

Institut für Allgemeine und Vergleichende Literaturwissenschaft der
Freien Universität Berlin

Englisch-Sprachklausur

<http://www.complit.fu-berlin.de/veranstaltungen/sprachklausuren/englisch.html>

7. April 2005 – Bernhard Metz

Jonathan Swift: „A Tale of a Tub“.

in: **Jonathan Swift:** *A Tale of a Tub. With Other Early Works 1696-1707.*

ONCE upon a Time, there was a Man who had Three *Sons by one Wife, and all at a Birth, neither could the Mid-Wife tell certainly which was the Eldest. Their Father died while they were young, and upon his Death-Bed, calling the Lads to him, spoke thus,

SONS; *because I have purchased no Estate, nor was born to any, I have long considered of some good Legacies to bequeath You; And at last, with much Care as well as Expence, have provided each of you (here they are) a new †Coat. Now, you are to understand, that these Coats have two Virtues contained in them: One is, that with good wearing, they will last you fresh and sound as long as you live: The other is, that they will grow in the same proportion with your Bodies, lengthning and widening of themselves, so as to be always fit. Here, let me see them on you before I die. So, very well, Pray Children, wear them clean, and brush them often. You will find in my ||Will (here it is) full Instructions in every particular concerning the Wearing and Management of your Coats; wherein you must be very exact, to avoid the Penalties I have appointed for every Transgression or Neglect, upon which your future Fortunes will entirely depend. I have also commanded in my Will, that you should live together in one House like Brethren and Friends, for then you will be sure to thrive, and not otherwise.*

HERE the Story says, this good Father died, and the three Sons went all together so seek their Fortunes.

I shall not trouble you with recounting what Adventures they met for the first seven Years, any farther than by taking notice, that they carefully observed their Father's Will, and kept their Coats in very good Order; That they travelled thro' several Countries, encountred a reasonable Quantity of Gyants and slew certain Dragons.

* *By these three Sons, Peter, Martyn and Jack; Popery, the Church of England, and our Protestant Dissenters are designed.* W. Wotton.

† *By his Coats which he gave his Sons, the Garments of the Israelites.* W. Wotton.

An Error (with Submission) of the learned Commentator; for by the Coats are meant the Doctrine and Faith of Christianity, by the Wisdom of the Divine Founder fitted to all Times, Places and Circumstances. Lambin.

|| *The New Testament.*

Siehe auch: Beispielübersetzungen [1](#), [2](#), [3](#), [4](#) und [Hinweise zur Klausur](#).