

BIBLICAL SEMINARY

IBRI COLLOQUIUM

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SATIRE AND FANTASY IN THE WRITINGS OF JONATHAN SWIFT AND  
CALVIN MILLER.

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I. Some Introductory Remarks

- A. The Purposes of and the purposes served in IBRI.
- B. The Reasons behind this Study
  - 1. The proliferation of fantasy literature
  - 2. The author's personal enjoyment of satire
  - 3. The Question of how well these forms serve the propagation of the Christian ideal, the defense of the faith, etc.
  - 4. The hope of seeing produced a wave of literature that will speak to the modern issues.

- C. Some definitions...slightly molded by the lecturer on the basis of more substantial models by the literature scholars:

- 1. Satire....a literary genre eliciting the reactions of amusement or dismay when consciousness is alerted to the ridiculous, unseemly, or grotesque....

--humor must be apparent--

It may include: parody...imitation for a comic effect

caricature...feature exaggeration for ridicule  
or comic advancement

irony...the use of words to suggest something  
incongruous..

sarcasm...caustic, cutting, contemptuous remarks

allegory...extended double reference

and a lot of other things. These are potential components of the satire but no one of them in itself is necessarily satirical.

Satire is designed to draw the attention to some potentially incongruous point and either amuse or disgust the reader in the hope that the emotional involvement will result in some form of appropriate action.

If humor is not apparent the work is not satirical...humor is the necessary ingredient and the device on which satire builds. And remember, there are lots of varieties of humor.

- 2. Fantasy...is, in my definition, a literary genre of transport in which an ethereal state is entertained as a paradoxical means of discussing the present.