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AFONSO DALBOQUERQUE

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COMMENTARIES

OF THE GREAT

AFONSO DALBOQUERQUE,

SECOND VICEROY OF INDIA.

TRANSLATED FROM THE

PORTUGUESE EDITION OF 1774,

With Notes and an Introduction,

BY

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"... Agora: pois que tendes apprendido:
Trabalhos que vos fação ser accoitos
As eternas esposas, e fermosas
Que coroa vos tecem gloriosas:
Podeis vos embarcar: que tendes vento
E mar tranquillo para a patria amada."

CAM. LIS., x, 142.

xxv, 321

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CHAPTER XVIII.

Of the ambassadors whom the Xequé Ismael sent to the King of Cambay, and to the Hidalcão; and of the origin of their embassies.

Inasmuch as the Xequé Ismael was very greatly desirous of drawing all the Kings of India over to friendship with him, and of persuading them to follow his religious tenets,¹ he frequently sent his ambassadors, in pursuance of this policy, to the King of Cambay, and to the Çabayo,² for he knew that if these two, being of superior power and great estate, could only be persuaded, all other rulers would yield without demur to that which he wished to accomplish. Hence it was, that in the year '13, when Afonso Dalboquerque penetrated the straits of the Red Sea, the Xequé again sent his ambassadors to the same kings as before, each one of them being equipped with a hundred saddle horses, and with very richly-furnished tents for their lodging, and silver services of plate for their tables. The instructions which were carried by these ambassadors were to the effect that the kings must accept his cap,³ [and so acknowledge his supreme power], and cause the especial book of prayer which he used to be read in their mosques. With a similar request he sent another ambassador to the King of Ormuz; and this one, acting upon the advice given to him by Cogear—as I have already shown—and also on account of the circumstance that Rexnordim,⁴ the Governor of the land, was a Persian by birth, had little trouble in persuading the king in the matter of the acceptance of the cap and the prayer of the Xequé Ismael, and the admission of his supremacy.

The ambassador who was sent to the Hidalcão reached

¹ *Cepta*.

² *Carapuça*.

³ See vol. ii, p. 82.

⁴ See vol. i, p. 132.

the city of Calbergate,¹ where he found that potentate, carrying for a present to the same certain horses caparisoned with very rich housings, and brocaded cloths, and Persian silk-stuffs, and some pieces of gold and silver, and emeralds, and a bowl² of ordinary turquoise which Diogo Fernandez, *Adail*³ of Goa, whom Afonso Dalboquerque had sent there, and he happened to be present at the time, declared was quite a marvel to look upon. When the ambassador reached the city, he lost no time in sending a messenger to pay a visit to Afonso Dalboquerque at Goa, as I have said in a former place. The Hidalcão received the ambassador very favourably, and after the lapse of a few days sent him back, giving him a reply to the effect that he might report to the Xequé Ismael how gratified he was at the offer of friendship, but he could not accept any other law or any other prayer than those in which he had been brought up, and gave him some jewels as a present for the Xequé Ismael, and so sent him on to Dabul, so that he might embark at that port; and it was when he arrived there that he sent to Afonso Dalboquerque the messenger of whom I have just given an account.

The other ambassador, who went to the King of Cambay, reached Champanel, and was very well received by the king, but his departure did not end very favourably on account of a misadventure that happened to him in the following way. At the very time when this ambassador reached his

¹ I am not certain if this place is to be identified with Kolapoor, or Kolhapur, an important town in Bijapur, now in Bombay Presidency, lat. 16 deg. 43 min. N.; long. 74 deg. 13 min. E. In that case *Gate* refers to the Ghauts or ridge of mountains along the coast, beyond which lies the city of Kolapoor, to the N.E. of Goa. Kalberga, also called Calberga, Golburga, and Kulburga, appears to be too far distant in the Deccan, although the form of the word is very similar to Calbergate of this text. It lies in lat. 17 deg. 20 min. N.; long. 76 deg. 40 min. E.

² *Porcelana*.

³ See vol. ii, p. 137.

destination, it was but a few days that there had arrived at the Court the eldest son of the King of Mandao, accompanied by certain of his subjects who had wished to follow his fortunes, begging military assistance [from the King of Cambay], so as to be enabled to cast out of his kingdom one of his younger brothers who had risen against him on the death of their father. The ambassador fell into conversation with this young man when he was at Court, and frequently invited him to an evening banquet; and it chanced that one night when they were alone, after the banquet was over, the youth being a handsome fellow, the ambassador laid hold of him, and treated him rudely (for these Ishmaelites are more given to this, if report be true, than any other Moors in those parts of India). The young man began to cry out, and all his people immediately ran in to help their master. The ambassador, when he perceived the uproar, pushed the young man out, and barricaded himself in some houses, and began to defend himself from the people who were attacking him. When the news of all this reached the King of Cambay, he sent all his guard and put down the rioting, but not before seventy or eighty people on one side or the other had lost their lives. The son of the King of Mandao, ashamed of what had taken place, went away to the *Reys Butos*,¹ who border on his realms, and they afforded him assistance against the rebel brother; and, when this man had been cast out of the kingdom, he recovered possession of it.

This kingdom of Mandao² also borders on that of Cambay. The people are very warlike, and in all the rajah's towns and villages there are men in garrisons. The former king, father of this youth, used constantly to carry about with him for show seven or eight thousand women riding on horses, with their bows and arrows. They used to go a hunting with him, but in war he did not make use of them.

¹ See p. 106.

² See p. 60.

As soon as the son was in possession of the kingdom he abandoned this custom, and would not have them any more with him. The King of Cambay, disgusted at the proceedings of the ambassador, made haste to send him away, having very soon shown him that it was no use to try and obtain those things for which he had come thither; but he gave him two elephants, and an animal which is called *ganda*, i.e., a rhinoceros, and many other articles, in return for the gifts which he had brought, and gave orders to a captain to carry him to Çurrate,¹ and from that port to put him and his baggage on board a ship.

When the party reached Çurrate, the ambassador wasted no time in getting on board a ship, which was just on the point of setting out for Ormuz. As soon as he had set out, the servants made a ship ready, in which they embarked the elephants, and the beast, and all the baggage; but the Moors of the land, not being very well pleased with the request for a ship which the ambassador had brought to them, put a faulty mast into the ship; and, hence, when the ship got out a little way from shore, and felt a somewhat stiff breeze, which struck it, the mast broke, so they were compelled to put back into Çurrate, and from this circumstance the king got his present again. The ambassador, however, at length, made his voyage in another ship, not much pleased, it is true, with the sorry entertainment which the King of Cambay had given him, and somewhat less pleased when he learned the trick which the Moors had played with his servants.

¹ See plan of Surat, or Surrate, in Pedro Barretto de Resende's MS., British Museum, Sloane MS., 197, f. 182.

himself to Afonso Dalboquerque, for they were determined to be gone. And at the conclusion of this conversation they returned to their house.

CHAPTER XXIII.

How Diogo Fernandez, and James Teixeira took their leave of the King of Cambay, and journeyed away: and what passed until their arrival at Goa.

After a lapse of three days, the Çodamacão sent word to Diogo Fernandez and James Teixeira, that they were to go and take their leave of the king, for he had already drawn up their despatch; and just as they were ready to go, Melique Coadragui came up with a large body of mounted men, as they had done at first, and entering the Palace all of them were presented with *cabaia*s, which they put on, and daggers and swordbelts,¹ with which they girdled themselves, and in this manner they proceeded to kiss the king's hands, and he told them that they must look to Çodamacão, for he would deliver the despatch to them, speaking at the same time words of friendship, which they were to repeat on his behalf to Afonso Dalboquerque. Being thus despatched, they visited Çodamacão at his house, and he handed over to them a letter from the king for Afonso Dalboquerque, and gave them a present of Cambay productions, and a certain animal² because it was a monstrous

¹ *Camarahundes*.

² According to Correa, this was a *Ganda* or Rhinoceros, "que desembarcando em Goa fez espanto sua vista. Esta Ganda, mandou o Governador a ElRey. E porque assy era espantosa a vista da ganda, ElRey a mandou ao Papa; que era alimaria mansa, baixa de corpo, hum pouço comprido, os coiros pés e mãos d' alifante, a cabeça como de porquço comprida, e os olhos junto do focinho, e sobre as ventas tinha hum corno, grosso e curto, e delgado na ponta; comia herua, palha, arroz coziado."—*Lendas da India*, pp. 373, 374.

thing, never before beheld in those parts. This creature was in Champanel, and he intended to forward it for them to Çurrate. And when they had thus received their despatch from the Çodamacão, they took their leave of him, and went home to their house, where there were already prepared for them waggons and horses; and thence they set out on their journey, reaching Çurrate on the eighth day of the month of May. But because the weather had by this time become very boisterous,¹ so that they could not venture on the voyage, they wintered there. When the winter was over, they desired Desturcão to supply them with a transport, in accordance with the king's orders to him, for they were anxious to get away; so he caused three *cotumbas*, (which are a certain kind of small vessels) to be given to them, and in these they had their baggage embarked, and the creature which had by this time arrived at Çurrate; this at length was brought to this kingdom of Portugal, and the King D. Manuel sent it to the Pope, but on the voyage the vessel which had it on board was lost.

After their baggage was all placed safely on board, they took their leave of Desturcão, and set out accompanied by two captains of the King of Cambay, until they reached the quay where they were to go on board, and taking leave of these they sailed away, shaping their course for India, and reached Goa on the fifteenth day of the month of September; and there they found Alfonso Dalboquerque in a great state of alarm, for he had given them written instructions, wherein he expressly ordered that they should on no account in the world winter in Cambay, and up to that day he had received no news of them. Diogo Fernandez and James Teixeira related to him the details of all that had

¹ "Although southerly winds prevail greatly after the middle of May, the stormy weather and rain usually do not set in until the dark nights, sometime between the 8th and 15th June."—*West Coast of Hindostan Pilot*, p. 18.