### Francis Bacon -1561-1626





Bacon - central guiding force to the

emerging modern worldview

No scientific discovery as Newton and Harvey

laid the solid foundation of Science

Study of knowledge

the first man to point out the importance

of experiment in the study of knowledge.

"Baconian" method of studying nature



chief figure in English prose in the early 17th century

 began the long tradition of the English essays in the history of English literature • The essay as a distinct literary form - born in 16th century

publication of Montaigne's Essays

The Essays – intended	merely as	"dispersed	meditations'
or informal thoughts			



Francis Bacon & His Contemporaries. Standing at left: William Camden, Sackville (Earl of Dorset), John Fletcher. Seated at left: Josuah Sylvester, **John Selden**, **Francis Beaumont**, Francis Bacon, **Ben Jonson**, John Donne, **Willy Shakspere**. Standing at right: Walter Raleigh, Henry Wriothesley (Third Earl of Southampton).

• Among all- Bacon – the principal prose master of his time

As a boy- his wit – attracted the queen – used to

call him – her "young lord keeper"



- Sir Nicholas Bacon
- Lawyer and statesman –
- Keeper of the Great Seal of England

 officer of the English Crown charged with physical custody of the Great Seal of England

a seal that is used to symbolize the Sovereign's

approval of important state documents.

Anne Cook Bacon





Francis Bacon entered

Trinity College

years old!



life of scholarship would be vain if that knowledge

has no practical purpose



Bacon's greatest intellectual contribution -

• known as the champion of modern science and the scientific method.

# Francis Bacon

At the height of his career, he became Lord Keeper and then Lord Chancellor of England.

charged with taking bribes as a judge.

admitting his guilt he was sentenced to a huge fine

- imprisonment in the Tower
- disqualification from Parliament
- exclusion from the court

He spent only a couple of days in the Tower

ultimately he received a royal pardon -

but his public life was over

He occupied his last years with energetic study and writing.

His character – compounded of contradictions and inconsistencies

He believed himself "born for the service of mankind"

 Sincerely desired to devote his wonderful powers to the advancement of knowledge

"the glory of the Creator and the relief of man's estate"

But in practical -

 sacrificed much for the sake of wealth and power and the satisfaction of his inordinate ambitions his moral teachings too often resolves itself into the narrowest

expediency (the quality of being convent and practical despite possible being improper

or immoral) and utilitarianism

Alexander Pope –

• "The wisest, brightest and meanest of mankind"

Oliphant Smeaton –

• Bacon - intellectually great

- Dr. E. A. Baker –
- As a judge it has never been proved that he was influenced by bribes; though, from a laxity inconsistent with his advanced ideals, he fell in with the habit of accepting presents from suitors. His one pure ambition was the pursuit of knowledge.

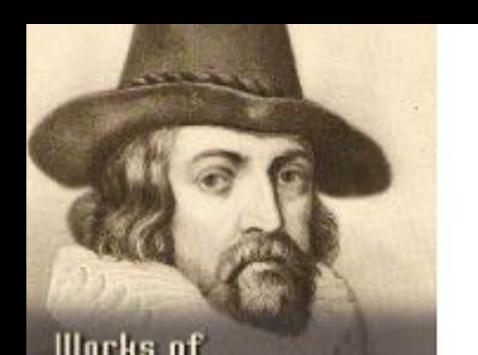
 Macaulay – The art which Bacon taught was the art of inventing arts.

 The **Knowledge** in which Bacon excelled all men was a knowledge of the mutual relations of all departments of knowledge.

#### Bacon's writings are of many different kinds -

the largest and the most influential body

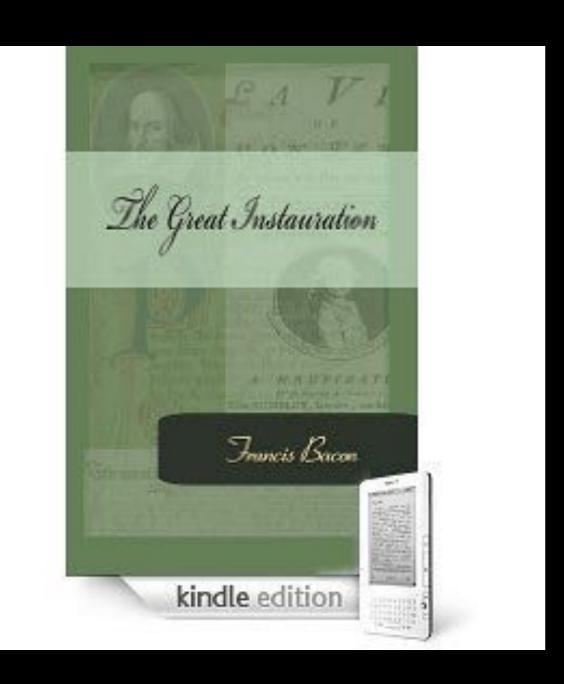
of his work - philosophical in a broad sense.

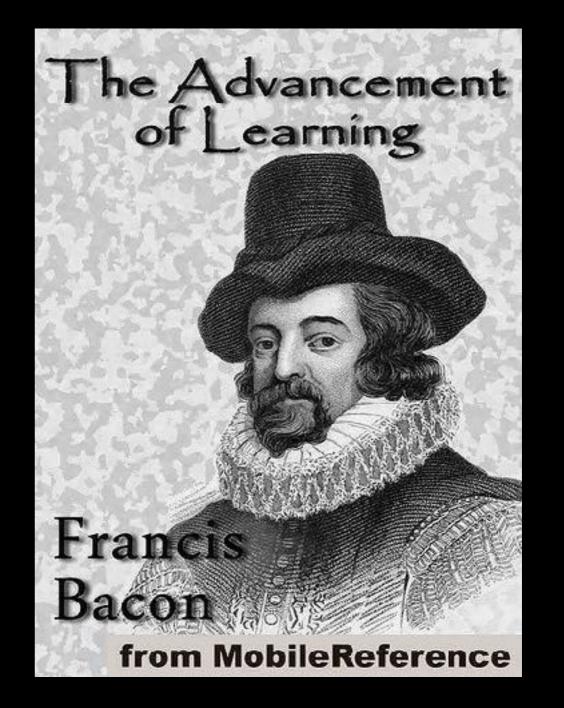


His opinions are well expressed - in his most well known

 The Advancement of Learning - Novum Organum (New Organ)

## Francis Bacon



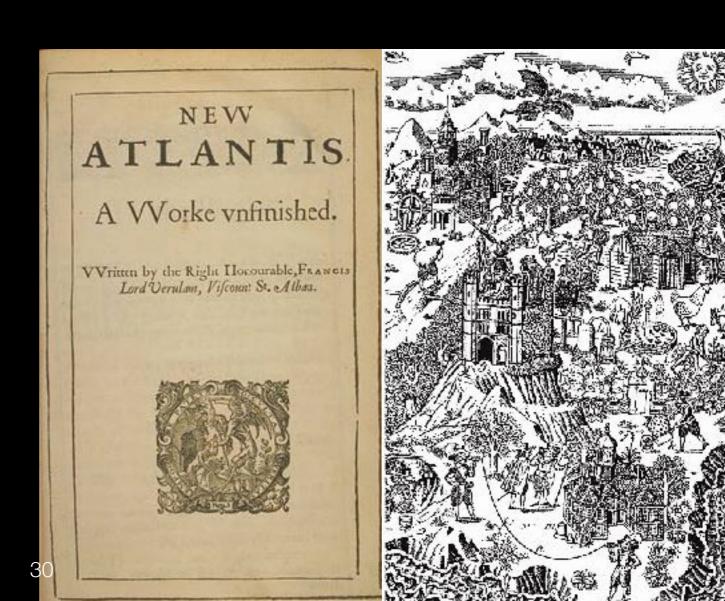


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### Francis Bacon

 His New Atlantis- published in 1627 - a year after his death,

- describes a Utopian
- community -

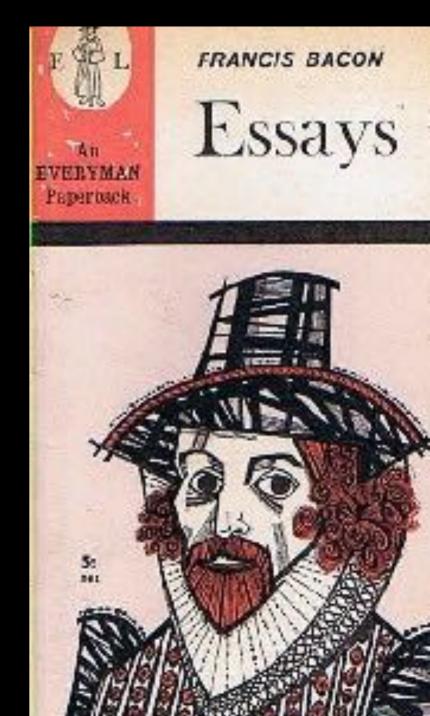


As a lawyer, member of Parliament, and Queen's Counselquestions of law, state and religion, as well as on contemporary politics;

## Francis Bacon

• The Essays, in various editions from 1597 to 1625

Bacon's prose is rich, ornate, and supple.



he also published texts- related to society, and he pondered questions of ethics(Essays) even in his works on natural philosophy (The Advancement of Learning).

 Bacon supposedly coined the phrase - "knowledge is power."

scientia sit potentia

Knowledge becomes utilitarian.



Bacon - keen observation of life and manners

 In opposition of Aristotle who preferred the life of contemplation, Bacon cries up the life of action.  Dr. Johnson defined an Essay as "a loose sally of the mind, an irregular undigested piece, not a regular and orderly composition."

Bacon borrowed the form - suited it to his own purpose.

• "Beyond any other book of the same size in any literature they are loaded with ripest wisdom of experience."

Hudson regarding Bacon's essays.

Of Great Place:

--- Death falls heavy upon him who dies too well known

to others, but unknown to

himself.

Of Great Place:

--- It is a strange desire to seek power and lose liberty; or to seek power over others and to lose power over a man's self.

Of Friendship:

• --- Whoever is delighted in solitude is either a wild beast or a god.

 --- For a crowd is not company; and faces are but a gallery of pictures.

--- A great city is a great solitude

Of Studies:

--- Studies serve delight, for ornament and for ability.

 --- To spend too much time in studies is sloth, to use it too much for ornament is affectation. • Of Studies:

• --- Crafty men contemn studies, simple men admire them and wise men use them.

Of Studies:

• Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed and some few to be chewed and digested.

#### Of Studies:

• --- Reading makes a full man, conference a ready man and writing an exact man.

 Cannot deny his wisdom, his observation, intellect and genius.

• complex and enigmatic character.

• Compton-Rickett - "He had a great brain, not a great soul."

 He wanted to serve humanity with the expansion of usable knowledge.  a product of the Renaissance with composite qualities such as wisdom, meanness and brightness.

 tried to explore to the full, the opportunities of mind and body afforded to man. important writer of the Italian Renaissance - Niccolo
 Machiavelli - opportunistic philosophy

 sacrificed high ethical ideals in the interest of achieving material progress.

The kind of morality he teaches is tinged with what is called worldliness.

His essays embody the wisdom and philosophy and
morality of a clear-eyed realist who knows quite well

His advice is neither for Satan's Kingdom nor for God's,
but for the Kingdom of man.

## The Idols

In the Novum Organum -

classified the intellectual fallacies of his time under four headings

He distinguished them as **idols** of the Tribe, **idols** of the Cave, **idols** of the Marketplace and **idols** of the Theater.

# The Idols

 "idols" are characteristic errors, natural tendencies or defects of the mind

 prevent the mind from achieving a full and accurate understanding of nature

## The Idols

- "idol" derives from the Greek word eidolon
- (means "image" or "phantom")
- According to Bacon: Idols = prejudices of the mind
- they prevent a successful study of natural phenomena



"Idols" block the acquisition of new knowledge.

## Idols of tribe

o prejudices arising from human nature

- O natural weaknesses like the senses
- (which are inherently dull and easily deceivable)

## Idols of tribe

tendency towards "wishful thinking."

O tendency to rush into conclusions, instead of collecting evidence



• "Idols of the Cave" - are personal prejudices.

## 2. Idols of cave

Oprejudices coming from psychic condition of the human soul

O vary from individual to individual

## 2. Idols of cave

Oreflect prejudices and beliefs that we have because of our cultural background

O different family backgrounds, childhood experiences, education, training, gender, religion, social class, etc.



- 3rd idol: "Idols of the Market-Place"
- prejudices resulting from social
  - relationships

## 3. Idols of marketplace

- hindrances to clear thinking
- main culprit = language

 (not only common speech, but also special discourses, vocabularies)



• 4th idol: "Idols of the Theater"

has to do with received tradition.

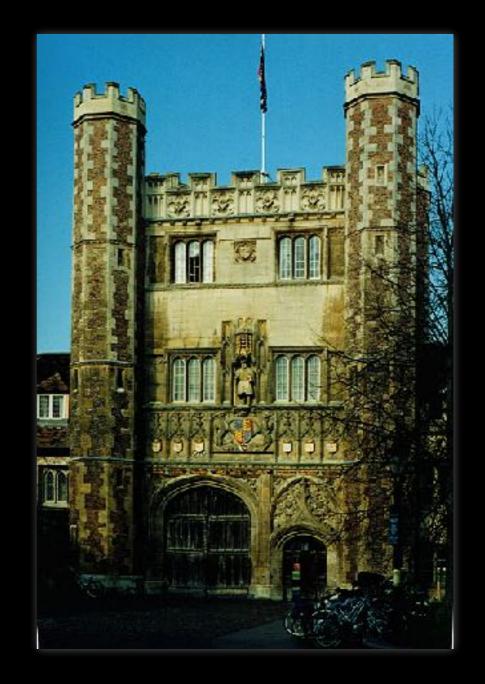
## 4. The Idols of the Theatre

- prejudices deriving from false philosophical systems
- rather culturally acquired than inborn

metaphor of a theatre suggests artificial imitation of truth

• 5th idol: "Idols of the Schools" is a belief in a

blind rule of reasoning.



Bacon offered his solution.

To him true knowledge was the knowledge of causes.

He defined physics as the science of variable causes, and metaphysics as the science of fixed causes.

- The Great Instauration (1620)
- The New Organon (Novum Organum) (1620)
- Preparative toward a Natural and Experimental History (1620)
- New Atlantis (1626) Utopian vision of support for scientific research as a foundation of good government.
- The Elements of the Common Laws of England (1630)

- 1. Joys, griefs and fears of parents secrets- remain unexpressed
- 2. Parents find labours sweet benefit children Misfortune bitter adversely affect the happiness of their children
  - Children aggravate the worries anxieties the thought of children takes away the terrors of death from the minds of parents. Children will continue the name of their parents- death does not terrify parents

3. Eternity or the state or quality of being perpetual or everlasting is assured through generation-common characteristic shared by both and beasts

Men alone can hand down their achievements and experiences from generation to generation

does not mean that childless men do not have noble achievements to their credit

Men who have failed in their bodily function of begetting children have also expressed themselves through their mental faculties.

so much so, it may be said that those who have no children of their own have contributed much to the future generation.

4. Those who raised their families to some eminence and brought honours to them for the first time are overmuch generous and lenient to their children;

they look upon their children as a means to perpetuate their works an achievements and not merely as members of their families.

To them their children are also things created by them like the things undertaken and achieved by them.

5. The affection shown by parents to their children varies from one child to the other and is unequal. This is unbecoming of them and is not good. This is especially so in the case of the mother.

### Of Parents and Children

Bacon quotes – Proverbs in the OT. It is the father who is proud of his son, when the latter grows up and that it is the mother who feels the shame more than the father when the son turns out to be bad.

Bacon combines two Proverbs 10:1 and 10:20 - " A Wise son makes a glad father. But a foolish son is the grief of his mother. And "A wise son makes his father happy. Only a feel despises his mother"

## Of Studies

 Studies are a source of pleasure – ornamental value – add to one's ability

 Pleasures of study can best be enjoyed by a man leading a life of aloofness and retirement

## Of Studies

Ornamental value – enables a man to become a good talker

 Well read man acquires an ability successfully to handle business matters

A truth can walk naked...but a lie always needs to be dressed..!!!



**Ode on a Grecian Urn- John Keats** 

#### OF TRUTH

Bacon shares with us the astonishing aspects of truth.

the objective truth in various manifestations

As a pragmatic and empirical thinker Bacon subscribed to the fundamental Renaissance ideals-

Sepantia - search for knowledge and

Eloquentia - the art of rhetoric

## supreme values of truth

In the midst of the Sun is the light, in the midst of light is truth, and in the midst of truth is the imperishable Being"

## Gandhi

the way of truth and love have always been won

Three things cannot be long hidden: the Sun, the Moon, and the truth **Buddha** 

OF TRUTH

• generally people do not care for truth - Pilate





truth in religious, philosophical and moral spheres



post truth world 
It is not possible to distinguish between truth and falsehood...

we are confused. TV news, Ads.

monopoly newspapers.. they influence our perspectives

TV - shows, news shows —— far from objectivity... no longer worried about facts

Filling the time with interesting news

Not accuracy

Cannot say — who is not biased

**Every news paper is biased** 

**Cannot distinguish News and Opinions** 

No filtering... what to believe

Social media – language

**News story** 

Very accessible, easily spread your ideas,

Challenge to reality- no longer talk about reality- single person can decide- internet,

Without knowing what is happening we tend to take sides...

Bacons says, Inquiry of truth, knowledge of truth, and the belief of truth are the highest good for human beings.

What is the whole purpose of this essay?

# Instil - into the mind of his readers- a love of truth

#### **Bacon realises the fact that**

The lies of the poet, he says give pleasure

The lies of a trader bring financial return

But why does people love lies for the sake of lies?

#### OF TRUTH

tone of this essay is as usual – authoritative

 shows his keen observation of human beings with special regard to truth.

- Notes for its stylistic qualities
- Bacon shows his love of learning and his habit of introducing allusions
- His love of quotations is seen very well
- Concludes the essay with a quotation from the Bible and with reference to the doomsday
- So many similes and metaphors

• 1. What is truth? Said jesting Pilate, and would not stay for an answer.

• 2. Certainly there be that delight in giddiness and count it a bondage to fix a belief affecting free will in thinking; as well as in acting. And though the sects of philosophers of that kind be gone, yet there remain certain discoursing wits which are of the same veins, though there be not so much blood in the same as was in those of ancients.

OF TRUTH

There are those who change opinions constantly.

 they consider it as a kind of slavery to stick to the same belief always  there are still some unsteady people who quickly change their beliefs

 Bacon attempts to answer the question why men tend to avoid truth

• The real reason is the corrupting nature of lies; there is a natural tendency in men to love lies.

generally people do not care for truth – Pilate

 Pilate was joking when he asked the question because he did not believe that truth could be defined

- There are those who change opinions constantly
  - stick to the same belief always- slavery

- The philosophers who believed that they could think or act in whatever way they liked were
- Pyrroh- a Greek 3<sup>rd</sup> Cen. Phy.
- there are still some unsteady people who quickly change their beliefs
- The real reason is the corrupting nature of lies; there
  is a natural tendency in men to love lies.

• 2. Certainly there be that delight in giddiness and count it a bondage to fix a belief affecting free will in thinking; as well as in acting. And though the sects of philosophers of that kind be gone, yet there remain certain discoursing wits which are of the same veins, though there be not so much blood in the same as was in those of ancients.

 3. But it is not only the difficulty and Labour which men take in finding out of truth, nor again that when it is found it impost upon men's thoughts, that doth bring lies in favour; but a natural though corrupt love of the lie itself.

- The discovery of truth involves a lot of time and about
- Besides, when a truth has been discovered it acts as a kind of restraint upon the minds of men, because men cannot then change their beliefs according to their whims they are bound by the truth

## Of Truth

 4. One of the later school of the Grecians examineth the matter and is at a stand to think what should be in it, that men should love lies, where neither they make for pleasure, as with poets, nor for advantage, as with the merchant; but for the lie's sake.

 Like Bacon, Greek philosopher Lucian - equally puzzled people are more attracted to lies and are averse to truth.

this is an innate human nature to do so.

#### Lucian investigated and found that -

poets like lies because - provide pleasure

businessmen - tell lies - profit

no definite conclusion as to why people should love lies.

5. But I cannot tell; this same truth is a naked and open day-light, that doth not show the masks and mummeries and triumphs of the world, half so stately and daintily as candle-lights.

(the shows, the processions, the spectacles, presented on the stage of a theatre)

5.

Men love falsehood because truth is like the clear day light

shows and spectacle presented on the stage of a theatre are seen for what they are - not so attractive

while lies are like candle lights in which the same shows and spectacle appear to be far more attractive.

They look attractive and colourful in the dim light of lies.

Men prefer to cherish illusions, which make life more interesting.

6. Truth may perhaps come to the price of a pearl, that showeth best by day; but it will not rise to the price of a diamond or carbuncle, that showeth best in varied lights.



Truth may be compared to a pearl,







Truth cannot be compared to a diamond or carbuncle which can be best admired in the artificial light of candles and lamps.



Truth lacks the charm of variety

deprived of false opinions, false hopes, and false judgments -

Falsehood gives people a strange kind of pleasure.

Lie has the inherent quality of arousing pleasure.

This is why lie becomes more attractive than truth.

Men's minds are full of 'vain opinions' flattering hopes, false valuations, imaginations, etc.

if these are removed from their minds, they will be 'poor shrunken things' they will be subject to sadness and depression; their life will be dull and drab

(Bacon stresses the psychological benefit derived from falsehood)

8. One of the fathers, (St. Jerome – a Christian monk and scholar of the 4th century AD) in great severity, (in an extremely harsh mood) called poesy vinum dæmonum [the food of demons - devils'-wine] because it filleth the imagination; and yet it is but with the shadow of a lie.

Distinguishes between poetic truth and scientific truth.

Poetic truth born out of imagination has 'the shadow of a lie'.

Even the highest art of man – poetry, is composed of lies.

St .Jerome called poetry the wine of devils because it gives rise to fancies in the mind.

Compounded two statements made by two early Christian thinkers- devils'-wine

St. Augustine- criticized poetry as "the wine of error"

Hironymous- condemned poetry as "the food of demons"

Since the devil or Satan works by falsehood, lies are its food. -

#### between poetic

untruth and fascination with falsehood in everyday life

poetic untruth is not harmful,

the lies, which are embedded in the mind and control and regulate every thought and action of a person are harmful.

10. But howsoever these things are thus in men's depraved judgments and affections, (though in different ways lies affect man's mental make-up) yet truth, which only doth judge itself, (only those who know the truth can realize its value) teacheth that the inquiry of truth, which is the love-making or wooing of it/ the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it/ and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it, is the sovereign good of human nature.

Yet truth is the most important and the best quality of human nature;

truth judges itself;

truth is truth and is beyond the purview of any outside judgement;

(have sought and found it)

The inquiry, knowledge and the belief of truth



# Analogy from Bible first of all God created light of senses light of

reason

# the light of the sense- the light that enables us to see

'the light of reason

Since the completion of work God has been diffusing the light of His spirit in mankind.

Ever since the work of creation and the day he took rest (observed his sabbath), God has been engaged in the work of illuminating man's mind.

Poetic account of Creation - Book of Genesis in the OT.

truth is the greatest of all virtues-

'Light' is symbolic of truth

13. The poet that beautified (gave prestige to) the sect (the sect refers to the Epicureans) that was otherwise inferior to the rest, saith yet excellently well:

(Lucretius – a Roman poet of the first century BC. His master was Epicurus- who regarded pleasure as the highest good)

the Epicurean philosophy was considered 'inferior by those who could not understand Epicurus' concept of pleasure-

it was Lucretius who made 'the sect' respectable.

 For Epicurus, the most pleasant life is one where we abstain from unnecessary desires and achieve an inner tranquility (ataraxia) by being content with simple things

 and by choosing the pleasure of philosophical conversation with friends over the pursuit of physical pleasures like food, drink, and sex.

#### Epicurus' "Pleasure Garden,"

garden full of fresh fruits and vegetables ....



• Epicurus' "Pleasure Garden,"

• ....stopping now and then to engage one another in pleasant conversation on science, philosophy, and art.

Epicurus' "Pleasure Garden,"

- In one corner a minstrel plays harmonious chords on his lyre.
- In another there is a discussion on freewill: the teacher explains that there is no reason to fear the gods and that human beings have complete freedom to choose their own path in life and to obtain happiness in the here and now.

 A cool wind blows as one breathes in the Mediterranean ocean-air amidst the beauty of Nature and the fellowship of friends and family.  Epicurus's "Pleasure Garden," a place where he and his students would congregate in the pursuit of achieving the most pleasant life possible in this world.

14. It is a pleasure to stand upon the shore and to see ships tossed upon the sea;

a pleasure to stand in the window of a castle and to see a battle and the adventures thereof below: but no pleasure is comparable to the standing upon the vantage ground of truth and to see the errors and wanderings and mists and tempests in the vale below; so always that this prospect be with pity, and not with swelling or pride

Bacon refers to the Epicurean doctrine of pleasure

There is no greater pleasure than that given by the realization of truth.

The summit of truth cannot be conquered

and there is tranquility on this peak from which one can survey the errors and follies of men as they go through their trials-

but this survey should not fill the watcher with pity and or with pride.

The man who stands on the vantage ground -

ground or position which is advantageous or useful-

commanding position to see the errors, lies and falsehoods prevailing in the world.

Bacon says that the value of truth is understood by those who have experienced it

Truth is objective- it is beyond emotional or subjective colouring-

neither pride nor vanity has any place

15. Certainly, it is heaven upon earth, to have a man's mind move in charity, rest in providence, and turn upon the poles of truth.

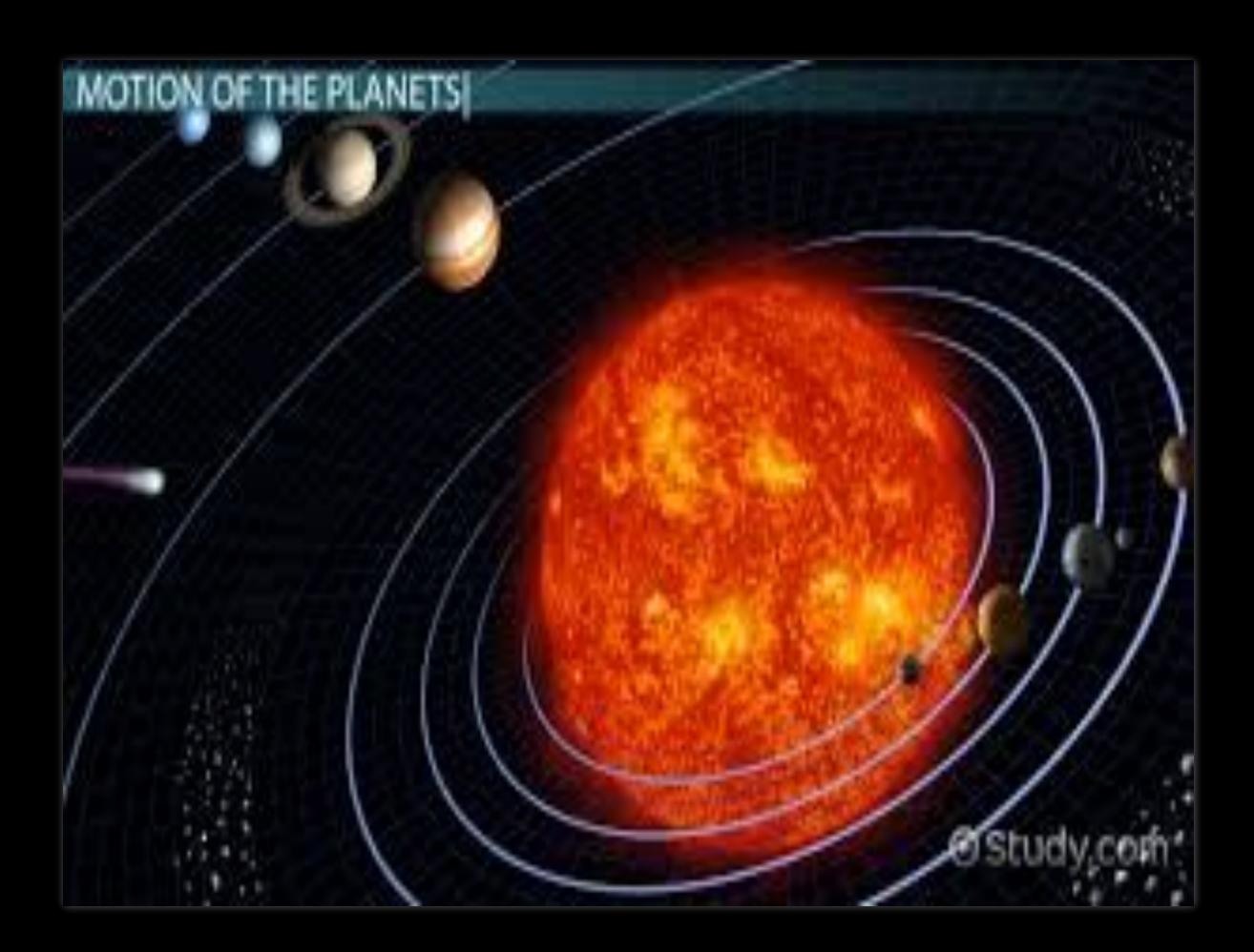
The essence of heavenly life on this earth lies in the constant love of charity

an unshakable trust in God,

and steady allegiance to truth

it is a heavenly experience to have the mind motivated by truth and charitably disposed with belief in universal providence. The mind should move as the stars do in their spheres –

mind of man should turn like a top on the poles of truth in the same way as the stars that move freely in their orbits



Bacon's view

 it gives infinite pleasure if one's actions are governed by truth. Charity should be the sole motive in the minds of men –

let men always submit to the divine will.

All their reasoning should be based upon truth

He upholds the ideals of charity and truth-

teaches that a total surrender of our will to the will of God.

16. To pass from theological and philosophical truth to the truth of civil business;

it will be acknowledged even by those that practise it not, that clear and round dealing is the honor of man's nature; (honest and straightforward conduct shows the honourable quality of human being)

and that mixture of falsehood is like alloy in coin of gold and silver, which may make the metal work the better, but it embaseth (degrades) it. OBacon discussed truth as a philosophical concept

 switches over to truth as practised in the daily business of living-

place of truth in ordinary – day to day social relations

- Honest and straightforward dealings suit a man better than false dealings
- Bacon compares- mixture of falsehood and truth to an alloy used in the minting of coins-
- coins of gold and silver become strengthened when some base metal is added to it.

 But the process makes silver and gold lose their worth

they become deteriorated

• 17. For these winding and crooked courses are the goings of the serpent; which goeth basely upon the belly, and not upon the feet.

 17. For these winding and crooked courses are the goings of the serpent; which goeth basely upon the belly, and not upon the feet.

 The crooked ways of a cheater or a liar are compared to the movements of the serpent.

 The serpent has no feet to stand upon; it crawls on its belly – Serpent is treated as the type of deceit

Satan tempted Eve in the shape of a serpent-

God's curse upon serpent for its misdeeds –

 "Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field: upon the belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of the life"

 18. There is no vice that doth so cover a man with shame as to be found false and perfidious (treacherous).

Of all vices falsehood and faithlessness are the worst;
 they put a man to absolute shame

- 19. And therefore Montaigne saith prettily, when he inquired the reason why the word of the lie should be such a disgrace and such an odious (offensive – repugnant) charge.
- Saith he, If it be well weighed, to say that a man lieth, is
  as much to say, as that he is brave towards God and a
  coward towards men. For a lie faces God, and shrinks from
  man.

Bacon quotes Montaigne- the 16 th century French essayist -

a liar is brave towards God and a coward towards men.

God knows the truth; a man cannot hide his falsehood from Him; (brave)

at the same time man tells lies to his fellowmen because he is afraid of telling him the truth –

Coward - paradox

20. Surely the wickedness of falsehood and breach of faith cannot possibly be so highly expressed, as in that it shall be the last peal (appeal - last notes of the trumpet ) to call the judgments of God upon the generations of men; it being foretold (it having been prophesied in the Bible) that when Christ cometh, he shall not find faith upon the earth.

# Bacon here condemns falsehood and faithlessness

The liar transgresses God's commandment for the time being as he will not be judged here and now

So he makes an appealing to God to bring 'the generations of men' to judgement soon instead of waiting for the final judgement of mankind after the second coming of Christ.

St. Luke 18:8- "But will the Son of man find faith on earth when he comes?"

Christ will not find any believer in God, if the second coming of Christ and the final day of judgement are not soon at hand.

#### there is no digression

All the arguments in the essay pertain to the single main

Bacon's wide learning is clearly observed when

he refers-

Pilate (history)

Lucian (Greek literature)

Creation

Montaigne (French essayist).

 "OF TRUTH" is enriched with striking similes and analogies

he equates liars as a snake moving basely on its belly

mixture of falsehood is like an alloy of gold and silver

 The essay "OF TRUTH" is not ornamental as was the practice of the Elizabethan prose writers.

Bacon is simple, natural and straightforward

But Elizabethan colour is also found in "OF TRUTH"

there is a moderate use of Latinism in the essay.

Economy of words - syntactic brevity -

 We find conversational ease in this essay, which is the outstanding feature of Bacon's style.

• There is a peculiar feature of Bacon i.e. aphorism.

 We find many short, crispy, memorable and witty sayings in this essay.  Prose style is noted for its – aphoristic, sententious (moralistic) character

Uses comparisons, similes and metaphors

His use of metaphorical language has its desired effect

 His metaphors and similes are always apt, appropriate and suggestive

 Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, and some few to be chewed and digested…"

shows his rich literary resources and historical knowledge

 Large number of examples from Roman and Greek classics and history  bacon's examples and allusions are fertile in illustration

luminous in suggestion

 and forceful in challenging and arresting the attention of the reader. Classical and Biblical allusions

Economical use of words and width of meaning

Using minimum words he conveys the maximum meaning to the reader

Cannot separate Matter and Manner

The Charm of Bacon's writings lies in his wit,
 which means intellect as well as expression

 To read him is to put ourselves in invigorating contact with an intellect of the utmost keenness and force, steadily entered both wide in its scope and alive at every point with a buoyant and intense vitality.

 Bacon had more than one style he adapted his style to serve his purposes







"He was full of gravity in his speaking...his hearers could not cough or look aside from him without loss...The fear of every man that heard him was lest (to avoid the risk of) he should make an end"

