

Inhabitants of Hispana

Columbus's European mind is startled by two facts concerning the natives of these islands: they walk about without clothing and they have no weapons other than reeds. They flee wildly from the foreigners and are very timid, although Columbus has given good gifts to those whom he can catch. When they see that he means them no harm, they share everything that they have.

Cuius quidem et omnium aliarum, quas ego vidi et quarum
 cognitionem habeo, incolae utriusque sexus nudi semper
 incedunt, quemadmodum eduntur in lucem, praeter
 aliquas feminas, quae folio frondeve aliqua aut bombicino
 5 velo pudenda operiunt, quod ipse sibi ad id negotii parant.
 Carent hi omnes (ut supra dixi) quocumque genere ferri.
 Carent et armis, utpote sibi ignotis, nec ad ea sunt apti; non
 propter corporis deformitatem (cum sint bene formati),
 sed quia sunt timidi ac pleni formidine. Gestant tamen pro
 10 armis harundines sole perustas, in quarum radicibus hastile
 quoddam ligneum siccum et in mucronem attenuatum
 figunt; neque his audent iugiter uti. Nam saepe evenit, cum
 miserim duos vel tres homines ex meis ad aliquas villas, ut
 cum earum loquerentur incolis, existiisse agmen glomeratum
 15 ex Indis et, ubi nostros appropinquare videbant, fugam
 celeriter arripuisse, despretis a patre liberis et e contra; et
 hoc non, quod cuiquam eorum damnum aliquod vel iniuria
 illata fuerit. Immo ad quoscumque appuli et quibuscum
 verbum facere potui, quicquid habebam, sum elargitus:
 20 pannum aliaque permulta, nulla mihi facta versura. Sed

sunt natura pavidi ac timidi. Ceterum ubi se cernunt tutos, omni metu repulso sunt admodum simplices ac bonae fidei et in omnibus, quae habent, liberalissimi. Roganti, quod possidet, infitiat nemo. Quin ipsi nos ad id poscendum invitant. Maximum erga omnes amorem prae se ferunt.

VOCABULARY

appell•o –ere **appuli appulsum** to land, move up to
arrip•io –ere **arripui arreptum** to take, seize, head eagerly for
car•eo –ere –ui *w abl or gen* to lack, be without
damn•um –i *n* loss
deformi•tas –tatis *f* deformity
despern•o –ere **desprevi despretum** to despise, abandon
e contra vice versa
ed•o –ere –idi –datum to bring forth, bear, give birth to
elargi•o –ire **elargitus** *semi-dep* to give freely, distribute
gest•o (1) to bear, carry
glomer•o (1) to gather up, form a crowd
hastil•is –e *n* spear
in•fero –ferre **intuli illatum** to bring in
infit•ior –ari –atus *dep* to withhold, deny
iugiter *adv* continuously
mucr•o –onis *m* point
pann•us –i *m* cloth, clothing
perust•us –a –um *adj* thoroughly burned
posc•o –ere **poposci** to demand
pudend•us –a –um *adj* shameful
quicumque quaecumque quodcumque *pron & adj* whoever, whatever
quispiam quaequam quodpiam *pron & adj* any
radix radice *f* base, root
utpote *adv* as, inasmuch as
vel•um –i *n* veil

NEOLOGISM

bombicin•us –a –um *adj* web-like, made of cotton