

1/MONK: Christopher Columbus, how kind of you to return to this monastery. We prayed for your success in finding new lands and new souls for the church.

2/CHRISTOPHER: And I thank you, Monk. I'm sure your prayers contributed to the safety of our voyage. We had good sailing and no scurvy.

3/BARTHOLOMEW: Columbus has told us many tales of his voyage. We will be going with him when he returns to the new land. This time he will not have to wait so long for orders to sail.

2/CHRISTOPHER: Do you remember how long I had to wait?

1/MONK: Indeed I do. I heard you grumble about it for years. First you applied to the king of Portugal who refused. Portugal's plan was to round the tip of Africa and find a route to India that way.

2/CHRISTOPHER: England was fighting the War of the Roses, France wasn't interested, and Spain appointed a "commission" to consider the plan.

4/DIEGO: The commission didn't make a decision for five years, and when it did, Spain was engaged in a war to remove the Moors from Spain. Finally the day came.

2/CHRISTOPHER: Yes, Diego, and even then, the ships and supplies were not adequate.

3/BARTHOLOMEW: Christopher was given only a portion of what he needed. The Pinzon brothers who served as captains of the Nina and Pinta helped recruit men, provide supplies, even find the ships. On the next trip, Diego and I will be there to help.

1/MONK: Christopher is fortunate to have two brothers willing to help him. Bartholomew, aren't you skilled in chartmaking?

3/BARTHOLOMEW: Yes. Both Christopher and I worked in the service of Portugal. We learned the art of navigation and chartmaking in Prince Henry's school.

2/CHRISTOPHER: I needed that skill on my voyage to the new world. I had also learned the business of sailing from the bottom up. I did the dirty hard work when I was a youth and I knew what the men would be facing.

1/MONK: Perhaps God was preparing you for this special task.

2/CHRISTOPHER: My mission was always two-fold in purpose, to discover a new route to India and to spread the true religion.

4/DIEGO: You know that Christopher's patron saint is St. Christopher, whose burden was to serve Christ and do good. Well, my brother has always believed that it was his burden to carry the gospel of Christ across the ocean.

1/MONK: Are the people in the new land ready for Christianity?