

The Way of the World Themes

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Love and Romance: In this play, love is characterized by wit, freedom, and equality. Mirabell and Millamant truly love each other, but they want respect, not control. Millamant lists her demands before accepting marriage. Their love is honest, not fake like others. The play contrasts real love with foolish desires, like Lady Wishfort's. It also illustrates how women were unfairly judged in love and relationships during the Restoration period.

Money and Greed: Money controls everything in this play. Most characters care more about wealth than love. Fainall marries for money and tries to steal Millamant's inheritance. Lady Wishfort will only approve of a wealthy husband for her niece. Even Mirabell must make a plan to protect Millamant's fortune. The play demonstrates that greed can corrupt love and honour, but it also acknowledges that money is essential for survival in society.

Deceit and Style of Wit: Almost every character hides something in this play. They employ lies, tricks, and disguises to achieve their objectives. Mirabell uses clever wit to win love, while Fainall and Marwood use lies to steal money. Wit is not just humour; it is a sign of intelligence. Mirabell's smart words and actions prove he is the wisest. In the end, true wit defeats false appearance and saves the good characters.