

Hakluytus Posthumus
or
Purchas His Pilgrimes

Contayning a History of the World
in Sea Voyages and Lande Travells
by Englishmen and others

By
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Chap. VII.

[II. ix. 1483.]

The Travels of Lewis Bartheima or Vertoman into Egypt, Syria, Arabia, Persia, and India, heretofore published in English by R. Eden, and here corrected according to Ramusios Copie, and contracted.

§. I.

His Travell thorow the Desarts of Medina and Mecha, and their profane Holies.



Departing from Venice with prosperous winds, in few dayes wee arrived at the Citie of Alexandria in Egypt: where the desire wee had to know things more strange and further off, would not permit us to tarrie long. And therefore departing from thence, and sayling up the River of Nilus, we came to the Citie of new Babylon, commonly called, Cayro. It seemed to mee much inferiour to the report and fame that was thereof: for the greatnesse thereof seemed nothing agreeable to the bruit, and appeared no more in circuit then the Citie of Rome, although much more peopled, and better inhabited. But the large fields of the Suburbs have deceived many, being dispersed with in manner innumerable Villages, which some have thought to have beene part of the Citie, which is nothing so. For those Villages and dispersed houses, are two or three miles from the Citie, and round about it on every side.

Cayro.

Departing from Babylon, and returning to Alexandria, where we againe entred into our Sea, we came to Barutti, a Citie on the Sea-coast of Syria. From hence wee sayled to Tripoli. From thence we came to Aleppo. Departing from thence, we came to Damasco, in ten dayes journey.

Damasco.


It is in manner incredible, and passeth all beliefe, to

LEWIS BARTHEMA

As Isaac went to follow his Father, there appeared to him in the way a Devill, in likenesse of a faire and friendly person, not farre from the said wall, and asked him friendly whether he went. Isaac answered, that he went to his Father who tarried for him. To this the Enemie of Mankind answered, that it was best for him to tarrie, and if that he went any further, his Father would sacrifice him. But Isaac nothing fearing this advertisement of the Devill, went forward, that his Father on him might execute the commandement of God: and with this answer (as they say) the Devill departed. Yet as Isaac went forward, the Devill appeared to him againe in the likenesse of another friendly person, and forbade him as before. Then Isaac taking up a stone in that place, hurld it at the Devill, and wounded him in the fore-head: In witnesse and remembrance whereof, the people passing that way, when they come neere the wall, are accustomed to cast stones against it, and from thence goe into the Citie. As we went this way, the Aire was in manner darkened with a multitude of stocke Doves. They say that these Doves, are of the Progenie of the Dove that spake in the eare of Mahumet, in likenesse of the Holy Ghost. These are seene every where, as in the Villages, Houses, Tavernes, and Graniers of Corne and Rice, and are so tame, that one can scarcely drive them away. To take them or kill them, is esteemed a thing worthy death: and therefore a certaine Pension is given to nourish them in the Temple.

§. II.

Two Unicornes. His passage by the Red Sea to Aden. Imprisonment and counterfeiting himselfe madde. Escape and visiting other parts of Arabia, Zeila, Cambaia.

N the other part of the Temple are Parkes or places inclosed, where are seene two Unicornes, and are there shewed to the people for a wonder. The one of them, which is much higher then the other, yet not

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The Devill appeareth to Isaac, or rather to Ismael, after their Legend.

Isaac wounded the Devill in the fore-head.

Stocke Doves of the Progeny of the Dove which spake in Mahumets eare.

The only report that I have found in any credible Author of Unicornes: neither in 120. yeares which have passed since, have I found one Relation to second it. Some mention Unicornes, but understand the Rhinoceros.

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PURCHAS HIS PILGRIMES

**Braccia.*

much unlike to a Colt of thirtie moneths of age; in the fore-head groweth only one Horne, in manner right forth, of the length of three Cubits.* The other is much younger, and like a young Colt: of the age of one yeare; the horne of this, is of the length of foure spannes. This beast is of the colour of a Horse of Weesell colour, and hath the head like an Hart, but no long necke, a thinne mane hanging only on the one side: their legs are thinne and slender, like a Fawne or Hind: the hoofes of the fore-feet are divided in two, much like the feet of a Goat, the outward part of the hinder feet is very full of haire. This beast doubtlesse seemeth wild and fierce, yet tempereth that fiercenesse with a certaine comelinesse. These Unicornes one gave to the Sultan of Mecha, as a most precious and rare gift. They were sent him out of Ethiopia by a King of that Countrey, who desired by that present to gratifie the Sultan of Mecha.

[II.ix.1490.] Whereas my Captaine gave me charge to buy certaine things, as I was in the Market place, a certaine Mamaluke knew me to be a Christian. And therefore in his owne Language, spake unto me these words, Inte mename: That is, whence art thou? To whom I answered that I was a Mahumetan. But he said, Thou sayest not truly. I said againe, By the head of Mahumet, I am a Mahumetan. Then he said againe, Come home to my house. I followed him willingly. When we were there, he began to speake to me in the Italian Tongue, and asked me againe from whence I was, affirming that he knew me, and that I was no Mahumetan: Also that he had bin sometime in Genua and Venice. And that his words might be the better beleaved, rehearsed many things which testified that he said truth. When I understood this, I confessed freely that I was a Romane, but professed to the Faith of Mahumet in the Citie of Babylon, and there made one of the Mamalukes. Whereof he seemed greatly to rejoyce, and therefore used me honourably. But because my desire was yet to goe further, I asked the Mahumetan whether that Citie of Mecha was so famous as all the

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World spake of it: and inquired of him where was the great abundance of Pearles, Precious Stones, Spices, and other rich Merchandise that the bruit went of to be in that Citie. Then he began with more attentive minde, in order to declare unto me the cause why that Mart was not so greatly frequented as it had beene before, and laid the only fault thereof on the King of Portugall. When I was well instructed in all things, I spake unto him friendly these words in the Mahumets Language, Menaha Menal-habi: That is to say, I pray you assist me. He asked me wherein. To helpe mee (said I) how I may secretly depart hence to those Kings that were most enemies to the Christians: Affirming furthermore, that I would give place to no man in making of all manner of Gunnes and Artillerie. Then said hee, Praysed be Mahumet who sent thee hither, to doe him and his Moores good service: and willed me to remayne secretly in his house with his wife, and required mee earnestly to obtayne leave of our Captaine, that under his name hee might leade from Mecha fifteene Camels laden with Spices, without paying any custome: for they ordinarily pay to the Sultan thirtie Saraphes of Gold, for transporting of such Merchandises for the charge of so many Camels. I put him in good hope of his request, although he would aske for a hundred, affirming that that might easily be obtayned by the Priviledges of the Mamalukes and therefore desired him that I might safely remayne in his house. Then nothing doubting to obtayne his request, hee greatly rejoyced, and talking with me yet more freely, gave me further instructions, and counselled me to repaire to a certaine King of the greater India, in the Kingdome and Realme of Dechan. Therefore the day before the Caravan departed from Mecha, he willed me to lye hid in the most secret part of his house. The day following, early in the morning, the Trumpetter of the Caravan gave warning to all the Mamalukes to make readie their Horses, to direct their journey toward Syria, with Proclamation of death to all that should refuse so to doe. When I heard the sound

*Why Mecha
is not so much
frequented as
in time past.*

*Paying of
custome to the
Sultan.*