

IRONY AND ALLEGORY IN 'A TALE OF A TUB'

Swift is primarily a satirist and his satire mode is somewhat similar to that of George Orwell or Aldous Huxley. In "Nineteen Eighty-four" Orwell creates a negative Utopia. So does Huxley in "Brave New World". A close study of the work of Swift reveals the other side of the picture although an eminent critic like F.R. Leavis finds something savage in his works. 'Saeva indignatio' has been the fixed label for Swift's dominant mood and his works reveal that for human nature as found in the mass, Swift had unlimited contempt. But he had also a high and clear sense of value. This caused his contempt to tear his heart with an anxiety to improve humanity.

His mode of satire is dramatic and this finds expression through his use of allegory, parody or irony. All these devices operate together. They are modes of expression within a single language. We find epic parody in the closing passages of 'the Bible' and the parody of modern scribbler throughout "A Tale of a Tub".

In satirising religions and inspiration in allegorical framework Swift's ironic mode is clear but his use of irony is different from that of Addison. Addison's irony is comic in its cumulative effect as is obvious from the presentation of character of Sir Roger De Coverley. Swift is vindictive. In his preface his ironical mode is obvious. Here he attacks Hobbes' 'Leviathan' which like what plays with all schemes