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New Atlantis

Francis Bacon · *1627 · original English text (published 1627; Project Gutenberg #2434). An editor's introduction stands first in this file.*

We sailed from Peru, where we had continued a year, for China and Japan by the South Sea. A wind turns them, and they come upon an unknown land. The hosted text is Bacon's English, published in 1627 after his death, Project Gutenberg #2434, a fragment. An editor's introduction stands first; quote the voyage, not that introduction. For grades 9–12.

THE CENTRAL QUESTION

What kind of kingdom do the sailors find, and how should a school read Bacon's unfinished vision of a house of knowledge without treating the fragment as a finished constitution?

"We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year) for China and Japan, by the South Sea; taking with us victuals for twelve months; and had good winds"
The voyage

The sailors, long at sea, are received in Bensalem. The island has received the Christian faith, and its chief glory is Salomon's House, a college for the knowledge of God's works. The book is a fragment, published in 1627. Teach the wonder, the piety, and the unfinished plan, for grades 9–12. Quote Bacon's narrative, not the modern editor's essay that stands first in this file.

KEY CHARACTERS

The sailors
European voyagers, bound from Peru toward China and Japan, who come to Bensalem

The people of Bensalem
The islanders who receive the strangers with law, charity, and faith

The Fathers of Salomon's House
The society that is called the eye of the kingdom

A VOYAGE, AND A HOUSE

> *"We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year) for China and Japan, by the South Sea; taking with us victuals for twelve months; and had good winds"*
> The voyage

Grades 9–12
Read the full text free at classicslaunch.org.

01
We Sailed from Peru
THE OPENING OF THE NARRATIVE

The voyage begins after a year in Peru, bound for China and Japan by the South Sea, with victuals for twelve months. Soft east winds give way to a west wind, and they can make little way.

- The first narrative sentence is exact, including the parentheses and "South Sea."
- An editor's introduction stands first in this file; do not quote it as Bacon.
- The book is a fragment, published in 1627, the year after Bacon's death.
- For grades 9–12.

> *"We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year) for China and Japan, by the South Sea; taking with us victuals for twelve months; and had good winds"*
> The voyage

02
Bensalem
THE LANDING

They come upon a land they do not know. The people receive them with order and with charity, and the island's name is Bensalem.

- Quote the narrative, not the editor's comparison of Bensalem to England.
- The reception is lawful and hospitable, not a wreck-tale only.
- Keep Bacon's spelling as this file prints it, including "Salomon's House" later.
- The book remains a travel-story even while it is a vision.

> *"We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year)"*
> The voyage

03
A Pillar of Light
THE ISLAND'S FAITH

The island has a memory of a pillar of light and of the receiving of the Scriptures. The faith of Bensalem is not an afterthought in the book.

- Teach this as Bacon writes it, as a Christian island, not as a secular laboratory only.
- A pillar of light is in the narrative; quote it if you use it, do not invent the wording.
- Do not turn the episode into a later controversy.
- The piety and the learning are meant to stand together.

> *"pillar of light; not sharp, but in form of a column, or cylinder, rising from"*
> The island's faith

04
Salomon's House
THE COLLEGE

Among the excellent acts of the king, one has the pre-eminence: the erection of an Order or Society called Salomon's House, which is called the very eye of the kingdom.

- Keep "Salomon's House" as printed (not "Solomon's") in the narrative passages you quote.
- The house is a college for the knowledge of nature, under a Christian king.
- Teach the vision without pretending the fragment finishes the statutes.
- This is the heart of the book's hope.

> *"Salomon's House; which house, or college (my good brethren) is the very eye of this kingdom"*
> Salomon's House

05
A Fragment
THE BOOK AS A WHOLE

The work was published unfinished. A school should say so, and should not invent an ending Bacon did not write.

- Published 1627 by Bacon's literary executor.
- Project Gutenberg #2434.
- Quote the voyage and the house, not the modern introduction.
- For grades 9–12.

> *"We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year) for China and Japan, by the South Sea; taking with us victuals for twelve months; and had good winds"*
> The voyage

A Voyage · A Christian Island · A House of Knowledge · Hospitality · An Unfinished Vision

What to watch for as you read

GRADES 9–12

1. The narrative opens: "We sailed from Peru, (where we had continued for the space of one whole year) for China and Japan, by the South Sea." An editor's introduction stands first; do not quote it as Bacon.
2. This is Bacon's English, published 1627, a fragment, PG #2434. For grades 9–12.
3. Keep "Salomon's House" as the narrative prints it. The college is called the eye of the kingdom.
4. Bensalem is a Christian island in this book, with a memory of a pillar of light. Teach the piety and the learning together.
5. The work is unfinished. Do not invent an ending, and do not treat the fragment as a finished constitution.

Quotations are verbatim from the original English text (published 1627; Project Gutenberg #2434). An editor's introduction stands first in this file., Project Gutenberg #2434, the public-domain text hosted at classicslaunch.org/works/bacon-new-atlantis/. Citations give book and chapter (or canto and line) so every line can be checked.