

Jacobean Age Background

1603

- A very crucial year politically, socially and nationally.
- Queen Elizabeth died.
- James VI of Scotland became the King of England as James I
- He was a descendant of Margaret Tudor, hence he continued the Tudor lineage in English monarchical hierarchy.
- He was a son of Mary of Scotland, hence a cousin of Elizabeth I.
- Colonization, geographical exploration and inter-continental trade was at its peak.
- Plague appeared during the same year taking a toll on the social life of England.
- 1600 AD- East India Company is established.
- Hence, a venture started by Queen Elizabeth I was taken forward by James I.
- Union of Crowns- A Scottish Prince ascended the throne of England and Ireland. Hence, all the 3 nations were combined for administrative purpose.
- He was the first King in the history of European autocratic lineage who ruled both England and Scotland simultaneously.
- The unification that began here ultimately led to the Acts of Union of 1707 which led to an official coming together of England and Scotland in a union.
- United Kingdom of Great Britain was formed on 1 May 1707.

- James I wrote *The True Law of Free Monarchies* (1598) in which he presented his ideas of royal absolutism. He proclaimed the divine right of the king and monarchy. It is a work of political treatise.
- King James Bible/King James Version/Authorized Version is the Bible that was authorized by the crown of Great Britain. It was completed between 1604-1611.
- Its main sources are The Old Testament, The New Testament and Apocrypha.
- 1605- Gun Powder Revolt- A conspiracy to assassinate James I and fix his daughter Elizabeth as a puppet monarch by Robert Catesby- an English Catholic. Guy Fawkes was one of his revolvers.
- The conspiracy was to smuggle 36 barrels of gunpowder into a cellar of the House of Lords and to crash down the whole building including the king.
- However, the plan got unearthed when one of the Lords in the House (Lord Monteagle), the brother-in-law of one of the conspirators got an anonymous letter to stay away from the House of Parliament on 5th November 1605. This raised alarm.
- The conspiracy was curated to stop royal persecution of Roman Catholics in England.
- After a strong Protestant King taking over the charge of the Great Britain the Pope of the Roman Catholic Church had no option but to give in.
- Hence, Oath of Allegiance was signed in **1606** which de-powered the Pope from deposing off the King in any circumstance.

- Simultaneously, the first session of House of Commons or the Blessed Parliament sat down on **6 January 1606** after 2 failed attempts in 1604 and 5 November, 1605.
- King James equated himself with King Augustus of the Roman empire.
- He was also interested in Witchcraft.
- He published *Daemonologie* in 1597.
- An English translation was brought out in 1603.
- It is written in the form of a dialogue.
- Part I- Magic and Necromancy
- Part II- Witchcraft
- Part III- Spirits
- It also included a famous Scottish pamphlet on trials of witches in Scotland called as “*News From Scotland*” (1591).
- *The Discovery of Witchcraft* (1584) by Reginald Scott.

Study of Humors

- Popularized by Robert Burton and put to advantage in literature by Ben Jonson.
- Robert Burton published his seminal work on theory of Humors as *Anatomy of Melancholy* (1621).
- Full title: *The Anatomy of Melancholy, What it is: With all the Kinds, Causes, Symptomes, Prognostickes, and Several Cures of it. In Three Maine Partitions with their several Sections, Members, and Subsections. Philosophically, Medicinally, Historically, Opened and Cut Up.*

- Preface: “Democritus Junior to the Reader”- He describes his own melancholic condition, to wade which away he decided to write this book as idleness is the biggest cause of melancholy.
- Robert Burton read works on Humors- blood (passion), phlegm (melancholy), yellow bile (anger) and black bile (lethargy)- by Galen.
- The Book is written in 3 sections.
- Total 6 editions were published.