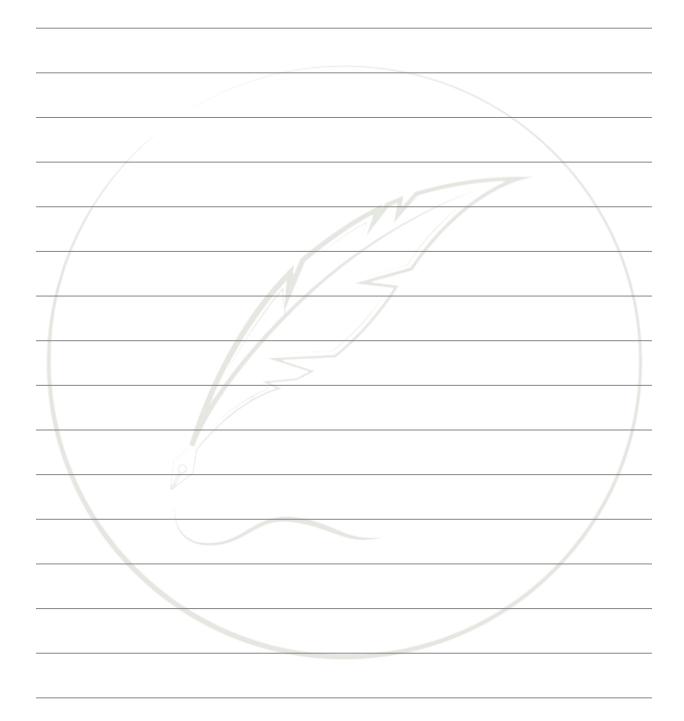
Selection from "A Satire Against Reason and Mankind" by John Wilmot, Earl of Rochester

Season 6, Episode 5 Air Date: December 6th, 2021

Were I, who to my cost, already am, One of those strange, prodigious creatures Man; A Spirit free, to choose for my own share, What sort of Flesh and Blood I pleas'd to wear, I'd be a Dog, a Donkey or a Bear: Or any thing, but that vain Animal, Who is so proud of being rational. His Senses are too gross; and he'll contrive A sixth, to contradict the other five: And before certain Instinct, will preferr Reason, which Fifty times for one does err. Reason, an Ignis fatuus of the mind, Which leaves the Light of mature Sense behind. Pathless, and dangerous, wandr'ing wayes, it takes, Through errors fenny Bogs, and Thorny Brakes: Whil'st the mis-guided follower thinks, with pain, Mountains of Whimseys, heap't in his own brain; Stumbling from thought, to thought, falls headlong down Into doubts boundless Sea, where like to drown, Books bear him up a while, and make him try To swim with Bladders of Philosophy: In hopes still to o'retake the skipping Light, The Vapour dances, in his Dazeling sight, Till spent, it leaves him to Eternal night. Then Old Age, and Experience, hand in hand, Leads him to Death, makes him to understand, After a search so painful, and so long, That all his Life, he has been in the wrong.

> Hudled in Dirt, the reas'ning Engine lies, Who was so proud, so witty, and so wise...

NOTES/NARRATION:



Recited By:

Date Recited: