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BOOK REVIEW

TITLE OF THE BOOK: Gulliver's Travels

AUTHOR OF THE BOOK: Jonathan Swift

Introduction:

I chose to read Gulliver's Travels because it is considered one of the greatest classics in English literature. The idea of a story that blends adventure and fantasy really caught my attention. I had heard that this book was not just a fantasy story but a

sharp criticism of human behavior, politics and society.

I was interested by the idea of reading a novel that would not only lead me on thrilling adventures to fantasy worlds but would also get me to understand the weaknesses of human nature and society. This ideal combination of enjoyment and awareness made me keen to read the book.

I expected to dive into a fantasy world as well as learn valuable experiences when I first started reading the book.

Summary:

The novel is about Lemuel Gulliver, a surgeon on a ship, who embarks on four remarkable journeys to unknown

countries. In each country, he meets unusual beings and peculiar cultures.

His first journey is in Lilliput, a country of little people where he is the large and powerful one. In this country, absurd political disputes dominate their existence. Then he travels to Brobdingnag, the country of giants, where he is tiny and powerless. He learnt how humans looked from a different perspective. His third journey is to Laputa, an island of scientists and philosophers, isolated from reality. He meets strange people obsessed with science and technology but completely detached from reality. Lastly, he arrives at the Houyhnhnms' land, intelligent and rational horses who live in harmony, and rule over brutal human-like creatures called Yahoos who tend to be greedy and corrupt.

With these things he got to learn from these journeys, Jonathan Swift pokes fun at human pride, greed, foolishness, stupidity, and corruption taking place in the society in a sarcastic but effective manner.

Analysis & Opinion:

What I was most impressed with in Gulliver's Travel was Swift's clever use of satire. He uses Gulliver's adventures to criticize the politics, the culture, and the conduct of humankind but in an entertaining way. *A line (direct speech) that really struck with me was Gulliver's remark regarding Lilliputians : "I cannot but conclude the bulk of your natives to be the most pernicious race of little odious vermin that nature ever suffered to*

crawl upon the surface of the earth.” This shows how disgusted he was after observing their petty fights and selfishness. This line also reveals Swift's bitter comment regarding human nature.

There is also another example(indirect speech) where Gulliver described how the king of Brobdingnag responded to England’s politics. Gulliver explains that the King said that he could not understand how such ignorant, vicious, and corrupt people could govern a nation. This shows Swift’s criticism of politics in his time.

Among all the characters in the book, The ***KING Of BROBDINGNAG*** particularly stood out for me. Despite being a giant, he was wise, gentle and very practical. When Gulliver described England’s politics, the King was shocked. In his eyes, human civilization was filled with

violence and foolishness rather than true greatness. I admired the King's simplicity, intelligence and critical thinking- qualities that are rare even in the real world.

I also found Gulliver's change of heart interesting - from a curious traveler who wanted to learn about the world to one who becomes utterly disappointed with mankind. I did, however, feel that parts of the book were too descriptive and lengthy.

The overall message of the novel is clear --- to look at our society critically and reflect on our(human) behavior.

Personal Connection:

Reading Gulliver's Travels made me reflect on the world around me. It prompted me to look back and consider how we, as human beings, act in society. It made me realize how often we turn a blind eye to our own mistakes. Just like Gulliver, we sometimes get carried away by pride and greed without thinking about the consequences. His adventures reminded me that life is full of challenges, but every problem can turn out to be a blessing in disguise if we are willing to learn from it.

This book inspired me to keep an open mind and not judge things at face value. I also learnt that while yearning for greatness, weaknesses often get in the way. We need to overcome them so we can achieve great heights. The book taught me to be humble, to be open-minded, and careful with my actions.

Conclusion:

Overall, I highly recommend Gulliver's Travels to everyone who enjoys a good adventure tale with a deeper meaning. It's not just an exciting tale of travels, but also a powerful commentary on human nature. The novel makes readers laugh, think and question the world around them-all at the same time.

The different lands that Gulliver visits are symbols of the different aspects of human society, and each journey carries a powerful lesson. Whether it is the politics of Lilliput, the harsh realities of Brobdingnag, the uselessness of Laputa or the flawless reasoning of the Houyhnhnms—Swift

presents a mirror to human life and makes us think deeply.

Finally, I can firmly say that this book left me with a lasting impression. It reminded me that true greatness does not lie in power of wealth but in wisdom, simplicity and humanity as showcased by the **KING OF BROBDINGNAG**.

I believe that Gulliver's travels is a must-read for everyone because it can make readers laugh, think, ponder and learn-all at the same time. It lived up to its name as one of the greatest classics of English Literature.

