

Wild Beasts frequent here, are the fiercest Tigres in the World, with all their sorts; Lions here are some, but feeble and cowardly¹; Leopards, *Balus*, a sort of Wolf², wild Cats, or Catamountains, Monkeys, wild Dogs, which they say Piss out the Eyes of Venison as they feed in the Woods, and so Venom them with their Urine, that they become their Prey³; Squirrels, Jackals, Mungooses, wild Bulls, Elephants, Rhinoceros, Buffolae, Bears.

For Game, all sorts of Antelopes, Deer, Boar, and Elks⁴. The Fields are stored with Tame of all kinds, but mostly with Kine and Goats.

Fowls of Prey, Eagles, Vultures, Kites, Newries⁵, Crows, which last hath an Enemy, though in Bulk contemptible, yet in Revenge implacable, being no bigger than a Bumble-Bee, yet it never leaves the Crow's Breast till it have left it breathless, making a Vent therein by its piercing Bill⁶.

¹ The Indian lion is now confined to the Gir forest in Kāthiawār.

² Fryer (vol. i, 348) speaks of the "Yelling of *Buloos*, or over-grown wolves," which points to the hyaena, whose yells at night no one who has ever heard them, will forget. The word used points to Hind. Mahr. *bhālū*, "a bear": but Molesworth (*Mahr. Dict. s.v.*) says that this term is also used for a solitary female jackal. In some places also *bhāluk-olā* means a hyaena.

³ "Another story about the wild-dog, also universally believed in India, and quoted by Hodgson and others as perfectly authentic, is that the urine of these animals is excessively acrid, and that they sprinkle with it the bushes through which they drive their prey, and then rush upon the latter when blinded by the pungent fluid. Another version is that they jerk the urine into their victim's eyes with their tails" (Blanford, *Mammalia*, 146, who discredits the tale, comparing it with similar legends about wolves in Europe).

⁴ The Sāmbhar stag (Yule, *Hobson-Jobson*, 343).

⁵ See vol. i, 291.

⁶ Col. Cunningham suggests that this is the King Crow (*dicrurus ater*), and refers to the unquestionable and conspicuous dislike which it bears to crows, especially during their nesting season. "The statement regarding size is, certainly, somewhat puzzling: but I believe this may be accounted for as the result of imperfect observation: for a Bhimraj or Drongo shrike, when flying at a little distance, might easily be mistaken for a large black bird, possibly a crow, persistently pursued by a very small one, because the bare, or almost bare, shafts

For Game, abundance of all sorts: The Bats here are the biggest of any place¹.

Fishes common to *India* are not to be numbred, some spangled with Gold, Vermilion, and other Colours, not usual with us; but the best known are Sharks, Whales, Sea-snakes, (the assured Tokens to the Pilots of their approaching the Coasts of *India*²); Pilchards come in Shoals as our Herrings do³; Porpoises, Oysters, Crabs, Tortoises, the Sword-fish, *Sæpæ*⁴, or the Ink-fish of *Gesner*, *Spanish Mackrel*⁵. The Rivers are well provided (and the Grass too) with Snakes, many of which are venomous, and some big enough to devour a Sow and Piggs, if the Natives may be believed.

Insects (besides Fleas) are large Flies in the Rain, who will be sure to be our Tasters, unless one stand purposely to beat them off with a *Mirchal*⁶; nor are Ants less vexatious, nothing eatable can be set by but they will be at it; but the greatest Pest is the *Mosquito*, who not only wheals, but domineers by its continual Hums; the Chints⁷ are as venomous, and if squeezed leave a most Poysonous Stench; these breed in the Cotton, and where once they beset an House, they are not easily removed, they being Proof against all Fumes or Remedies used to destroy such-like Vermin; and therefore keep Possession, while the Inhabitants being not able to endure them, must turn out to other Dwellings; and these Plagues are in all their Quarters.

of the long racquetted tail-feathers become invisible long before their terminal expansions have done so." For a lively account of the King Crow, see Eha [E. H. Aitken] *Tribes on my Frontier*, 140f.

¹ Probably the Flying-fox (*pteropus edwardsi*). Sidi Ali (p. 31) speaks of some with wings 40 inches across, and P. della Valle (i, 103) mentions "Batts as big as Crows."

² See vol. i, 127.

³ *Ibid.* i, 131.

⁴ The cuttle-fish.

⁵ The *scomber microlepidotus* of Indian seas is popularly known as mackerel.

⁶ See vol. i, 218.

⁷ Bugs (Yule, *Hobson-Jobson*, 201).

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The adjacent Houses, Orchards, and Gardens, may be truly said to be in the Virge of the Court, many of them serving only for the Emperor to shift with his Seraglio, while the other Apartments are Aired; though the great *Divan*, or Council be always held in that place respecting the *Midan*, or *Pomarium*, in the heart of the City; and the rest are but given during Pleasure, to the chief Officers at Court: Wherefore reckoning all these Dwellings as Appendices (which indeed they are) few Monarchs will appear to have a larger extent to hold their Court in, it being above a Third part of the whole City; which being granted, it will not be hard to imagine so Great and Absolute a Potentate should be Courted by all the World, and from all the parts of the Earth the wonderful Works of the Creation should be brought as Honorary Presents; nor can it be supposed that so wide and spacious a Palace should not afford room for more than the ancient Ark, though not freight with Pairs of all the Species, yet more of several.

Whence it is, that here is to be seen more readily, and with less hazard, the Offspring of most Soils, except Human, and the Creatures of every Nation, rather than the Women of this Court, which are at less liberty than the Beasts, being Cooped up in their Sties, more strictly than these are kept in their Dens; many of the fiercest and untamedst of these being allowed only to breath in the open Air as Nature Ordained them: But not to tire my self, nor you with Particulars, I shall only mention what were strange to me.

The first whereof was the Rhinoceros, who is a Cruel Beast, of a large Size, there coming from his Nose an Horn a Cubit long, (Brown towards the Bottom, Whiter near the Point) and Six Inches Diameter, whence the derivation of his Name from *Πῦν*, *Nasus*, a Nose, and *Κέρας*, *Cornu*, an Horn; between this Animal and the Elephant, is a

mortal strife, for which Nature seems to have armed it on purpose; it being a Four-footed Beast, with Three Partings of the Hoof, built on thick strong Thighs, but short, considering the great bulk of its Body which presses them; it is Tall enough to reach the Bowels of its Antagonist with its Horn, with which it Gores him to Death; nor has she given him less firm Bones to the Trunk, if by chance it should be crushed by the Elephant, defending its very Hide with a Coat of Mail; wherefore before on the Neck and Shoulders, and behind in the Quarters, the Skin lies in Folds, like Fish Scales, over one another; the Face bears much of an Hogs Countenance, unless the upper Lip, which resemble a Cows, and the lower, the form of a Whales; the Mouth discovers a mishaped Tongue, set about with Two rows of Teeth; it is of the same Mouse Colour, and Tailed as an Elephant is, and Feeds of the same Fodder, and is kept facing Two mighty, but lean Elephants.

Whether the Rhinoceros be the Unicorn, I suspend my belief, since I have seen an Horn turned with Furrows and Ridges from the Basis to the Point, and Tapering like that of our King's Arms: But what *Petrus Angelius* relates concerning the *Onager*, or *Indian Ass*, can have no congruity with this, unless in respect of the Virtues; for though his Verses are most Elegant in his 5. *lib. Cyneget*, yet the description is very wide:

——— *Quos India pascit Onagros,*
Jam primum niveo corpus candore teguntur,
Infecti Assyrio circum caput omne colore
Ceruleis oculis, unoque in fronte superbi
Cornu, &c.¹

¹ *Petrus Angelius, Cynegetica*, Bk. 11, 284-8. These lines come immediately before the quotation in vol. i, p. 290. There are three varieties of Rhinoceros in India—*Rhinoceros unicornis*, the great one-horned Rhinoceros, now almost restricted to the plain of Assam; *Rhinoceros sondaicus*, the small one-horned Rhinoceros of the Sundarbans

His words in Prose are these; 'The Wild Asses of *India* are as big, or bigger than Horses, whose Heads are of a Purple die, their Eyes Blew, the rest of their Body White; on their Foreheads they have an Horn a Cubit in length, whose lower part for Two Hands breadth is White, and the Top, which is sharp, inclining to a bright Red, but the Middle part is blood Red; of these they make Cups, out of which whosoever Drinks, neither Cramp nor Falling Sickness seizes them; nor has any manner of Poison any force, if that immediately before or after taking of the same, either Water, Wine, or other Liquid thing be taken out of these Cups.

That this Opinion is taken up upon the account of the Rhinoceros his Horn¹, I can certainly verify, and that great Prices are offered for those that are inadulterate; which they in *India* pretend to try by the Liquors presently fermenting in them; but notwithstanding that Experiment they are often deceived by false Horns made into drinking Cups; thus much is true of the Rhinoceros, but the other

and parts of Eastern Bengal; *Rhinoceros sumatrensis*, the Asiatic two-horned Rhinoceros, ranging from Assam to Siam, Malay Peninsula, Sumatra, and Borneo. They are fully described by Blanford, *Mammalia*, 471 ff.

¹ The virtues of the Rhinoceros horns were known to the ancients (Ktesias, *Indika*, 25; Aelian, *Hist. Anim*, iv, 52, iii, 41). The Yogis, says Barbosa (101), carry with them sometimes rhinoceros horn and Pajar (bezoar) stone, which possess great virtue against all poisons. "Their hornes in India are much esteemed and used against all venime, poyson, and many other diseases" (Linschoten, ii, 9, with Tiele's note). It was identified with the unicorn, whose horn possessed similar virtues (P. della Valle, i, 5). See also Sir T. Roe, ii, 290. "They ascribe very much likewise to the Rhinoceros Horn in *India*, as it is an Antidote against all poysonous Draughts, and hugely extol in it that medicinal Excellence and singular Quality. The Character of this Horn prevail'd so far with a President of ours at *Suratt*, that he exchange'd for a Cup made of this Horn a large capacious Silver Bowl of the same bigness" (Ovington, 267). Stevens (*II. of Persia*, 128) specially commends "the Horn of those they take in *Bengale*, *Orracam*, and *Siam*, for those of *Africk*, tho' larger, are not counted so good." James Forbes (*Or. Mem.*, i, 438) found it in repute in S. Africa as well as Hindostan. It is still valued as an antidote to poison in Egypt (Lane, *Mod. Egypt.*, i, 327).

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part of it holds not Water; they come from *Bengala*, and are esteemed terrible and indomitable Creatures: And these must be (or none) what this Author calls Asses, there being no other Beasts in these Parts with but one Horn; and I am afraid he is mistaken as to the *African* Ass also, some Writers having called *Africa India*, which might have been urged in his excuse, whose Skin I having formerly admired when in *India*, you will easily be convinced it is no such Creature, it having never an Horn; Two Live ones were sent hither from the *Abassin* Emperor, as an Expression of Respect to this Court; which, with other valuable Rarities brought by his Ambassadors, were lately graciously received.

They are as large as a Mule, but for the exact Symetry of the Lineaments, *Zeuxis* his Pencil would but faintly shadow over the lively Portraiture of their Skins, the ground whereof was of a light Ash Colour, over which along the Back strait black Streaks in Rows at length reached to the Tail; the Shoulders, Flanks, and Haunches had the same waving towards the extremity of their several Members; but that which was the oddest was on the Forehead, they had so many Geometrial Figures, like the *Trapezium*, or Square, in which the opposite sides are parallel one with another, so distinctly painted, as at last to fill up a black spot of a Diamond cut in the very Centre of the Face¹.

What Family to mix this Kind with, I am at a loss, unless they be a-kin to the *Onager*, or Wild Ass, mentioned by *Xenophon* in the Expedition of the Lesser *Cyrus*; the same we read in *Pliny* in his 8. *Lib.* and 4th *Chap.* where he ascribes them to *Phrygia* and *Lycaonia*; but the Words

¹ This was the hide of a Zebra, still regarded as a great curiosity in India. The Abyssinian embassy to Aurangzib brought "a small species of mule... No tiger is so beautifully marked, and no *alacha* of the *Indies*, or striped silken stuff, is more finely and variously streaked" (Bernier, 135).