

**JOURNAL**  
OF A  
**RESIDENCE IN ENGLAND,**  
AND OF A  
**JOURNEY FROM AND TO SYRIA,**  
OF THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES  
**REEZA KOOLEE MEERZA, NAJAF KOOLEE MEERZA,  
AND TAYMOOR MEERZA, OF PERSIA.**  
TO WHICH ARE PREFIXED  
**SOME PARTICULARS RESPECTING MODERN PERSIA,**  
AND THE  
**Death of the late Shah.**

ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN PERSIAN,  
**BY H. R. H. NAJAF KOOLEE MEERZA,**  
*Son of Prince Firmân Firmân, Grandson of H. M. Fathali  
Shah, the late Emperor of Persia ;*  
AND TRANSLATED, WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES,  
**BY ASSAAD Y. KAYAT.**

IN TWO VOLUMES.  
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every kind of fruit that you can desire, proper to any season, you find here. They keep the fruits through the whole year so fresh, and in such excellent order, that you might say they had just been taken from the tree. Thus the tables of the English entertainments are furnished with all kind of fruits out of season, but they are very dear; for instance, a melon is worth ten tomâns, and a musk melon four tomâns, a quince three tomâns, an apple costs a tomân; in fine, all kinds of strange fruit are to be seen: in this country, those which belong to America, Africa, and Australia, are to be found. Every person here seeks for his love, takes her by the hand, and shows her all the fine flowers, afterwards he gives her a seat, and offers her whatever she desires. Every one looks to his own person, and no one looks to what the others are doing; in the mean time the musicians are standing by, on all sides amusing these guests. Wali verily was quite satisfied with his visit.

Sunday the 28th. I, with Taymoor Meerza, one hour before sun-set, left Bath for London. The distance from Bath to London is 110 miles. All the way, and in all directions it was beauti-

fully cultivated, and no space of land without occupation. In every place I saw numerous large and lofty buildings on all sides connected with delightful gardens, the walls of which are elegantly built, and many are protected by iron balustrades. These are estates and country-seats of the nobility and gentry of this kingdom. I observed also along the road to London, neat pillars, fixed on both sides of the road, supporting fine lanterns. Whether it is raining or not, these lanterns are lighted up, burning all the night long. This light is not of oil, or any other liquid, but the extraordinary production which they call gas, a description of which I will give hereafter. This, which is the spirit of coals, is conducted through pipes, in the same way, to every place. Thus the whole empire at night is as brilliant as day-time.

In every minute and in every direction on the road there is seen a stone on which is numbered after this manner, "To London" (or any other city) so many miles, and at every fork of the road there is a piece of board fixed to a post pointing out with a short hand and open finger to such

a place, and mentioning the distance. Thus a stranger or blind man might travel all the kingdom without asking which is the road. In all the roads there are habitations; carriages and coaches perpetually running in every direction, in such crowds that sometimes the road is blocked up by them. The noise of the carriages and coaches of the great city of London and the voice of its most enormous population, are heard like thunder at seven parasangs distance. In fine, whatever may be written on the edifices, gardens, roads, habitations, population, cultivations, and other wonders of this kingdom, will not be a thousandth part of what might be said. When I arrived at London, many of the nobility and great men called upon us, with sincere friendship, and the compliments received were duly returned by us.

Thursday the 28th, Khoojah Fraser called and told us that on this day all the people in the city dress finely and visit a large garden, which, in addition to its beautiful flowers, also contains all kinds of animals, and all tribes of birds found in every part of the world, in land and in the sea, and that they are wonderfully arranged and in perfect

order, so as to afford a most capital sight of them. Wali and Taymoor Meerza went to gaze at these wonderful creatures, and gave the following account.

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*Description of the Zoological Gardens.*

FOR the sake of advancing the splendour and eminence of the kingdom, a society of nobles and rich persons have raised among themselves an enormous treasure of gold, in order to collect all kinds of beasts, animals, and birds, from every part of the world, to preserve them alive in a wonderful manner. In order to this, they appoint some clever hunters and other men, that may be acquainted with this subject, and send them to every place in the world, allowing them any sum of money that may be required, to fetch, by any means, and at any cost, all these tribes of creatures. All that the ear hath heard of, as well as those not previously known, all that might or might not have been mentioned in histories. By this means they have succeeded in bringing every

thing, from an elephant and rhinoceros to a cat, and from an ostrich to a bat and a gnat. Every one is kept in a separate cage, or room of iron. There are men appointed on purpose to take care of them. Whenever any of them die, they take off the skin and stuff it so wonderfully that no one could know that it was not alive.

A few days in the spring, when the garden is ornamented with its natural beauty, and the animals become fat and sleek, multitudes of people both men and women go to visit this scenery. Every one that enters has to pay something, this renders an income of several thousand tomâns per day. There is no possibility of describing these strange and wonderful animals. For however they may be recollected in the mind or imagined in the head, these kinds of creatures cannot be described by the pen. There is to be seen an elephant twenty-four feet high, and his proboscis forty feet long; this wonderful elephant was brought from the extreme parts of the East India islands. The tooth of this mountain-like beast stretches out like a long ivory promontory, and on the whole this animal presents a most frightful appearance.

And a noble lion, which was brought from the southern part of the world, measures from the tip of his nose to the top of the head fourteen kirat,\* the bones of his body are beyond imagination, his two eyes are like glassfuls of blood, his claws like daggers; such a lion has never been seen till now. There is also an extraordinary rhinoceros (whose likeness is taken by Taymoor Meerza, with whom it might be seen), and there is a most wonderful lioness of a saffron colour, and a most extraordinary leopard, which was brought from the New World, such an one we have not seen before; some bears also, white like the snow, have been also brought from the New World. I find no way whatever of describing these innumerable and most wonderful kinds of lions, and other kindreds of animals. They were all brought from far distant countries; from America, India, China, Tartary, Australia, Africa, and all other parts of the world.

There is also to be seen every species of venomous serpents of most wonderful size, also all sorts

\* That is, an inch.

of insects. Thousands and thousands of various kinds are put in bottles, some dead and some alive. There are also to be seen some extraordinary bullocks formed like a sheep, but with extremities like a bullock. All kinds of gazelles, antelopes, hares, large and small, grazing in the garden. Dogs of enormous size from the New World. There is also one of the wonderful amphibious animals of a curious form. It is as large as a horse, it was brought from the interior of Africa. It is a very beautiful creature. When it stands and walks, it very much resembles mankind. All kinds of baboons of wonderful sizes and forms. They act like human beings; bears, white, red, green, yellow, and, indeed of all colours. Also a kind of monkey, which is of all the animals most like the human figure, the size of a mule, with an extraordinary long tail. These monkeys act like human beings, and laugh wonderfully, and play at chess with men, and some of those that visit the gardens play with them. To-day, a Jew happened to be at this place, and went to play a game with the monkey. The monkey beat, and began to laugh loudly, all the people standing round him.



The Jew felt exceedingly ashamed, and was obliged to leave immediately. The most wonderful animals of all, were a pair of creatures larger than an elephant, and higher than a camel, their necks are fourteen feet long, their legs are handsome, their tails are like that of an Arab horse of red colour, and with white spots on the face. They were brought from Africa, and their flesh is said to be excellent. They go as fast as a gazel: all the world from England, Scotland, and Ireland, come to see them. Yet the animal most striking to the people here, was the camel, at which they gazed more than any other, and paid more attention to see it. In fact, there is no doubt of what is mentioned in the Holy Book, with regard to the superiority of the glorious camel: \* it always has something striking about it more than any other

\* The camel is much esteemed by Mohammedans, on account of the usefulness of that animal to Mohammed himself, and the Arabians in general; moreover it is on the camel that the annual pilgrimages from Damascus to Mecca are made, and the vast desert of Arabia traversed; this being the only animal which can subsist five days without water. The truth of this, I myself have experienced during my travels in the desert.

animal. If any person should doubt it, let him go to England, and see how much the camel strikes the eye of the people. There are horses of an extraordinary size, as large as the camel, mules, donkeys, all of very curious sizes are to be seen. There are also more than 30,000 kinds of birds; in truth, we do not know how even to write their names, to describe their colours is impossible. Some elephant birds just like an elephant, but without a proboscis. Their wings are about fifteen yards long. There are some others which were brought from Abyssinia of an extraordinary form. There are in the garden about forty kinds of peacocks, white like the snow, with beaks like rubies, and eyes like emeralds; such peacocks we never saw before. There are also twenty-five sorts of nightingales, and parrots, and goldfinches, and fifty kinds of fowls; cocks from all parts of the world, their beautiful colours cannot be described. The most surprising of all is to see the excellent order in which these myriads of animals and birds are kept. Verily a visit to a place like this brings to the mind the power of the Omnipotent. The eyes are dazzled, the mind is

surprised, the heart is agitated, and curiosity takes its utmost fill. All this gives a most excellent opportunity to the lover, to lead his favourite by the hand to show her this and that curiosity; besides all the above, you will see beautiful moonlike ladies, led by the hand, to gaze at these wonderful spectacles, and repose under the delightful shade of the beautiful trees. In truth, unless the eye should see, the mind cannot form an idea of this place. There is also in this paradisiacal garden a bazaar of all kinds of sweetmeats and refreshments. It was truly a most interesting visit. On our way back home we passed by a shop of a gunmaker where we observed some wonderful arts, which if they were to be described would too much lengthen the book.

Wednesday the 2nd, some of the pillars of Government called to see us.

Thursday the 3rd, Wali joined the Freemason Society, having beforehand written a request to the head of the Society for his reception, and to-day (Thursday) they hold their monthly meeting, and Wali took his first degree. If any person desires