

Of Travel by Francis Bacon

TRAVEL, in the younger sort, is a part of education, in the elder, a part of experience. He that travelleth into a country, before he hath some entrance into the language, goeth to school, and not to travel. That young men travel under some tutor, or grave servant, I allow well; so that he be such a one that hath the language, and hath been in the country before; whereby he may be able to tell them what things are worthy to be seen, in the country where they go; what acquaintances they are to seek; what exercises, or discipline, the place yieldeth. For else, young men shall go hooded, and look abroad little. It is a strange thing, that in sea voyages, where there is nothing to be seen, but sky and sea, men should make diaries; but in land-travel, wherein so much is to be observed, for the most part they omit it; as if chance were fitter to be registered, than observation. Let diaries, therefore, be brought in use. The things to be seen and observed are: the courts of princes, especially when they give audience to ambassadors; the courts of justice, while they sit and hear causes; and so of consistories ecclesiastic; the churches and monasteries, with the monuments which are therein extant; the walls and fortifications of cities, and towns, and so the heavens and harbors; antiquities and ruins; libraries; colleges, disputations, and lectures, where any are; shipping and navies; houses and gardens of state and pleasure, near great cities; armories; arsenals; magazines; exchanges; burses; warehouses; exercises of horsemanship, fencing, training of soldiers, and the like; comedies, such whereunto the better sort of persons do resort; treasuries of jewels and robes; cabinets and rarities; and, to conclude, whatsoever is memorable, in the places where they go. After all which, the tutors, or servants, ought to make diligent inquiry. As for triumphs, masks, feasts, weddings, funerals, capital executions, and such shows, men need not to be put in mind of them; yet are they not to be neglected. If you will have a young man to put his travel into a little room, and in short time to gather much, this you must do. First, as was said, he must have some entrance into the language before he goeth. Then he must have such a servant, or tutor, as knoweth the country, as was likewise said. Let him carry with him also, some card or book, describing the country where he travelleth; which will be a good key to his inquiry. Let him keep also a diary. Let him not stay long, in one city or town; more or less as the place deserveth, but not long; nay, when he stayeth in one city or town, let him change his lodging from one end and part of the town, to another; which is a great adamant of acquaintance. Let him sequester himself, from the company of his countrymen, and diet in such places, where there is good company of the nation where he travelleth. Let him, upon his removes from one place to another, procure recommendation to some person of quality, residing in the place whither he removeth; that he may use his favor, in those things he desireth to see or know. Thus he may abridge his travel, with much profit. As for the acquaintance, which is to be sought in travel; that which is most of all profitable, is acquaintance with the secretaries and employed men of ambassadors: for so in travelling in one country, he shall suck the experience of many. Let him also see, and visit, eminent persons in all kinds, which are of great name abroad; that he may be able to tell, how the life agreeth with the fame. For quarrels, they are with care and discretion to be avoided. They are commonly for mistresses, healths, place, and words. And let a man beware, how he keepeth company with choleric and quarrelsome persons; for they will engage him into their own quarrels. When a traveller returneth home, let him not leave the countries, where he hath travelled, altogether behind him; but maintain a correspondence by letters, with those of his acquaintance, which are of most worth. And let his travel appear rather in his discourse, than his apparel or gesture; and in his discourse, let him be rather advised in his answers, than forward to tell stories; and let it appear that he doth not change his country manners, for those of foreign parts; but only prick in some flowers, of that he hath learned abroad, into the customs of his own country.

Summary

Travel renders great service to both the young and the old alike. To the young men and women, travel is a part of education. For the elders, travel helps to enlarge his experience.

One can derive benefit from the travel in many ways. Before setting out on a journey to another country one should learn the language of that country. This is very essential. If the traveller is not well acquainted with the language beforehand he may have to waste long time uselessly there to know the language so that he can make conversations with the local people. Obviously then he will be unable to learn much else there. So one should know the language first. It is better that a young traveller should go out for travel with a guide who knows the language of that country well and knows well the important places to be visited in that country. The traveller should keep diary whether he is travelling on land or on a sea-voyage. As there are so many things to see it is indeed very important for a land traveller to keep regular diary and note down what he has seen in that new land.

In the course of any travel there always remain several principal objects to be seen. A traveller should always visit those places of a country which are usually of great importance like the royal courts, law courts, specially when they are in session, religious assemblies, churches, monasteries, monuments and ruins, colleges and libraries, store houses of weapons and ammunitions, ships and ports and many other things of historical importance and of remarkable nature.

While travelling a foreign country a traveller should follow many norms. This is because there are many do's and do not do's for a traveller. First of all a traveller should carry maps, charts and guide books with him that describe the landscape of the country. He must not stay in any one particular city or town for a long time. Rather he should always keep in moving. Even in a particular city he should always keep in moving from one place to another, and must not lodge in one particular locality. This will help him to get new acquaintance constantly. While travelling the traveller should always try to keep himself away from the people of his own country.. This will help him to know the people of the land he is visiting. He should take his meal specially in those hotels and restaurants where generally the native people of the country he is visiting, come. The traveller should, rather must, try to get himself acquainted with the secretaries of the ambassadors from different countries living in the country the traveller is visiting. Through talks with these men he will gain knowledge about their own countries. Thus while visiting only one country he will gain knowledge about many other countries as well. The traveller should also visit the eminent persons of the country he is visiting. These men are eminent in various spheres of life and acquaintance with these persons will help the traveller to realise and judge by himself what these reputed persons really are. During his travel the traveller should always try to avoid quarrels with the local people. So on his way the traveller should never keep company with the ill-tempered persons who may easily involve him in quarrels with others.

Travel has great benefit and that should always be kept up. The traveller must remember the countries that he has visited even long after he returns to his own country. Rather he should try to keep up correspondence with some worthy people of different lands. This will keep him in constant touch with them. A young traveller should express his experience of wide travel through his speeches and conversations, not through his dress or certain mannerism. Even while making conversation with others he should answer the question after adequate thinking over the issue. He must not be over eager to give an account of his travel. Though he

has travelled widely in the foreign countries he should not adopt foreign manners indiscriminately to show him of and to discard the customs, habits and manners of his motherland. Rather he should try to pick up the best culture and customs of the foreign country and introduce them into the manners his own country. He must not forget his motherland.