

Of Studies by Francis Bacon

Bacon aims to provide compelling reasons for why one should study. He describes how study can serve different purposes in one's life as per their needs. Studies have instrumental value for those who read for pleasure, those who want to improve their daily communication. The third use of studying is that it helps with the judgement and disposition of business. However, Bacon says, to go by the rules as it is, is also not commendable. As spending too much time studying causes sloth, using them too much in the language is affectation and making judgements solely based on books is "humour of the scholar". Bacon advises that study should go along with experience.

Bacon further says that crafty men do not like studies, simple people understand the importance and admire them while wise people know how to apply knowledge gained from books in their day to day lives. Reading should not be simply done to argue or to show off in a discourse, reading should be done to "weigh and consider". Besides, all books do not carry the same importance or value for people. "Some books are to be tasted, others to be swallowed, some few to be chewed and digested". Bacon further says that different kinds of readings work differently as history makes people wise, poetry witty and mathematics subtle.

The last section of the essay portrays what Bacon has been going over in the previous parts. Bacon emphasises that different types of readings can train the mind differently. He stresses on disciplining the mind and how studies can aid in the process.

