



# The Great Voyage to the Land of Palms

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In the bustling port of Lisbon in 1500, a young boy named Pedro watched as massive wooden ships swayed in the harbor. He had just been chosen as a cabin boy for a grand expedition led by the noble Captain Pedro Álvares Cabral.



Captain Cabral stood before his crew, pointing to a large map filled with unknown seas and mysterious territories. While their official mission was to find a route to India, Pedro felt a sense of destiny pulling them toward the uncharted west.



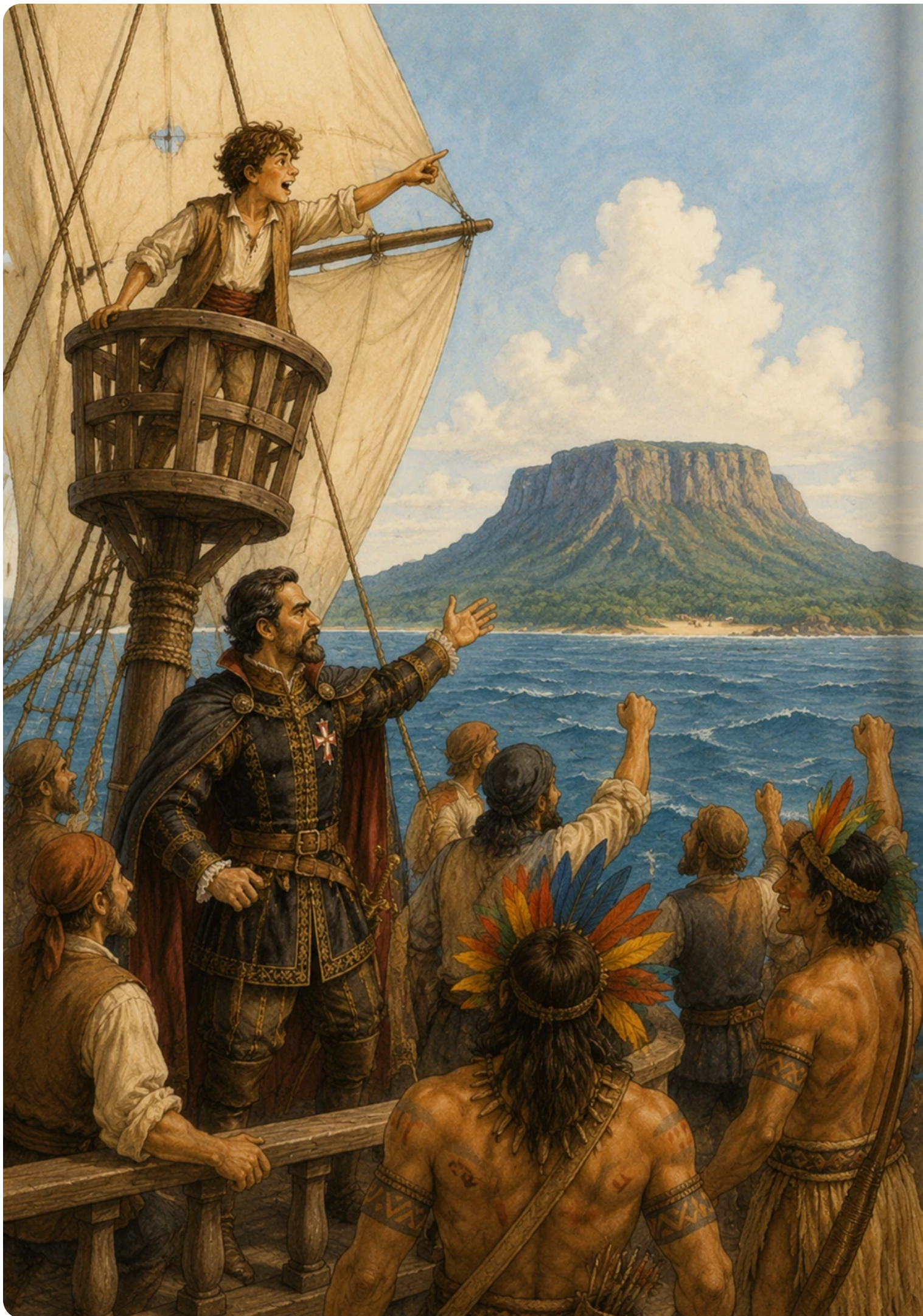
The fleet of thirteen ships spread their white sails, each marked with a bold red cross, and began their journey away from the familiar shores of Portugal. Pedro gripped the wooden railing, feeling the spray of the salt water as the city of Lisbon faded into a tiny speck on the horizon.



For many weeks, the ships sailed southwest, deep into the vast and lonely Atlantic Ocean where the water met the sky in every direction. The sailors shared stories of mythical sea creatures, but Pedro spent his nights watching the stars to guide their way through the dark waves.



One sunny afternoon, Pedro noticed long strands of green seaweed known as botelho floating in the blue water. High above, a small white bird called a fura-bucho circled the masts, which was a sure sign that land was finally nearby.



On April 22, 1500, a shout rang out from the crow's nest as a large mountain with a flat top rose from the sea. The sailors named it Monte Pascoal because it was the week of Easter, and they celebrated their first glimpse of this mysterious new world.



As the ships dropped anchor near the shore, Pedro saw people with golden-brown skin standing on the white sands, watching the massive vessels with curiosity. These were the Tupiniquim people, the original inhabitants of this lush paradise filled with colorful parrots and giant trees.



Pedro joined the captain on a small boat to meet the locals, carrying mirrors and red hats as peace offerings. The Indigenous people offered beautiful feather headdresses and wooden bows in return, marking the first peaceful exchange between two very different cultures.



Under the shade of towering trees, the Portuguese friars set up an altar to celebrate the first Mass on the sandy shore. Pedro watched in awe as the sounds of hymns mixed with the calls of exotic birds and the rustling leaves of the deep green jungle.



Before the fleet continued their journey toward India, the scribe Pero Vaz de Caminha sat down to write a long letter to the King of Portugal. He described the immense beauty of the land and its people, ensuring that the discovery of Brazil would be remembered for centuries to come.