

Describe the Supernatural elements of the Poem of the Lock.

It was strictly an accordance with the fashion of the day. Not that it affected the supernatural machinery of the Poem of the Lock. He said in his dedication, "The machinery of the poem is determined to arise on a very new and old foundation the Rosicrucian doctrine of spirits." The wonderful aspects of the poet which the deities, angels or demons are said to act in a poem. The theory had been formalized in 1614 in the Frankforter in Germany. It was also used to provide fashionable exotic entertainment in the Comedie by the Abbe de Moutfaucon de Villars. Pope used it on his French Nouvelle which contained an account of a strange community of people known as the Rosicrucians. These Rosicrucians believed in a fantastic system of supernatural being divided into four categories according to four elements - fire, water, air and earth, inhabited by four kinds of spirits - Salamanders, Nymphs, Sylphs and Gnomes.

Pope's main aim was not to ridicule the heroic kind of poetry, or to provide humorous parallels to all the principal of epic but to diminish the petty quarrel over the lock of hair. But when it was greeted by the readers in general, the poet enlarged its length from two cantos before with the help of epic allusions in the form of a visit to the cave of spleen, the game of oobee and the name of Azrael and the Sylphs. According to the poet himself, the word very refers to that part which the deities, angels or demons. The machinery covers the whole work. So, like Aristophanes and Virgil, he too used it in his poem. The supernatural aspects are very happily suited to the purpose of the poem. They may produce effects but cannot conduct action. He followed a traditional habit in making his gnomes bad. But he bent himself to contemporary science to describe the cosmos which the Sylphs inhabited. They have the capacity of changing their shape and sex, seeing the future and inspecting the heart of the

...but they are always invisible to the earthly  
people. Ariel is such a chief. They are the guides and  
guardians of the faculty of the melting winds. But their  
duties cannot be equal to man's actions. The duties  
of Ariel can be observed in the following lines of canto

Some in the fields of furthest ether play, - - -  
Some guide the course of wondering orbs on high  
As well the planets through the boundless sky. - - -  
Above all their " - - - tumbler province in to kindle fire  
To save the power from the side a gale. - - -  
To draw fresh colours from the vernal flowers - - -  
To steal from rainbows as they drop in showers

On this way we find that the role of supernatural  
elements in "The Rape of the Lock" makes this the single success.  
It is Pope's machines contradict the Christian  
religion. The main aim of the poem was to highlight  
the mock-heroic effect and lessen the personal element  
of his graceful to the former family. The machinery gives  
Pope's imagination a chance for a full display and offers  
descriptive powers. They surprise the readers of the  
poem without offending. The light militia of the  
lower sky are full of dramatic suspense. It is his  
treatment of the sylphs which allows them to develop  
his whole attitude towards Belinda. The passages which  
describe the sylphs are marvellous and artistic piece  
of description.

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Pope