

show that he does not seek or expect praise for it, nor let him seem to devote much care or time to it, although he may do it admirably. . . .

There are certain other exercises that can be practiced in public and in private, like dancing; and in this I think the Courtier ought to have a care, for when dancing in the presence of many and in a place full of people, it seems to me that he should preserve a certain dignity. . . .

Besides daily showing everyone that he possesses the worth we have already described, I would have the Courtier strive, with all the thoughts and forces of his mind, to love and almost to adore the prince whom he serves, above every other thing, and mold his wishes, habits, and all his ways to his prince's liking. . . .

Our Courtier . . . will not be a bearer of evil tidings; he will not be thoughtless in sometimes saying things that offend instead of pleasing as he intends. He will not be obstinate and disputatious, as some are who seem to delight in nothing but to be troublesome and disagreeable like flies, and who make a point of spitefully contradicting everyone. . . .

Let him above all take care not to weary his lord, and let him wait for favors to be offered him rather than angle for them so openly as many do, who are so greedy that it seems as if they must die if they do not get what they seek. . . .

I would that our Courtier . . . might love, honor, and respect others according to their worth and merits, and always continue to consort [mingle] more with such as are in high esteem and noble and of known virtue, than with the ignoble and those of little worth; in such ways that he may be loved and honored by them also. And he will accomplish this if he be courteous, kind, generous, affable, and mild with others, zealous and active to serve and guard his friends' welfare and honor both absent and present, enduring such of their natural defects as are endurable, without breaking with them for slight cause, and correcting in himself those that are kindly pointed out. . . .

I do not care at present to go more into detail in speaking of things that are too well known, such as that our Courtier ought not to avow himself a great eater or drinker, or given to excess in any evil habit; . . . because a man of this kind not only may not hope to become a good Courtier, but can be set to no more fitting business than feeding sheep. . . .

If our Courtier excels in anything besides arms, I would have him

get profit and esteem from it in fine fashion; and I would have him so discreet and sensible as to be able with skill and address to attract men to see and hear what wherein he thinks he excels, always appearing not to do it from ostentation, but by chance and at others' request rather than by his own wish. . . . Then, in that of which he knows he is wholly ignorant, I would never have him make any pretense or seek to win any fame; nay if need be, let him frankly confess his ignorance. . . .

I wish our Courtier to guard against getting the name of a liar or a boaster, which sometimes befalls even those who do not deserve it. . . .

Let it suffice to say, besides the things already said, that he should be of such sort as never to be without something to say that is good and well suited to those with whom he is speaking, and that he should know how to refresh the minds of his hearers with a certain sweetness, and by his amusing witticisms and pleasantries to move them cleverly to mirth and laughter.

The Conviction and Recantation of Galileo

The hypothesis of Copernicus that the sun and not the earth was the center of the universe won general acceptance only when it was verified by observation and formulated in terms of scientific law. The work of the versatile Galileo Galilei (1564-1642) furthered the acceptance of Copernican ideas, added a great deal of new knowledge, and demonstrated the erroneous nature of many accepted notions. Galileo made a telescope and used it to support his assertion that there was no distinction between heavenly bodies and the earth. Though some of his opponents refused to look through his telescope, he was able to demonstrate that the moon had a rough surface like that of the earth and that the surface of the sun was not perfect but was covered with "spots." He noticed that Jupiter had a number of satellite moons and looked like a miniature solar system. He proved that all bodies, in the absence of air friction, fall at the same speed regardless of weight, thus discrediting a long-accepted notion.