

# **Battle of the Books (1)**

## **PG Semester 1**

### **CC 4**

### **Unit II**

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Swift's grave sarcasm is terrible we think he is showing respect and he slays. Her approbation is a flagellation. Beauty he makes us see skin deep beneath it is a vile carcase this moral indignation at human corruptions and depravities is the motivating force behind all his satires. He seems to say, "I am ashamed to attack you. You are so weak that even supported, you must fall. Your reasonings are your sham and excuses are your condemnation. Thus the more serious the irony, the stronger it is.

Swift imports into literature the positive spirit of men of business and experience. Nothing could be more vigorous, narrow, unhappy for nothing could be more destructive. No greatness, false or true can stand before him. Whatsoever he fathoms and takes in hand loses at once its prestige and value. While he decomposes, he displays the real ugliness and removes the fictions beauty of objects. Whilst

he brings them to the level of common things, he suppresses their real beauty and gives them a fictitious ugliness. He presents all their gross features, and nothing but their gross features. We shall look with him into the physical details of science, religion, state and with him reduce science, religion, state to the low standing of everyday events with him, we shall see a Bedlam of shrivelled up dreamers narrow and chimerical brains, busy in contradicting heaping, adoring figures of rhetoric as mysterious, attaching holiness or impiety to lawn sleeves or postures, spending in persecutions or genuflexions the surplus of sheepish or ferocious folly with which an evil fate has crammed their brains.

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