

A RE PORTE OF THE KING dome of CONGO, a Re- gion of AFRICA.

And of the Countries that border
rounde about the same.

1. Wherin is also shewed that the two Zones, *Torrida & Frigida*, are not
only habitable, but inhabited, and very temperate, contrary to the
opinion of the olde Philosophers.
2. That the blacke colour which is in the skinnes of the *Ethiopian & Negroes* &c. proceedeth not from the Sunne.
3. And that the Riu *Nilus* springeth not out of the mountains of the
Moone, as hath beene heretofore beleaved: Together with the true
cause of the rysing and increase thereof.
4. Besides the description of diuers plantes, Fisches and Beastes, that are
founde in those Countries.

Drawen out of the writinges and discourses of
Odoardo Lopes a Portingall, by
Philippo Pigafetta.

Translated out of Italian by *Abraham Hartwell*.



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The manner of the Elephants feeding. feeding: they vse to shake and root vp the great trees with the force of their shoulders, and strength of their whole backs: But the smaller trees they take betwett both their teeth, and so bowe them and plucke them downe, that they may feede vpon the leaues of them: insomuch as sometimes they breake one of their teeth with so doing. And this is the cause why you shall find diuers of them in the fieldes that haue lost their teeth. They chawe their meate with their short teeth, which are not seene as their two long tuskes are; and they carry it to their mouth by their long Snout, or Tronke, which is to them in steed of an arme & a hand. The tip of their Tronke is fashioneid & diuided into little slits, and (as it were) fingers, wherewith they will take vp very small thinges, as Nuttes, and Strawes, and Berries, & so reach them to their mouth, as I *Philippe Pigafetta* haue seene my selfe at *Lisbone*.

The Shee-Elephant. The Females of these creatures doe beare their broode in their wombe for the space of two yeares and no more: And forasmuch as the younge *Elephant* cannot so quickly bee brought vp, (for it groweth very slowly) the milke is kept from it, and so it waxeth apt to feede of it selfe. And therefore Mother *Nature* hath prouided that the *Elephant*es are not great with young, but from seauen yeaers to seauen yeaers.

The Elephants skinne. Their skinne is harde beyond all credite. For being fower fingers thicke, it cannot bee pearced, no not with the shot of an Arcubuse. And *Sigñor Odoardo* reported, that with a little Gunne, which is called a *Peciera*, one of them was stricken, without any wound making, but indeede he was grieuously bruised, so that he ranne away from that place all in a rage, the space of

three

three daies journey and there died, after hee had slaine certaine slaues that he met by the way.

The manner of taking the Elephants.

The people of that Countrey haue nor the skill to tame these beastes. Whereby they might reape great commodity and profit, for carrying their stiffe from place to place for diuerse other good vies. But yet they take them; by digging certaine deepe trenches in the places, where they vse to pasture, which trenches are very narrowe at the bottome, and broade aboue, to the end the beast may not help himselfe, & leape out when he is fallen into them. These trenches they couer with Soddes of earth, and grasse, and leaues, because the beast shoulde not see their traine, but passing ouer them remaine there entrenched. Whereupon the Gentleman beforenamed tolde mee, that hee had seene with his owne eyes a very straunge and admirable thing in *Coanza*, namely, that a younge *Elephant* following his cure, A straunge effect of Nature. damme fell downe by chaunce into one of these pittes, and after that shee coulde not with all her skill and strength drawe him out of it, shee buried him therin, and couered him with earth, with branches, and with bowes, insomuch as shee filled the pit vp to the toppe, to the ende that the hunters shoulde not enjoy her calfe, choosing rather to kill it her selfe, then to leave it to the mercie of the cruell huntmen. This louing and kinde mother, not fearing the people that stood round about her, & shouted against her, & threatened her with sundry weaponis, & vittered straunge clamours and noyses to affray her, & cast many fiers at her) but assuring her selfe in her owne stonge and valiant nature, did labour and toyle from morning till night, that shee might draw her calfe out of the pitte: and when shooe founde that

It was not possible for her to attchie what she desired, then shee couered it in manner as we haue tolde you. The *Elephant* is a very gentle beast, and trusteth greatly in his natural strength. He feareth nothing, nor hurteth any man that doth not trouble him: and haun-
teth neare to mens houses without doing any harme at all. If he espie men that go in his walkes, he wil not meddle with them, vnfesse they seeke to molest him: sauing that sometimes peraduenture hee will gently with his snowte hoysle them vpwardes into the ayre, whom hee steecheth withall in his way, and that is all the hure hee will doo vnto them. These *Elephantes* doo greatly de-
light in waters: and if a man bedesirous to see them, his best way is to lie somewhile nigh to the Riuers, and Lakes, where they vse to haunt aboue noone tide, to drinke, to refresh themselves, and to bathe their bodies in the water: for there they will stande vp to thei bel-
lies, and all the rest of their boode, that is aboue the wa-
ter, they will wash all ouer with the water that they snuffe vp into their snout for that purpose. And be-
cause there are so many foords & pastures (as is said) in the kingdome of *Congo*, therfore is there very great store of these creatures in that countrey. For *Signor Odardo*, affirmed, that in the way betweene *Cazanze*, & *Loanda*, in a little grasse valley hee had seene aboue a hundred of them in a company, olde and young that followed their dammes: and these were the first young ones that euer hee saw, till that day. And herewhile you must vnderstand, that they vse to go together in heordes, as *Kine*, and *Camelles*, and other such like gentle Creatures doo, and not alone like *Lions*, and other such wilde beastes. Now the reason why this countrey aboundeth

The nature of
the *Elephant*.

aboundeth so in *Iuory*, is easie to be yeeded. For so many *Elephantes* being bredde in that Region, they made no account of that commodity in times past: but onely af-
ter that the *Portingalles* began to trafficke with those countreyes, it grewe in estimation: and so hauing ga-
thered together in so many ages an infinite quantity thereof, which they found in their fieldes, they haue sould them till this day at a very good pennisworth.

It is not knownen, whether there be in that countrey *Rinoceros*, any other beast that is so big as an *Elephant* is, nor whe-
ther there breed therein any *Rinoceros*, which is a Crea-
ture as bigge indeede as the *Elephant*, and in *India* is cal-
led a *Bada*. But yet there are brought into the countries of the *Anzichi* some of their horns that growe vpon their noses, that are both of great value & estimation, & also vised for the help of diuers diseases. So that it is very credible and likely, that there are some of them to bee founde in those quarters.

There are in the Region of the *Anzichi Lions* also, like the *Lions* that breed in other partes of the worlde, *Lions*, but they doo not vse to haunt the Region of *Bamba*: But in *Bamba* there are very great store of *Tigres*, which are of the very same shape that those in *Florence* *Tyger*. are, which *Signor Odardo* saw there, and testifid to be very *Tygres* indeed. He tolde mee also of a notable eu-
stome which they haue: And that is, that they will not set vpon any men that are white, but onely such as are blacke: And it hath beene found, that when the white and the blacke haue slept together in the night time, they haue slayne the blacke to deuoure them, and pa-
red the white. When they are hungry they will bee so bolde as to fetch catell euen out of the yarde that