



The Essays of Francis Bacon

Francis Bacon (1561-1626)

Read by:	Carl Vonnoh, III	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	6 hours 20 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1112
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758936660
Style:	Solo	MSLP:	\$9.99
Genre:	Non-Fiction, Essays		

Francis Bacon thought of his *Essays* as “recreation of my other studies” in politics, law, natural philosophy, and science. First published in 1597 as *Essayes: Religious Meditations. Places of Perswasion and Disswasion. Seene and Allowed*, the collection was expanded to 38 essays in 1612 and again in 1625 to 58 essays under the title *Essayes or Counsels, Civill and Morall*. *The Essays* have no logical sequence or theme (ironic for the man who brought method and organization to science) and find their topics in diverse areas, public and private. Bacon had a gift for making catchy phrases, and many expressions still in use are found first in the *Essays*. The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations contains 91 quotations from the *Essays*. Although the treatments vary in style from the unadorned

to the epigrammatic, he invariably covers the topic at hand from all angles in a systematic and considered fashion. They were well received and so well done that some have thought of Bacon as the originator of the essay form; they clearly stand with the work of Aristotle and Montaigne and have stood the test of time.

Francis Bacon (January 22, 1561 – April 9, 1626) was an English philosopher and statesman best known for developing the scientific method. He was born in London to a noble family; his father was Lord Keeper of the Seal and his maternal grandfather was tutor to Edward VI. He graduated Cambridge at age 14 and became a barrister and a member of the House of Commons by age 20. He was knighted by King James in 1603 and worked his way quickly up the political ladder to become Lord Chancellor in 1618. He was made Viscount St. Albans in 1621. In that same year he was convicted of accepting bribes and briefly imprisoned in what many thought to be a set up.

He published his first collection of essays in 1597, revised in 1612 and 1625. As a philosopher, he resolved to create an outline for the sciences with a focus on empirical facts, inductive reasoning, experimentation and tangible proof. His early attempts to interest the crown in the work with *The Advancement of Learning* in 1605 proved futile, but the publication of *Novum Organum Scientiarum* in 1620 established his academic bona fides. A theme of advocating for radical changes to outmoded systems runs throughout his wide-ranging work. His influence grew after his death and can be seen in the work of Thomas Hobbes, John Locke, David Hume and John Stuart Mill.