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Penguin Island

Anatole France

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Penguin Island is a satirical fictional history by Nobel Prize winning French author Anatole France. It is concerned with grandnarratives, mythologizing heroes, hagiography and romantic nationalism. It is about a fictitious island, inhabited by great auks, that existed off the northern coast of Europe. The history begins when a wayward Christian missionary monk lands on the island and perceives the upright, unafraid auks as a sort of pre-Christian society of noble pagans. Mostly blind and somewhat deaf, having mistaken the animals for humans, he baptizes them. This causes a problem for The Lord, who normally only allows humans to be baptized. After consulting with saints and theologians in Heaven, He resolves the dilemma by converting the baptized birds to humans with only a few physical traces of their ornithological origin, and giving them each a soul.

Thus begins the history of Penguinia, and from there forward the history mirrors that of France (and more generally of Western Europe, including German-speaking areas and the British Isles). The narrative spans from the Migration Period ("Dark Ages"), when the Germanic tribes fought incessantly among themselves for territory; to the heroic Early Middle Ages with the rise of Charlemagne ("Draco the Great") and conflicts with Viking raiders ("porpoises"); through the Renaissance (Erasmus); and up to the modern era with motor cars; and even into a future time in which a thriving high-tech civilization is destroyed by a campaign of terrorist bombings, and everything begins again in an endless cycle.

The longest-running plot thread, and probably the best known, satirizes the Dreyfus affair — though both brief and complex satires of European history, politics, philosophy and theology are present throughout the novel. At various points, real historical figures such as Columba and Saint Augustine are part of the story, as well as fictionalized characters who represent historical people. Penguin Island is considered a critique of human nature from a socialist standpoint, in which morals, customs and laws are lampooned. For example, the origin of the aristocracy is presented as starting with the brutal and shameless murder of a farmer, and the seizure of his land, by a physically larger and stronger neighbor.

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Gregory Throop:

Exactly why? Because this Penguin Island is an unordinary book that the inside of the reserve waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will shock you with the secret the idea inside. Reading this book adjacent to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such awesome way makes the content interior easier to understand, entertaining way but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of positive aspects than the other book include such as help improving your expertise and your critical thinking means. So , still want to hold up having that book? If I ended up you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Laura Rogers:

Penguin Island can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining however delivering the information. The article writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing Penguin Island nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and based confirm resource data that maybe you can be among it. This great information could drawn you into new stage of crucial contemplating.

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