

GULLIVER'S TRAVELS

extract from the novel

Part 1, Chapter 4

Gulliver meets Reldresal, the Principal Secretary of Lilliput: he holds Reldresal in his hand while the Principal Secretary informs him about the Lilliputians' dispute with the empire of Blefuscu.

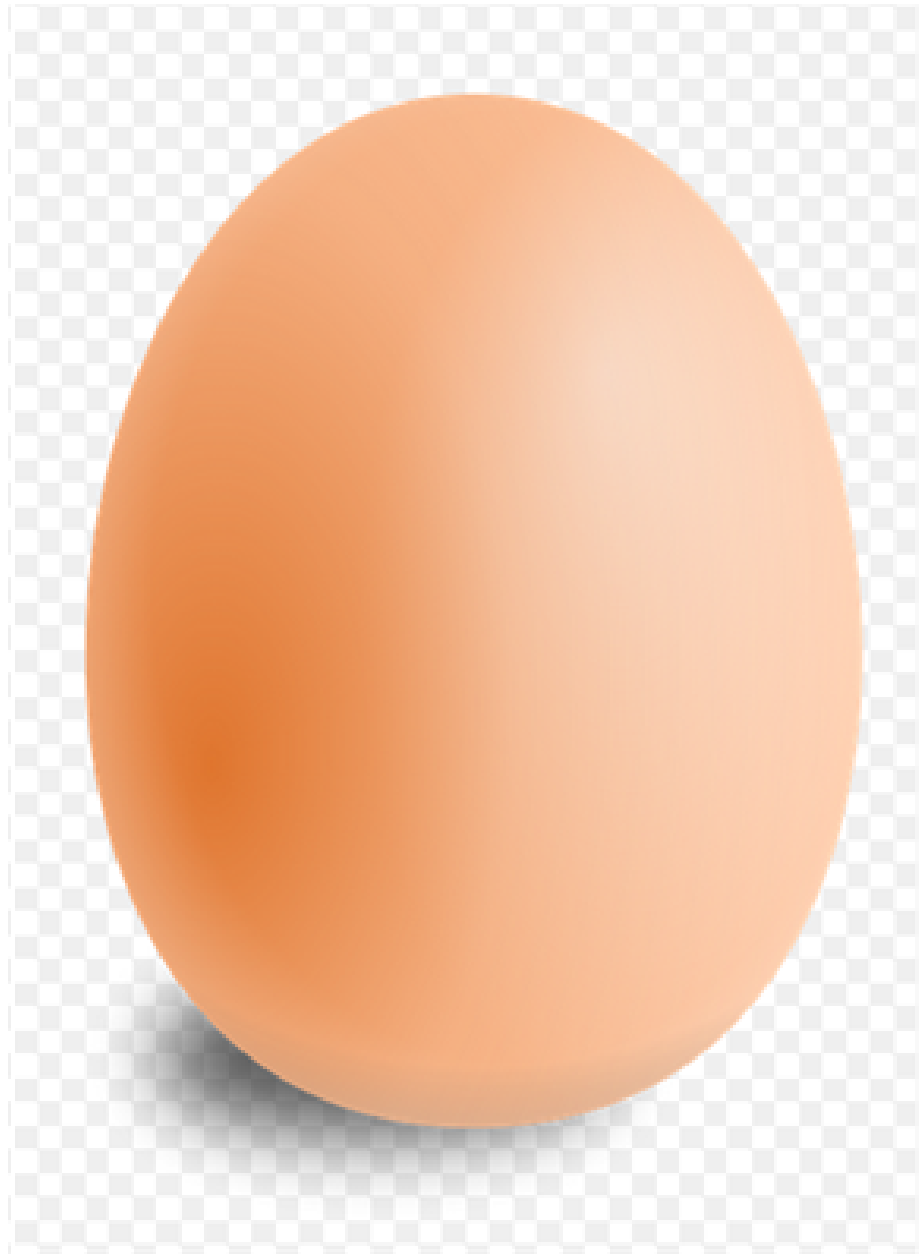
**READ THE EXTRACT: WHAT
IS THE REASON OF THE WAR?**

Now, in the midst of these intestine disquiets, we are threatened with an invasion from the island of Blefuscu, which is the other great empire of the universe, almost as large and powerful as this of his majesty. [...] Which two mighty powers have, as I was going to tell you, been engaged in a most obstinate war for six-and-thirty moons past.

It began upon the following occasion. It is allowed on all hands, that the primitive way of breaking eggs, before we eat them, was upon the larger end; but his present majesty's grandfather, while he was a boy, going to eat an egg, and breaking it according to the ancient practice, happened to cut one of his fingers.

Whereupon the emperor his father published an edict, commanding all his subjects, upon great penalties, to break the smaller end of their eggs. The people so highly resented this law, that our histories tell us, there have been six rebellions raised on that account; wherein one emperor lost his life, and another his crown.

These civil commotions were constantly fomented by the monarchs of Blefuscu; and when they were quelled, the exiles always fled for refuge to that empire. It is computed that eleven thousand persons have at several times suffered death, rather than submit to break their eggs at the smaller end.



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"NEW LITERARY LANDSCAPES"

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