

## LECTURE 5

### WAY OF THE WORLD

Act V has to be evaluated as a denouement. The happy ending of the comedy is symbolized through a marriage, Congreve follows the same tradition. Mirabell finally gains the consent of Lady Wishfort for marrying Millamant. However, the plot hatched by Fainall and Marwood takes up most of the dramatic action.

- L1-109-Lady Wishfort discovers Mirabell's plan of disguising Waitwell as Sir Rowland through Mrs Marwood.
- L.110-129-Mincing and Foible agree to testify against Mrs Marwood to save Mrs Fainall's reputation.
- L130-258-Lady Wishfort is disgruntled with Mirabell's plan and is quite upset at Fainall's decision to defame her daughter, Mrs Fainall by exposing her affair with Mirabell. Mrs Marwood pretends to be solicitous and tries to persuade Lady Wishfort to give in to Fainall's demand of relinquishing the Millamant's property and also transferring her daughter's property to him. Important lines-l1.131-142,11189-212(important for the theme of virtue),
- L 260-319-Fainall shows no sign of relenting and leaves saying that he would draw up the papers for the transfer of property.
- L 320-369-Millamant agrees to marry Sir Willfull if Lady Wishfort is kind enough to admit Mirabell into her presence so that he may produce important evidence to save Mrs Fainall's reputation.
- L 370-422-Mirabell enters and apologizes to Lady Wishfort, Lady Wishfort relents and at Sir Witwoud's insistence agrees to hear Mirabell's testimony.
- L 423-483-Fainall remains adamantly committed to his course of action and insults Sir Witwoud who tries to intimidate him.
- L484-521-Foible and Mincing are produced to act as witnesses to expose the affair of Mrs Marwood and Fainall.
- L 522-640-Final resolution is affected.Fainall's scheme is foiled.Sir Witwoud relinquishes his claim for Millamant's hand and Lady Wishfort agrees to their hand.
- L.488-490 and 1.571-'73-connnotations of way of the world; also note the lines where Wishfort and Marwood discuss feminine virtue and how Mirabell's empathy is proof of gallantry than Fainall's bravado and aggressive bluster.