

- 'The Rape of the Lock' as a satire.

The word 'satire' derives from Latin 'Saturn' meaning plate full of first fruit of the year. Satire was written in the form of poetry and prose. It is in the words of the Pope, 'Amendment' of vice by correction of taste. Juvenal and Horace were great satirists in verse. In Medieval England, Chaucer and Langland were considered great satirists. They presented life and manners of poorer classes against clerical abuse.

Pope as a disciple of Dryden was more refined of telling satiric forms which Dryden had. His satire has outstanding quality. His satires and Epistles of 'Horace imitated', are examples of English scenes, sympathies, sentiments and surroundings of Roman poet's characteristic style. Although Pope has quite affinity with Juvenal and Horace.

The Rape of the Lock is a social satire. It is an unguarded foibles of female sex. The poet satirises it with the help of Belinda. It continues force the strain of mocking hoops and patches. The toilet was women's great business and adjustment. Women used fashionable and entertained visits in their beds. In 'The Rape of the Lock' Pope discloses fashionable world in attractive hair. The Beauty of Belinda is not Belinda alone but every lady of Pope's time. Lap-dogs were favourite with women as shock was favourite dog of Belinda. They left their beds late in day. They worshipped 'cosmetic powers'. The toilet table for them was an altar for the worship of Goddess of Beauty. The poet said:

"This casket India glowing gems unlocks
And all Arabia breathes from Yander Box."

He again satirised:

"But chiefly love to love an altar built.
Of twelve vast French romances, neatly gift."

Then the poet attacked the delicacies of women:
"whether the nymph shall break Diana's Law
Or some frail china Jar receive a flaw."

It was common fashion of women to lose their hearts. In fact, the spirit of the poem is permeated with satire. The aim of satire is to set up peace between two parties. As a whole, this poem is a light satire on upper class family.