

## **Battle of the Books (2)**

### **PG Semester 1**

#### **CC 4**

#### **Unit II**

**Dr. Md. Shahnawaz Alam**

Assistant Professor (Guest Faculty)

P.G. Department of English

Maharaja College, Arrah

'The Battle of the Books' is fixed by an anger still aimed at a special object-at certain forms of intellectual ambition and error. Pedantry, false erudition, rabid controversy are connected with the thesis of the 'moderns', the insolent mean enemies of the glory of the ancients. Until the dawn of the Renaissance the ancient learning and knowledge were looked upon as the summit of human civilization. Since the idea of progress had not yet crossed men's minds, the ancients were worshipped as the final authority in all fields of learning. Swift does not seem to put any trust in science, either in its present or in its future. He derides equally the euridate inferences of Bentley and Newton's theory of gravitation. These hypothesis he holds, are the playthings of thought. Fashion up holds them, and then they pass away. Like Samuel Butler, he joylessly witnesses in the first flush of the modern age, the awakening of the mental unrest, which will produce the scientific conquest of the world. His attention turned towards

the past, is above all aware of innumerable failures of scholastic charlatanry. The moderns, according to him, have added nothing which really matters to the sound reasoning of the ancients to the images and devices of the epic is the example of the fecundity at this epoch of the mock-heroic theme.

Dr. Md. Shah Nawaz Alam