

FRANCIS BACON

I don't know if he liked bacon
But Francis thought philosophers mistaken
To think that reason alone was enough
To know how the world works and other stuff.
He is the father of British empiricism
Which is not at all a form of puritanism—
It says that all knowledge comes from looking—
It's not enough to let the mind do the cooking.
Stop reading Aristotle and start looking at things—
Look at a real bird—it has wings and it sing.
Don't rely on what Aristotle may have said—
He got a lot of things wrong and he's long dead.
Science can only advance with experimentation—
Science is inductive and relies on falsification.
Knowledge is power—it not just a game—
With technology the world will never be the same.
He attacked the idols of the tribe, the idols of the cave,
The idols of the theater, and the idols of the marketplace.
He got involved in politics though and became Lord Chancellor—
But he took some bribes and had to spend time in the Tower.
He was banished from public life and had to pay a fine—
So he ended up writing his books while sipping his wine.
He despised the syllogism and Aristotle too—
He thought induction and experiment the way to the true.
There are some who think Shakespeare was Francis Bacon
But they are kooks and sadly mistaken.

PROTAGORAS

Protagoras said man is the measure
Of all things—now, isn't that a treasure?
Well, Socrates and Plato didn't think so
And I think they should know.
Protagoras was a sophist who sold his wares