

## Interaction with the Natives

*Columbus and his men soon learn that the natives will trade cotton and gold for small or even worthless things. Columbus forbids his men to follow a short-sighted policy of cheating the natives, as he has in mind both converting them to Christianity and leading them to a favorable opinion of the visitors. Moreover they have valuable commodities that the explorers need, and he does not want to cultivate ill will.*

Dant quaeque magna pro parvis, minima licet re, nihilove  
 contenti. Ego attamen prohibui, ne tam minima et nullius  
 pretii hisce darentur, ut sunt lancis, parapsidum, vitrique  
 fragmenta, item clavi, ligulae; quamquam, si hoc poterant  
 5 adipisci, videbatur eis pulcherrima mundi possidere iocalia.  
 Accidit enim quendam navitam tantum auri pondus  
 habuisse pro una ligula, quanti sunt tres aurei solidi, et  
 sic alios pro aliis minoris pretii, praesertim pro blanquis  
 novis [et quibusdam nummis aureis]. Pro quibus habendis  
 10 dabant quicquid petebat venditor, puta unciam cum  
 dimidia et duas auri vel triginta et quadraginta bombacinis  
 pondera, quam ipsi iam neverant. Item arcuum amphorae,  
 hydriae doliique fragmenta bombice et auro tamquam  
 bestiae comparabant. Quod quia iniquum sane erat, vetui  
 15 dedique eis multa pulchra et grata, quae mecum tuleram,  
 nullo interveniente premio, ut eos mihi facilius conciliarem  
 fierentque christicolae, et ut sint proni in amorem erga  
 Regem, Reginam principesque nostros et universas gentes  
 Hispaniae ac studeant perquirere et coacervare eaque nobis  
 20 tradere, quibus ipsi affluunt et nos magnopere indigemus.

Nullam hi norunt idolatriam. Immo firmissime credunt  
 omnem vim, omnem potentiam, omnia denique bona esse  
 in caelo, meque inde cum his navibus et nautis descendisse:  
 atque hoc animo ubique fui susceptus, postquam metum  
 25 repulerant.

### VOCABULARY

**adipisc•or** –**i adeptus** *dep* to gain, get possession of  
**amphor•a** –**ae** *f* pitcher  
**arcus arcus** *m* bow, anything curved (*dat* and *abl pl* –**ubus**)  
**attamen** *adv* however  
**besti•a** –**ae** *f* beast, inhuman creature  
 –**ce** *enclitic* (*syllable added to strengthen attached word*)  
**clav•us** –**i** *m* nail, key  
**dimidi•a** –**ae** *f* a half  
**hydri•a** –**ae** *f* water-jug  
**iocal•ia** –**ium** *n* trinkets, jewelry  
**lance•a** –**ae** *f* lance  
**ligul•a** –**ae** *f* shoe strap  
**navit•a** –**ae** *m* sailor  
**nev•o** –**ere** –**i netum** to weave, spin  
**nil** (*nihil* or *nihilo*) *indecl n* nothing  
**numm•a** –**ae** *f* coin  
**paraps•is** –**idis** *f* fruit dish  
**pondo** *adv* by weight  
**preti•um** –**i** *n* price, value  
**put•o** (1) to think, consider, imagine; “**puta...**” = “imagine, for example...”  
**quantum** *adv* how far, how much, so much, as much  
**solid•us** –**i** *m* coin  
**tantum** *adv* as far as, as much as  
**unci•a** –**ae** *f* ounce  
**vitr•um** –**i** *n* glass