

The Middle Ages



The Christian pilgrim stands on a threshold between two realms: the real world, and a sacred, eternal realm.

"It makes me sigh, this longing for the shelter of my heavenly habitation ...for I know that while I am in my body I am travelling away from God."

Saint Columban, founder of 6th century monastery at Iona, Scotland



"These ladies are highly proficient and accomplished in the uses of endearments and caresses, with words suited and adapted to every sort of person, so that foreigners who have once enjoyed them remain utterly beside themselves and so captivated by their sweetness and charm that they can never forget them ...when they return home, they say they have been in 'Kinsai', that is to say in the city of Heaven, and can scarcely wait for the time when they can go back there."

Marco Polo, *The Travels*



"... the Great Khan's palace, which I will now describe to you ...is the largest ever seen ...the walls of the halls and chambers are all covered with gold and silver and decorated with pictures of dragons and birds and horsemen and various breeds of beasts and scenes of battle. The ceiling is similarly adorned, so that there is nothing to be seen anywhere but gold and pictures."

Marco Polo, *The Travels*



"There are many different kinds of people in these isles. In one, there is a race of great stature, like giants, foul and horrible to look at; they have one eye only, in the middle of their foreheads. They eat raw flesh and raw fish. In another part, there are ugly folk without heads, who have eyes in each shoulder; their mouths are round, like a horseshoe, in the middle of their chest."

'Sir John Mandeville', *The Travels of Sir John Mandeville*

The Discovery of New Worlds

"...we made towards the land, and before we reached it, had sight of a great number of people who were going along the shore: by which we were much rejoiced: and we observed that they were a naked race ...we laboured so greatly in giving them of our wares, such as rattles and mirrors, beads, spalline, and other trifles, that some of them took confidence and came to discourse with us"

Amerigo Vespucci



"...into this sheepfold, into this land of meek outcasts there came Spaniards who immediately behaved like ravening beasts, wolves, tigers, or lions ...killing, terrorizing, afflicting, torturing, and destroying the native peoples"

Bartolomé de Las Casas, *The Devastation of the Indies* (1552)

"...Guiana is a country that has yet her Maidenhead, never sacked, turned, nor wrought, the face of the earth has not been torn, nor the virtue and salt of the soil spent ...where the south border of Guiana reaches to the Dominion and Empire of the Amazonas, those women shall hereby hear the name of a virgin [Queen Elizabeth II], which is not only able to defend her own territories and her neighbours, but also to invade and conquer so great Empires and so far removed."

Sir Walter Raleigh, *The Discoverie of Guiana* (1596)



"...the people all came down to the shore, calling out to us and giving thanks to God ...men and women cried with loud voices - 'Come and see the men who have come from heavens. Bring them victuals and drink.'"

The Journal of Christopher Columbus

Exploration

"... and for a spike nail or any thing they [men of New Zealand] value will oblige their Wives and Daughters to prostitute themselves whether they will or no ... such are the consequences of a commerce with Europeans and what is still more to our Shame civilized Christians, we debauch their Morals already too prone to vice and we interduce among them wants and perhaps diseases which they never before knew and which serves only to disturb that happy tranquillity they and their fore Fathers had enjoy'd. If any one denies the truth of this assertion let him tell me what the Natives of the whole extent of America have gained by the commerce they have had with Europeans."

James Cook (1773)

"Now I do wish that our freinds in England could by the assistance of some magical spying glass take a peep at our situation: Dr Solander settts at the Cabbin table describing, myself at my Bureau Journalizing, between us hangs a large bunch of sea weed, upon the table lays the wood and barnacles."

Joseph Banks, *The 'Endeavour' Journal* (1769)



"... none of them would exchange his cold climate for one that is more temperate, his wretched hut for a comfortable European house ... he thinks his piece of seals-skin a more becoming dress than the best silks and brocades; nor would he prefer a well-seasoned ragout to a piece of stinking seals flesh."

F.R. Forster, *Observations*



"The man called to us as we passed by from the point of a Rock on which he stood with his staff of destruction in his hand, the two Women stood behind him at the Skirts of the Woods with each a Spear in her hand, the man seemed rather afraid when we approached the Rock with our Boat, he however stood firm. I threw him a shore two handkerchiefs but he did not descend the Rock to take them up. At length I handed them up and imbraced him and presented him with such articles as I had about me which disapated his fears."

James Cook (1773)



"It being the Design of the R. Society, for the better attaining the End of their Institution, to study *Nature* rather than *Books*, and from *Observations*, made of the *Phenomena* and *Effects* she presents, to compose such a *History* of Her, as may hereafter serve to build a *Solid* and *Useful* Philosophy upon."

Directions for Sea-Men, Bound for Far Voyages, The Royal Society, *Philosophical Transactions* (1665-1678)

Imperialism



"I heard an account ...of a representative of her Majesty in Africa who went out for a day's antelope shooting. There were plenty of antelope about ... but always, just before he got within shot of the game, they saw something and bolted ... happening to look round, he saw the boy behind him was ...steadfastly holding aloft the consular flag. Well, if you go hunting the African idea with the flag of your own religion or opinions floating ostentatiously above you, you will similarly get a very poor bag."

Mary Kingsley, *Travels in West Africa* (1897)

"Underneath our excellent administrative system; under the piles of reports and statistics; the thousands of troops; the doctors; and the civilian, runs wholly untouched and unaffected the life of the peoples of the land - a life as full of impossibilities and wonders as the Arabian Nights.... Immediately outside of our own English life, is the dark and crooked and fantastic, and wicked, and awe inspiring life of the native."

Rudyard Kipling (1885)

"An immense crowd surrounded us early this morning, incited by pure curiosity. They are not rude but watch every motion with intense interest. Our tent is open at each end, but that does not suffice: they peer under the sides and a perpetual clatter of tongues reminds us of their presence. O that the gospel of the grace of God were known and appreciated by these poor people. We could scarcely hear at our prayers, though they remained quiet for a little after being told so. A line drawn on the ground ten feet off keeps our table clear at meals ..."

David Livingstone, *The Zambezi Expedition 1858-1863*



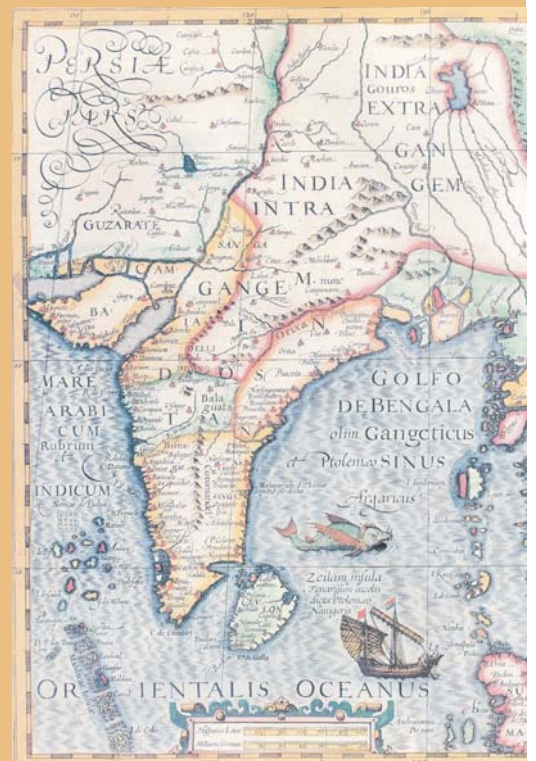
"I was not a little surprised to see three lions coming towards us ... They were very large and came bounding over the long grass, not one after the other, but all abreast of each other. I was afraid, if I allowed them to come to near us, and my piece should miss fire, that we should all be devoured by them. As soon as they were within a long shot of me, I fired at the centre one. I do not think I hit him; but they all stopt, and looked back at me. I was too busy in loading my piece to observe their motions as they went away, and [I] was very happy to see the last of them march off slowly amongst the bushes."

Mungo Park, *Travels in the interior districts of Africa*



"As it is with the forest, so it is with the minds of the natives. Unless you live among the natives, you never get to know them; if you do this you gradually get a light into the true state of their mind-forest. At first you see nothing but a confused stupidity and crime; but when you get to see - well! as in the other forest - you see things worth seeing. But it is beyond me to describe the process ..."

Mary Kingsley, *Travels in West Africa* (1897)



Grand Tour



"...the whole circle of travelers may be reduced to the following Heads.

Idle Travellers,
Inquisitive Travellers,
Lying Travellers,
Proud Travellers,
Vain Travellers,
Splenic Travellers.

... And last of all (if you please) The Sentimental Traveller (meaning thereby myself) who have travelled, and of which I am now sitting down to give an account ..."

Laurence Sterne, *A Sentimental Journey Through France and Italy* (1768)



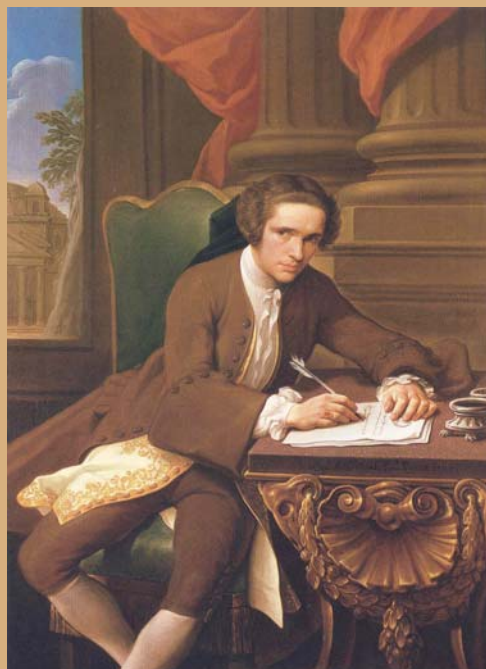
"I have seen in different parts of Italy a number of raw boys, whom Britain seemed to have poured forth on purpose to bring her national character into contempt; ignorant, petulant, rash, and profligate, without any knowledge or experience of their own, without any director to improve their understanding ... the most remarkable phenomenon of this kind, which I have seen, is a boy of seventy-two, now actually traveling through Italy, for improvement, under the auspices of another boy of twenty-two."

Tobias Smollet, *Travels Through France and Italy* (1766)

Venice

"It is a great pleasure to write the word; but I am not sure there is not a certain impudence in pretending to add anything to it. Venice has been painted and described many thousands of times, and of all the cities of the world is the easiest to visit without going there."

Henry James, *Italian Hours* (1882)



"In a hundred there are not two that seek to instruct themselves ... to take punch and tea at the inns; to speak ill of all other nations and to boast without ceasing of their own; that is what the crowd of English call travelling."

Abbé Dupaty, *Lettres sur l'Italie* (1785)

Heyday

"To find three masculine, world-lost souls, and world-lost saunter ... across the dithering space, as long as life lasts! Why come to anchor? There is nothing to anchor for. Land has no answer to the soul any more ... Give me a little ship, kind gods, and three world-lost comrades. Hear me! And let me wander aimless across this vivid outer world, the world empty of man, where space flies happily."

D.H. Lawrence, *Sea and Sardinia* (1921)



"Keep Moving! Steam, or Gas, or Stage, Hold, cabin, steerage, hencoop's cage - Tour, Journey, Voyage, Lounge, Ride Walk, Skim, Sketch, Excursion, Travel-talk - For move you must! 'Tis now the rage, The law and fashion of the Age."

Coleridge (1824)



"This is the Sphinx. Goodnesshow sad.

This is temple of someone. Darling I cant wait to tell you I'm engaged to Arthur, Arthur is the one I thought a pansy. Bertie thinks egyption art is v. inartistic."

Evelyn Waugh, 'Cruise: Letters from a Young Lady of Leisure' (1948)