

Name: _____ Class: _____

No Man Is An Island

By John Donne
1624

John Donne (1572-1631) was an English poet whose time spent as a cleric in the Church of England often influenced the subjects of his poetry. In 1623, Donne suffered a nearly fatal illness, which inspired him to write a book of meditations on pain, health, and sickness called Devotions upon Emergent Occasions. "No Man is an Island" is a famous section of "Meditation XVII" from this book. As you read, take notes on how the author uses figurative language to describe humanity.

Modern Version

- [1] No man is an island entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main; if a clod¹ be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less, as well as if a promontory² were, as
- [5] well as any manner of thy friends or of thine own were; any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;³ it tolls for thee.



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Early Modern English Version

- [6] No man is an lland, intire of itselfe; every man is a peece of the Continent, a part of the maine; if a Clod bee washed away by the Sea, Europe is the lesse, as well as if a Promontorie were, as
- [10] well as if a Manor of thy friends or of thine owne were; any mans death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankinde; And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; It tolls for thee.

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1. a clump of soil
2. a point of high land that juts out into a large body of water, like a peninsula
3. ringing a bell to mark or announce something (such as the time or a person's passing)