

Augustan Age

1700-1745

Augustan Age:(1700-1745)

- A Roman Empire age.
 - **King Augustus** was the emperor of that age.
 - Famous writers are **Virgil , Horace , and Ovid**
 - Major poets of that age
 - **Pope and Dryden**
 - **Jonathan Swift** was famous for his prose works.
 - Also known as **classical age**.

Augustan Literature:

- Augustan literature is generally ascribed to a period in the first half of the 18th Century, during much of the reigns of:

Queen Anne (1702 – 1714)

King George I (1714 – 1727)

King George II (1727 – 1760)

Background of the Age:

- Main social classes were **merchants, landowners** and **manufacturers**.
 - The condition of women was not satisfactory.
 - Sexual harassment , abduction of women, forced marriage took place in the Period.
 - The politicians were corrupt too.
 - This is the age of material greed.

Background:

- **Augustan Age (1660 - 1780)**
 - Basic rule - man had to follow "Nature".
 - The pure standards of taste and judgment that should control man's artistic endeavours.
 - Knowledge of classic and former civilizations.
 - Strict adherence of rules and regulations.
 - Heroic Couplets
 - Various Forms: Mock epic, Ode, Epistle, and Epigram.

Alexander Pope:

- Born in May **21, 1688**, London.
 - The poet and his family were Catholics
 - Never married , but involved with two women in his life.
 - Best known for his **satirical** and **discursive** poetry.
 - After Shakespeare, Pope is the second-most **quoted** writer in the English language.
 - Greatest work at the age of 24 was " **The Rape of the Lock**" a mock-heroic.
 - Considered a master of the **heroic couplet**.
 - Financially independent through translations of the **Iliad** and the **Odyssey**.
 - Died in **30 May, 1744**.

Pope's Writing :

- **First Period:**

- Pastorals. (1709)

- Two most important poems were

- Essay on Criticism (1711) at the age of 23

- The Rape of the Lock (1712) and then in (1714).

- Second Period :**

- Iliad translation (1715)

- Odyssey translation (1726)

- Third Period :**

- Dunciad (1728)

- Essay on Man (1734)

Pope's Method:

- **Pope and the 18th century .**
 - No advantage of vernacular speech, but he used colloquialisms.
 - Mature outlook, poise, and control and careful judgment.
 - Exposed Shallow flaws in society
- **Imitation:**
 - Re-creation of a work
 - Pope translated old into Augustan phraseology

Pope's Method :

- **Pope and Society :**

- poked fun at society e.g The Rape of the Lock
- Commentary on British legal system

- Pope and the Classics :**

- Looked to Homer and French Classicism

- Pope and Didactic Poetry:**

- Teach lessons to society

"A little learning is a dangerous thing"

The Rape of the Lock:

- **SATIRE and the MOCK HEROIC:**

Satire: the use of irony , sarcasm , ridicule , or in exposing, denouncing, or deriding vice , folly etc.

Mock Heroic: is a form of satire that adapts the elevated heroic style of the classical epic poem to a trivial subject .

The Epic Conventions:

- High formal diction.
 - Invocation of the Muse
 - "Machinery" (gods or supernatural figures)
 - Gods speak to hero in a dream
 - Sacrifice to the gods.
 - Exhortation of the general to the troops.
 - Catalog of the armies.
 - Battle Scenes
 - Descent into the underworld
 - Intercession of the gods.
 - Ascension of the dead into the heavens .

Background of the epic:

- Refashioned like Virgil's Aeneid or Homer's Odyssey
 - Pope had three aims;
 - Patch a feud between two well known families(a lock of hair was stolen)
 - Ridicule the shallowness and useless frivolity in the upper class
 - Make fun of the epic conventions
 - Historical Background
 - Three prominent Roman Catholic familiesie:
The Carylles
The Fermors
The Petres.