

Of Great Place characters

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Tacitus: Tacitus was a famous historian of ancient Rome. Bacon quotes Tacitus in this essay to explain the nature of rulers and leadership. Tacitus's remarks show that power reveals a person's true character. According to him, some people become worse when they gain power, while others become better. Bacon uses this historical example to show that high positions can both elevate a person and cause their downfall. Tacitus here symbolizes the hard truth about human nature.

Galba: Galba was a Roman emperor. Tacitus says about him, "He would have been a good ruler if he had not ruled." This means that power did not improve his character; instead, it exposed his weaknesses. Bacon uses this example to show that high office can make some people successful but expose others as unfit. Galba symbolizes the idea that power is not suitable for everyone.

Vespasian: Vespasian was also a Roman emperor. Tacitus says that Vespasian became a better person after gaining power. His character grew stronger through authority. Bacon uses this example to show that truly great people become more mature, calm, and responsible when they rise to high office. Vespasian, therefore, symbolizes a leader who becomes better through power.

Solomon: Solomon was one of the wisest kings in the Bible. Bacon quotes his teachings on justice and honesty. Solomon said, "To show partiality is not good." This reflects one of the main principles of leadership. Bacon uses this quotation to highlight the dangers of corruption, injustice, and favoritism. Solomon here symbolizes wisdom, justice, and moral integrity.

God (Biblical reference): Bacon uses God's satisfaction after creation, "all things were very good", to make a point. By this he explains that human work, too, reaches perfection only when it is done with good purpose and moral intent. This reference to God symbolizes purity, righteousness, and the value of doing good.