

5 - to examine Swift as a satirist
as with a certain note on his Satire, irony and Humour
is "A Tale of a Tub."

Q. Discuss "A Tale of a Tub" as a religious satire
Ans. The irony of Swift is one of the satirical devices to present

and indirectly the shortcomings of human life. The nature of his irony is like that of the irony of Shaw. His irony creates shock and surprise. Swift, like Shaw, knows that human beings are full of illusions about themselves and about the achievements of their civilisation. The illusions of man have made him complacent and proud. Bernard Shaw states the complacency of the people of ^{his} the age. The irony of Swift shatters the complacency of the people of the 18th century.

Satire was his blood and no laughing matter. He and his son and Steele laughed gently at the foibles of their fellow men and tried to correct them by showing how ridiculous their small weaknesses looked. Swift, on the other hand, was a ferocious satirist. Sin and folly did not amuse him. They made him terribly angry. As Southey has said, "Swift's satire is a spontaneous overflow of powerful indignation." His main aim was to make sin and folly bleed. His satire was highly intellectual. With his keen eye he saw the physical, intellectual and moral diseases of mankind. These forced him to write satires. His satire is directed against human beings in general and other political, social and religious institutions. His satire against pedantry is to be seen in "A Tale of a Tub." His best satire against science and philosophy is to be seen in the Third Book of Gulliver's Travels. His satire against the abuses in religion is to be found in "A Tale of a Tub" and his Argument against Obsolescing Christianity.

The main aim of ~~writing~~ Swift behind writing "A Tale of a Tub" is to show that the church of England was the noblest church in Christendom. His Martin represents the church of England, the noblest character in the book. Martin had two other brothers named Peter and Jack. The only thing that Martin does is remove the gold lace and silver fringe ^{with} from his coat very softly. Peter became Lord Peter a

and starts being a winged like, he gives bread to his
brothers and wants them to believe that it is manna
and wine Swift makes ~~some~~ the fun of the sacred case
many of transubstantiation in which it is believed that
the bread and wine in the church get transformed
into the flesh and blood of Christ. The belief in the
multiplication of Virgin Mary's milk is made fun of under
the clergy of cows which gave as much milk as a cow
as would fill three thousand churches. The wood of the cross
on which Jesus was crucified is likened to an old
signpost that belonged to his father with nails and timbers
enough upon it to build sixteen large men of war.

Everyone regards the Christian martyrs with
great respect but Swift makes fun of this by saying that
Jack used to request people to give him a kick and
break his head and he used to pretend that the people
beyond Christians naturally wish to be guided in all
their actions by the words of the Bible. But Swift makes
fun of it and when Jack treats the Bible as meat, drink
and cloth and a universal medicine for his digestion
on madness he says that mad men should be selected
to fill some senior ecclesiastical offices. A mad man
would make a good Bishop. Religious enthusiasm was a
product of sexual excitement. The prophets who thought
of new religions were mad men.

According to Middleton Murry, the tale is man-

ifestation of the comic spirit which irrepressible and irres-
onable and is bent on making fun of all persons and
beliefs. So it is a religious satire at all. It is suffused
with wit and humour throughout. The comic spirit takes
hold of him and he makes fun of everything in the rea-
lms of religion and literature. In the world of satirical
literature Swift has gained recognition as a power-
ful moral satirist. A satirist aims at the amendmen-
of vices by correction. His articles and books show
that he was deeply shocked at the corrupt way
of the world. The thus "A Tale of a Tub" is the
product of the corrupt practices of the British
Church of his time.