

Newes from the East- INDIES:

Or,

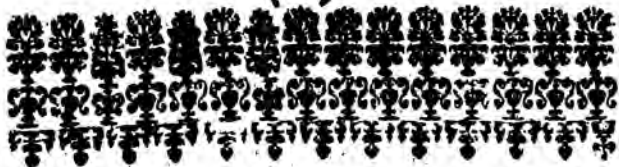
A Voyage to *Bengalla*, one of the greatest
Kingdomes under the High and Mighty
Prince *Pedeshah Shassalem*, usually called the
Great Mogull.

With the state and magnificence of the Court of
Malcandy, kept by the *Nabob* Viceroy, or vice-
King under the aforesayd Monarch: Also their
detestable Religion, mad and foppish
rites, and Ceremonies, and wic-
ked Sacrifices and impious
Customes used in
those parts.

Written by *William Brton*, now resident in the Parish
of *S. Saviours Southwark*, who was an eye and care
witness of these following Descriptions; and
published as he collected them being resi-
dent there divers yeares: and now lately come
home in the good Ship called the *Hop-
wel of London*, with divers Merchants
of good account which are able
to testifie the same for truth.

Imprinted at *London* by *J. Oks*, and are to be sold by *Humphery
Blunden* at his shop in *Corne-hill* at the signe of the *Castle*
neere the *Royall Exchange*. 1638.



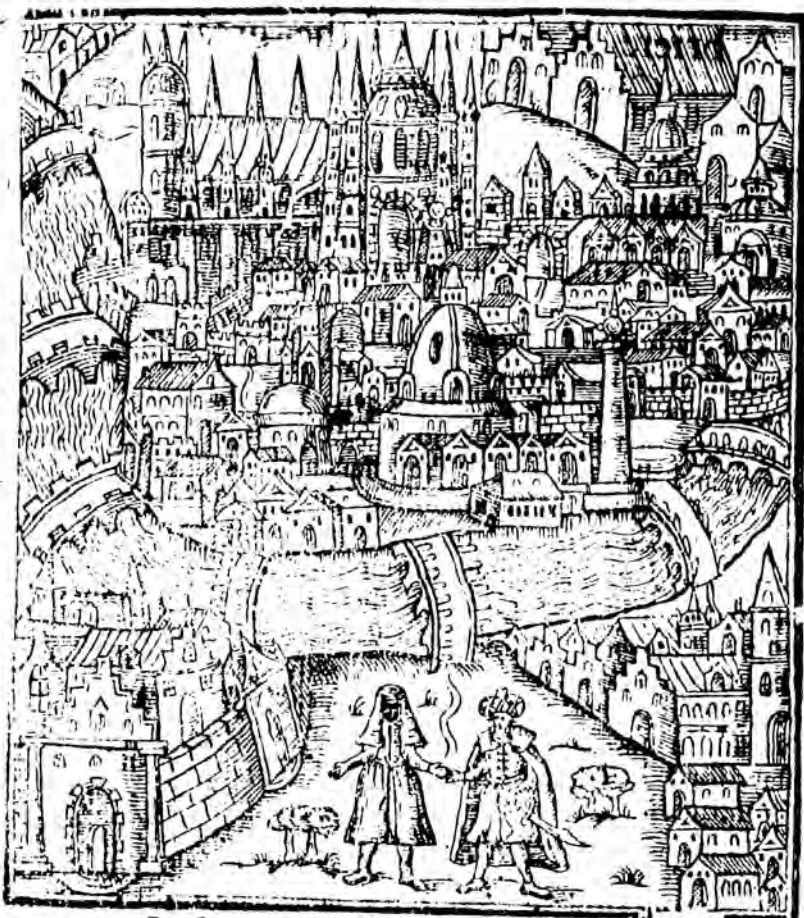


A Rare and most Strange
Relation from *Bengalla* in the
East-Indies, being one of the greatest
Kingdomes under the Great *Mogull*,
and of their Lawes, Manners,
and Customes, &c.



Although divers learned, painefull, and skilfull *Mathematicians* and *Geographers* have with great Industry spent much profitable Time, in finding out the Circumference of the Terrestrial Globe, in describing Empires, Kingdomes, Principalities, Lordships, Regions, Provinces, Territories, Variations of Climates and Scituations, with the diversities of Dispositions, of Tongues, Religions, Habits, Manners, Lawes, and Customes of sundry Nations: Though much labour, perill, and Cost hath bene worthily imploy'd by *Pliny* the *secor* i, *Ortellius*, *Iodoco Hondius*; or (to come nearer) to our *English* Worthies, such as are described in the Booke of *Hacklewicks* Voyages, namely, *Windam*, *Chan-*
B
celour,

noone, I drew neare to this great City of *Jaggarnet*, to which I passed over a great stone Causey, on either side whereof was a very goodly Tanke to wash in; this



Causey was about halfe a mile in length; then as I came to the West end of this City, I entred into a very

a very faire place for Scituation, furnished with exceeding store of pleasant Trees and Groves, and on either side of the way Tankes of Water and *Pagodoes* in the midst of them. From thence I passed up into the High-streere, where I was entertained by a *Brammine*, (which is one of their Religious men, or Idolatrous Priests) but let his Religion be what it would, into his House I went, and there I lodged all the time of my stay there.

The Eighth day of *November*, in the Morning, after I had gone about the affaires that I was sent to doe, I went to view the City in some part, but especially that mighty *Pagodo* or *Pagod*, the Mirrour of all wickednesse and Idolatry: Unto this *Pagod*, or house of *Sathan* (as it may rightly be called) doe belong 9000. *Brammines* or Priests, which doe dayly offer Sacrifices unto their great God *Jagarnat*, from which Idoll the City is so called; and when he is but named, then all the people in the Towne and Countrey doe bow and bend their knees to the ground, as the *Moabites* did to their Idoll *Baal-Peor*: Here they doe also offer their Children to this Idoll, and make them to passe through the Fire, and also they have an abominable custome to cause or make them passe through the Water as Sacrifices unto the said ungodly God.

This Idoll is in shape like a great Serpent, with seven Heads, and on the cheekes of each Head it hath the forme of a Wing upon each cheek, which wings doe open and shut, and flappe, as it is carried in a stately Chariot, and the Idoll in the midd'st of it: and one of the *Moguls* sitting behinde it in the Chariot upon a convenient place with a Canopy, to keepe the Summe from injuring of it.

When I (with horreur) beheld these strange things, I called to mind the 13. *Chap.* of the *Revel.* and 1. *Verse*, and likewise the 16. & 17. *Verses* of the said *Chapter*, in which places there is a *Beast*, and such *Idolatrous* worship mentioned, and those sayings in that *Text* are herein truly accomplished in the 16. *Verse*: for the *Brammines* are all marked in the fore-head, and likewise all that come to worship the *Idoll*, are marked also in their fore-heads; but those that doe buy and sell, are all marked in the left shoulder; and all such as doe dare or presume to buy and sell, (not being marked) are most severely and grievously punished.

They have builded a great *Chariot* that goeth on 16. *Wheeles* of a side, and every *Wheele* is five foote in height, and the *Chariot* it selfe is about *Thirty* foot high. In this *Chariot* (on their great *Festivall* dayes at night) they doe place their wicked *God Jagannat*, and all the *Brammines* (being in number 9000.) doe then attend this great *Idoll*, besides of *Ashmen* and *Fuckirs* some *Thousands*, (or more than a good many) The *Chariot* is most richly adorned with most rich and costly *Ornaments*, and the afore-said *wheeles* are placed very compleat in a round *Circuite* so *Artificially*, that every *wheele* doth doe his proper office without any *impediment*: For the *Chariot* is aloft, and in the *Center* betwixt the *Wheeles*, they have also more than 2000. *Lights* with them: And this *Chariot* with the *Idoll* is also drawne with the greatest and best men of the *Towne*, and they are so eager and greedy to draw it, that whosoever by shouldering, crowding, shoving, heaving, thrusting, or any violent way can but come to lay a hand upon the *Ropes*, they thinke themselves blessed and happy. And when
it

it is going along the *City*, there are many that will offer themselves a *Sacrifice* to this *Idoll*, and desperately lye downe on the ground, that the *Chariot-wheeles* may runne over them, whereby they are killed outright; some get broken armes, some broken legges, so that many of them are so destroyed, and by this meanes they thinke to merit *Heaven*.

There is also another *Chariot* which hath but 12. *wheeles*, and that is for an *Idoll* or a *Devill* of an inferior ranke, or lower degree; and hee doth not goe abroad or in progresse, but when the *Brammines* doe please. This *Pagodo* is situated by the *Sea-side*, and is to be seen into the *Sea* at the least 10. or 12. *Leagues*; (for the *Ayre* and *Sky* is cleare and pure in those parts, that it may be seene farre) It is inclosed with a *Wall* of *Stone*, much about 22. foot in height, and the inclosure is foure-square, and every square is 150. *Geometricall* paces; so the foure squares in the *Total* are 600 paces or yards about: it standeth due *East*, *West*, *North*, and *South*; and every square hath a great gate for the entrance into it, but the *South* and *West-gates* are barr'd up till the *Festivall* times, and none commonly used but the *North* and *East-gates*, but especially the *North-gate*; for it hath all its prospect into the high or chiefe street of this *City*.

Now in some other parts of this *Countrey* the people doe adore and worship other creatures for their *Gods*: some worship the *Celestiall*, as the *Sunne*, *Moone*, and *Starres*: some againe *Terrestriall*, and they of the *Mountaines*, *Vallies*, and *Woods*: some *Aquaticall*, and those of the *Seas*, *Rivers*, and *Fountaines*: some running after a beast like an *Oxe*, the *Dog*, and the *Cat*; some after the *Hawke*, some after
the

the sheepe, and some so foolish, that they doted upon the very Hearbs and Flowers in their Gardens. For indeed they have very rare Flowers for colour, such as I never saw in *England*, or else-where. Some of this Nation have erected to themselves a God, in the likeness of *Jupiter*, and doe chaine him by the legges in their *Pagod*, to the intent that hee might not leave them, nor forsake them; and keepe continuall watch and Guard night and day, lest any of their Enemies should come and intice him away by bribery, and so to prevaile with him to come forth of it, and by that means their City come to ruine and destruction: so much for their Idolatry.

This City of *Bengalla* is very great and populous, it hath many Merchants in it, and yeeldeth very rich Commodities, as good Cloath in abundance, Sugars, Silkes, Tassataes, Stusses, Waxe, Gumlacks, Butter, Oyle, Rice, and Wheate, with many other good commodities vendable. It is likewise famous for its multitude of *Rhinoceroes*; it hath a Beast much like unto a *Unicorne*, and because it hath but one Horne, some doe beleeve and take it for the *Unicorne* Horne for the vertue it hath in it. This City was once free from Taxations, till *Ehebar* the great *Mogull* caused it to be united to his Empire. The chiefest Cities which joyne nearest to it, are *Catigan* and *Satagan* on the Bankes of *Ganges* Eastward: It was once the Seate of the great *Bengalian* King *Malchiram*, as *Mr. Purchase* relates in his Pilgrimage. This City lyes Westward toward *Poga*, and neere to *Casuin* and *Anacani*, two famous Cities for Traffick and Scrimation slying upon the River, and within some few Leagues of the Gulfe call'd the *Bengallian* gulfe, which is a very dangerous

rous one; for at some certaine times of the yeere it is very hazardable for Vessells to passe without shipwrack: There be many other Lakes and Rivers which I could mention, but for Brevity sake I omit them. But there is no strong drinke suffered to be drank within the City, except a Stranger doe bring it in privately, and so it is not knowne: and thus much shall suffice for the impious Religion of *Jaggarnat*, and the stately Court of *Malcandy*.

The most of these people have no Learning, but doe all things by memory: They weare commonly long haire, and are very strict in their time of Fasting; but afterwards, when the Ceremony is over, then they freely commit all kind of wickednesse againe. In some places they have their Edicts or Lawes written, and in other places unwritten: They know not what belongs to Bonds or Bills, and they lend without Witnesses, or any sealing of Writings, even upon their owne Words: And hee that his found to deny his promise, hath the tops of his Fingers cut off. Their habit is various and different, some of them doe goe in Linnen or Woollen; some are cloathed with Beasts skins, or Birds feathers; others goe naked, and doe cover onely their secret parts: Their Bodies are for the most part blacke, which is not accidentall, but naturally arising from the quality of the seed they are begotten: Most of them are of a large stature; they have many Wives which they purchase and buy of their Parents: some they keepe to be their Vassals to doe their drudgery; others, which are handsomer, for issue sake and pleasure.

Here are greater store of Beasts than in any other part of the *Indies*: as Oxen, Camells, Lyons, Dogges,
F
Elephants: