO IN

# GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

DI SWIFT

VIAGGIO VERSO L'IGNOTO

SCOPERTA DELL'IGNOTO

SCOPERTA DELL'ALTRO

RELATIVITA' DELLE DIMENSIONI

CRITICA DELLA SCIENZA UFFICIALE



# Viaggio verso l'ignoto



**IL DESIDERIO DI CONOSCENZA TIPICO DELL'UOMO SETTECENTESCO PORTA GULLIVER AD ABBANDONARE LA SUA COMODA REALTÀ QUOTIDIANA PER SEGUIRE IL SUO INNATO DESIDERIO DI SPERIMENTARE E CONOSCERE NUOVI MONDI E NUOVE REALTÀ.**



# Viaggio verso l'ignoto

## Historical perspective

### TRAVEL LITERATURE

THE TRAVEL LITERATURE BECAME  
A FASHION IN THE 1700 CENTURY.

THIS LITERATURE DEVELOPED  
AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF  
AMERICA: IT CAN TALK ABOUT  
HEROIC ACTIONS AND  
CONQUESTS OR ANOTHER  
ASPECT CAN ANALISE THE  
RELIGIOUS TRAVELS IN THE  
FORMS OF CRUSADES AND  
PILGRIMAGES.

### NATURAL PHILOSOPHY

TRAVEL LITERATURE  
SOON BECAME AN  
IMPORTANT SOURCE OF  
KNOWLEDGE IN  
NATURAL PHILOSOPHY.



# Scoperta

## The human condition dell'ignoto



GULLIVER'S TRAVELS IS A POLITICAL SATIRE IN THE FORM OF AN ADVENTURE NOVEL.

SWIFT CREATES SEVERAL FANTASY WORLDS TO WHICH HIS CHARACTER LEMUEL GULLIVER TRAVELS, THERE HE LEARNS THAT ENGLISH INSTITUTIONS, SUCH AS THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SOCIAL STRUCTURE, ARE NOT NECESSARILY IDEAL IN CONTRAST WITH THE NEW REALITIES THAT HE DISCOVERS.



# Scoperta

SWIFT SENDS HIS HOPELESS HERO GULLIVER ON A SERIES OF SURREAL ADVENTURES IN FICTIONAL FOREIGN LANDS: EACH ADVENTURE AND EACH NEW LAND ILLUMINATES SOMETHING NEW ABOUT SWIFT'S ENGLAND.

*dell'ignoto*

THE ISLAND  
OF THE  
LILLIPUTIANS  
WE LEARN THE  
CORRUPTION  
AND THE  
AMBITION OF  
LIFE AT COURT.

THE GIANT'S  
ISLAND  
IN THIS WORLD  
THE KING HAS  
CREATED A  
SUPERIOR  
LEVEL OF  
CULTURE  
RESPECT TO  
THE BRITISH  
ONE

THE ISLAND  
OF LAPUTA  
WE LEARN THE  
ABSURDITY OF  
SOME  
SCIENTIFICAL  
INVENTIONS  
PATRONISED  
BY THE ROYAL  
NATIONAL  
SOCIETY.

THE LAND OF  
THE HORSES  
WE MEET THE  
YAHOOOS  
DEGRADED  
HUMANS WITHOUT  
ANY KIND OF  
RESPECT FOR  
EACH OTHER.  
WE MEET  
HOUYHNNHMS  
HORSES THAT ARE  
INTELLIGENT AND  
RULE BETTER  
THAN HUMAN  
BEINGS



# Scoperta

THE DISCOVERY OF THE OTHER OFTEN INVOLVES VARIOUS REACTIONS.

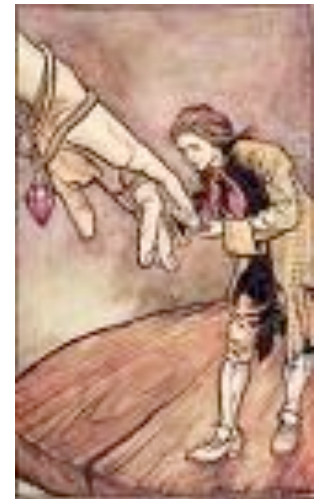
# dell'altro

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FOUR BOOKS:

IN THE FIRST BOOK: WHEN THE PROTAGONIST ARRIVES ON THE COASTS OF THE ISLAND OF THE LILLIPUTIANS IS RECOGNIZED INITIALLY AS AN ENEMY; AFTER HAVING DEMONSTRATED HIS PACIFIC DISPOSITION AND SWORNE FIDELITY TO THE EMPEROR, HE IS OFFERED LODGING AND MAINTENANCE AND IS RECEIVED AT COURT.



IN THE SECOND BOOK: RETURNED TO SEA, GULLIVER ARRIVES IN THE ISLAND OF THE GIANTS. HE IS FOUND FROM A HIGH PEASANT GIRL APPROXIMATELY 22 M.TALL! LATER ON HE BECOMES THE ATTRACTION OF A CIRCUS, UNTIL HE ISN'T NOTICED FROM THE QUEEN OF THE ISLAND, SO HE IS CALLED TO COURT TO SERVICE LIKE AN ENTERTAINMENT FOR THE QUEEN AND HER COURTISANS.



# Scoperta dell'altro

THE DISCOVERY OF THE OTHER OFTEN INVOLVES VARIOUS REACTIONS.

IN THE THIRD BOOK : GULLIVER ARRIVES IN THE ISLAND OF LAPUTA, A FLYING LAND. HERE THE PEOPLE DEDICATE THEIR TIME TO THE MUSIC AND THE MATHS, BUT THEY ARE UNABLE TO APPLY THESE DISCIPLINES TO PRATICAL ENDS. IN THIS BOOK ARE ALSO DESCRIBED SOME MAD SCIENTISTS THAT RAPPRESENT A HARSH CRITIC TO THE ROYAL NATIONAL SOCIETY.



IN THE FOURTH BOOK: GULLIVER MEETS THE YAHOO AND THE HOUYHNHNMS: A SOCIETY APPARENTLY PERFECT, BUT IN WHICH THE HUMANS ARE SLAVES TO HORSES. HE DEMONSTRATES THAT THE MAN IS NOT A REASONABLE ANIMAL, BUT SIMPLY ONE ENDOWED WITH REASON, WHICH HE IS NOT ALWAYS ABLE TO USE IN THE RIGHT WAY.



# La relatività

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS, WRITTEN APPARENTLY AS A SATIRE OF POLITICAL, SOCIETAL AND RELIGIOUS ISSUES, IS JONATHAN SWIFT'S COMMENTARY ON SPECIFIC PROBLEMS OF HIS DAYS.



IT LOOKS AT HOW THE NARRATOR OF THE NOVEL, LEMUEL GULLIVER, IS A HIGHLY NAIVE MAN AND HOW THE SATIRE IS POSSIBLE ONLY BECAUSE OF GULLIVER'S IMMENSE NAIVETY. IN PARTICULAR IT LOOKS AT HOW SWIFT USES THE NOTIONS OF BIGNESS AND LITTLENES IN HIS SATIRE IN VARIOUS WAYS. HE SHOWS HOW THE FIRST GROUP OF NATIVE(LILLIPUTIANS) ARE MORALLY AND PHYSICALLY LITTLE, WHILE IN CONTRAST WITH THE SECOND GROUP THAT GULLIVER ENCOUNTERS(THE GIANTS), HE, HIMSELF, IS THE LITTLE ONE PHYSICALLY, SO REALISING THAT HIS OWN MORALITY AND PATRIOTISM ARE LITTLE BY COMPARISON.



**LITTLE**

VERSUS

**BIG**

LITTLENESS

MORAL DIMENSION

THE LILLIPUTIANS

THE BROGDIGNANS

CRITIQUE TO THE NARROWNESS  
OF THOUGHT OF THE BRITISH  
GOVERNMENT

CRITIQUE TO THE UNPROPER USE  
THE ENGLISH GOVERNORS MAKE  
OF THEIR POWER

The relativity of dimensions means a relativity of the point of view !

WHAT IS WRONG?

WHAT IS RIGHT?

WHAT IS CORRECT?

**Is there a unique and right point of view ?**

**Lemuel learns that human beings are little thing  
respect to the general order of cosmos**



# *Gulliver ago di misura dei mondi che visita :*

*quale punto di vista?*



LITERATURE INVITES ITS READERS TO DRAW METAPHORICAL CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THE PROSE AND WHAT THE READER FEELS AS HIS OR HER OWN PERSONAL EXPERIENCE.

GULLIVER'S FUNCTION IS TO GIVE THE SENSE OF TRUSTFULLNESS, HE COMES FROM THE BRITISH WORLD (OSTENSIBLY THE LAND OF THE REAL) AND SO THE BRITISH READERS FEELS HE CAN BE USED AS A NEEDLE OF THE BALANCE TO ESTABLISH DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE REAL AND THE FANTASY WORLDS HE VISITS. THIS PROCESS REFLECTS THE IDEOLOGICAL CONSTRUCTIONS OF THE BRITISH SUBJECT IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD.



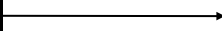
# Critica della

*scienza ufficiale*

JONATHAN SWIFT WAS A MAN WITH A HARSH AND CRITICAL SENSE OF HUMOR. HE WROTE SATIRES AND PARODIES THAT LAMBASTED THE MORALS. GULLIVER'S TRAVELS IS AN EXAMPLE OF SWIFT'S MERCILESS WIT.



GULLIVER'S TRAVELS



IN THE ISLAND OF LAPUTA LIVE ALL TOGHETER AN ENOURMOUS AMOUNT OF SCIENTISTS, INVENTORS, WHO DEDICATE THEIR LIFE TO THE DISCOVERY OF SOMETHING NEW, BUT THOSE DISCOVERIES ARE TOTALLY FOOLISH.



# Critica della

# scienza ufficiale

SWIFT IS GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF HUMAN PROGRESS, BUT REMINDS HIS READERS THAT THEY MUST SIMULTANEOUSLY INVESTIGATIVE THEMSELVES AS WELL AS THE OUTSIDE WORLD, SO AS NOT TO LOSE THEIR ESSENTIAL HUMANITY. MANY PHILOSOPHERS AND CRITICS POINT TO THE DANGER OF LOSING ONESELF WHEN TRAVELING, IN PARTICULAR, SWIFT USES GULLIVER'S TRAVELS TO PAINT RATHER STARTLING PICTURE OF A MAN WHO DENIES HIS HOME IN ORDER TO STAY ABROAD. ULTIMATELY, ALL OF GULLIVER'S TRAVELS SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE AMONG OTHER CULTURES SERVES TO COMPLETELY STRIP HIM OF HIS HUMANITY, SUCH THAT THE READER IS LEFT WITH SIGNIFICANT DOUBTS ABOUT BOTH THE FEASIBILITY AND HUMANENESS OF THE EMPIRICAL PROJECT INHERITED FROM BACON.



# Critica della

# za ufficiale

THE EMERGENCE OF THE NEW SCIENCE IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY BROUGHT WITH IT THE NEED FOR NEW INSTITUTIONS. THE NEW SCIENCE CONTINUED TO FLOURISH EVEN THOUGH THE NEW SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS WAXED AND WANED IN THEIR INFLUENCE AND EFFECTIVENESS.



**THE ROYAL NATIONAL SOCIETY**



# The Royal

WHAT SWIFT SATIRIZES IS NOT ACTUALLY SCIENCE IN ITSELF, BUT THE USE IT IS MADE OF IT IN THE NAME OF AN ABSOLUTE BELIEF IN THE POSSIBILITIES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD.

# National Society

## WHAT WAS HE AGAINST THEN?

- HE WAS AGAINST THE HYPOCRISY OF SCIENTISTS WHO BY ALWAYS BEGGING FOR MONEY, MIXED SCIENTIFIC SPECULATION AND SPECULATIVE INVESTMENTS IN PROJECTS THAT MIGHT NOT WORK!! BUT WERE EXTREMELY PROFITABLE!!
- HE WAS AGAINST ANY ASPECTS OF HUMAN LIFE AND THINKING LOST IN ABSTRACT CONCEPTS EXCLUDING THE MORE PRAGMATIC PROBLEMS OF LIFE
- HE WAS AGAINST THE BELIEF OF THE SUPREMACY OF REASON, OFTEN SO BADLY USED.