

## P R E F A C E

I have tried in this work to present a more detailed study of the poetry of Jonathan Swift than has hitherto been attempted. For this purpose I have examined his prose writings, personal letters including Journal to Stella and his poetry. In order to be vivid and clear I have arranged my work into five well-defined chapters. For example, the first chapter begins with a background of the Age of Swift with its society, poetry, and Swift's poetry in relation to his age. Before going deeper into the realm of Swift's poetry I have tried to understand in Chapter II his personal views relating to poetry. It is not a very easy task, for Swift has seldom offered any constructive theory or appreciation of poetry as Dryden or Pope has done. Notwithstanding these difficulties I have tried to understand the poet's mind in this regard from his miscellaneous writings which I have thought relevant to the subject. Chapters III and IV of this work seek to determine the special type of his poetry, dividing it into its characteristic form, themes, style, verse, etc. In the last chapter (Chapter V) I have tried to find the relationship or kinship between his prose and poetry and have made an assessment of his contribution to English poetry. The concluding

part of the chapter naturally brings to a culmination the theory that I present in Chapter I, to be more explicit, the fact that Swift while conforming to the dictates of his time often transcends it and thereby leaves a great impact on the poets and writers of succeeding generations.

The scope of my subject, as explained in the preceding paragraph, explains my selection of the subject which has always seemed to me to be the most fundamental in the study of Swift's writings. With a view to exploring this half-hidden treasure I have ventured upon this fact-finding mission.

A number of writers and critics have dealt with Swift's poetry. Great and excellent as some of their writings are I have not failed to take them into account either in favour of or against my view. In fact, I have depended a great deal upon these great minds. Sui generis as the works of these critics are, they do not embrace all the elements of this present study wherein I have examined the poems of Jonathan Swift from his early Pindaric odes in Cowleyan fashion through the heroic verses of his second period to the period of octosyllabic couplets and "mellow fruitfulness" of his mature years. My humble study includes Swift's personal poems, impersonal satires, epigrams, fables, ballads, epistles,

Imitation of Horace, Trifles by Swift and his friends, riddles, cantata etc. This comprehensive treatment of the subject is not to be found in any one particular writer or critic of Swift's poetry. For example, Prof. Maurice Johnson in his work - The Sin of Wit; Jonathan Swift as a Poet has studied very efficiently the poetry of Swift. But he has done it from a single point of view, viz. that of wit and has selected in his analysis only those poems that would serve his particular purpose. Prof Ricardo Quintana has an excellent and useful book The Mind and Art of Jonathan Swift. It has given a very good account of Swift's early verse but it cannot take us through the whole realm of his poetry as it chooses within its brief survey the whole range of Swift's writings in prose and verse. Like Prof. Quintana, Irvin Ehrenpreis has dealt with Swift's early odes in his brilliant book - Swift - The Mind, his Works, and the Age (in 2 vols.) He has also treated some of the major poems of Swift but his treatment does not cover many other poems and their forms which certainly merit consideration. Similarly, Prof. Herbert Davis has thrown light on some of the unexplored aspects of Swift's poetry but has not tried to give a comprehensive picture of his poetry in his book - Jonathan Swift, Unlike the above-mentioned critics, David Ward's work- Jonathan Swift; An Introductory Essay, written in a masterly fashion, has a chapter on Swift's verse which does

not include the early products of his years at Moor Park. Though negligible in comparison with the major poems of Swift's later years, they undoubtedly occupy an important position in the development of Swift's career as a poet.

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