



*The famous Trauëllour Vincent le Blanc
of Marfeilles.*

THE WORLD SURVEYED:

Or, The
FAMOUS VOYAGES
& TRAVAILES

OF
Vincent le Blanc,

or WHITE, of Marfeilles:

Who from the Age of Fourteen years, to Threescore and Eighteen, Travelled through most parts of the World.

Viz.

The East and West Indies, Persia, Pegu, the Kingdoms of Fez and Morocco, Guinny, and through all Africa. From the Cape of good Hope into Alexandria, by the Territories of Monomotapa, of Preste John and Egypt, into the Mediterranean Isles, and through the principal Provinces of EUROPE.

Containing a more exact Description of several parts of the World, then hath hitherto been done by any other Authour.

The whole work enriched, with many Authentick Histories.

Originally written in French, and faithfully rendred into English by F. B. Gent.

LONDON,

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carry neither gold, silver, nor other wealth with them. So they both came back into the *Roman Empire*, and the *Aedestur* retired to *Tyre*, his native Country, where he became Priest.

We staid some time at *Casubi*, to sell and truch our Marchandises, where we made good profit; and amongst other things of some safron we had, of which they make no other use then to die their nailles, mingling it with brasill, whereby they make a dainty colour.

There are men and women that make incisions in their Armes, with a pointed piece of wood, out of which wood they get fire, putting the end of one of these sticks in the cleft of another, and turning it hard about till smoak and fire come. In these incisions they then paint what they list in severall colours, and ordinarily cover it with a pole-cat skin newly flawed, which makes the colours more lively, without ever fading.

CHAP. XXXV.

Of Macharana, the hunting of Tigers, and other wild beasts, a History of a Rhinocerot of the Escuriell. The esteem they have for the French there.

Macharana From *Casubi* we took our way towards *Macharana*, a dayes journey and a halfe from thence, which I may reckon about fifteen leagues, and came to a Village entirely surrounded with Palisadoes, close by a pleasant river, wherein we saw diverse women and girles bathing and swimming, as it is the generall custom of the *Indies*, where the women are as expert in swimming as the men, and some take great delight in it, so as to be more proper they shave all their haire, except a lock on the fore part of their head. The women of this Country have all very black hair, which they hold for a great beauty, with a white plump body.

Quinzin. They use an oyle called *Quinzin*, which dyes their hair, and makes it shine like ebony. We were at a brothers house, who had foure beautiful daughters shaved in this manner, only a lock on the fore part of their head, as it is the fashion throughout the *Indies*, though in some parts they shave only the girles of eight or ten yeares old. These maids brought us certain coros to eat with them, called *Budomel*, in shape like a quince, with a thin skin upon it, which bruised betwixt two stones yields

a kind of musty flower; but laid it the Sun, or before the fire becomes like wheaten starch, boyling it with *Cocoas* of Palm mingled with yolks of egges and sugar, they make the most delicate dish *India* affords.

Of Poultry and Turkies they have abundance, as of white and gray Partridges, and Pheasants, which are there as domestical as Turkies: Peacocks both wild and tame of no great price: their money except the royal coyn is all tin or braslé. They have for another dainty a grain in the Islands called *Bindi*, very small and black, they boyl it with milk and sugar, or honey drawn from Palm, and eat it upon broad leaves, which serve but for once: they invited us to this as a great dainty.

Still as we travelled through these parts, we were every where troubled with Apes and Monkeys, which haunted us continually, and whensoever we rested, they were importunate to get something of us. 'Twas our custom in the fields to erect a little tent of cotton cloth with a pole in the middle, and cords to hold it; and having made our repast, we went to rest, while two stood Centinel to see that our horses, or beasts of carriage strayed not away.

There is a kind of beast called *Azoufa*, which haunts most commonly Church-yards, to scrape up dead bodies, and feed on the flesh, whercof they are very ravenous.

I have seen many of them at *Fez*, *Morocco*, and other places in *Africa*, where they call them *Chicali*; I my self saw them one day pull up one of our company that died suddenly. There is another beast called an *Ira*, exceeding greedy of mans flesh, they go in heards, and if they meet with any straying, they will devour him: these likewise unbury the dead for food; but the skins of these have an odour so excellent, that nature seems to have given it them, that men may be incited to hunt and take them for the repose of the living and dead.

Really the importunity of the Apes is great and troublesome, but they take good order for them by shutting them out of the high wayes, as every one hath notice to do carefully; but the *Azoufa* and *Iras* are both troublesome and dangerous. Throughout these countries there are abundance of other wild and sanguinary beasts, as Tygars extremely fierce, and are not daunted with men, though never so troop'd and armed. They are as big as small Asses, and go night and day in great heards, their heads are like the Cats of *Suria*, but more furious, a Lions paws, and their colour white, red, and black, and very shining. The skins are very precious with them, because from *Persia*, *Indostan*, *Samarcant* and *China*, they come to be furnished here.

The King and the whole Court make a great business of this chase, and take a strong number along for it, though notwithstanding some still come to misfortune; at narrow passages

no man dare assault them, for they will fly most furiously at men on horse-back, strangle and tear them to pieces in an instant, and in another instant leap away to flight so swift, 'tis impossible to reach them: the Kings make this chase their delight and glory, and the people pray for him for destroying this pernicious race.

Elephants.

They likewise chase the *Elephant* and *Rhinocerot*, beasts so huge and robustious, there needs both art and craft to take them; for the *Elephant* which they call *Chefer* and *Gusier*, is so forcible and impetuous, they could never gain him, but by means of a female, as I said before.

A story of the Rhinocerot of Escurial.

As to the *Rhinocerot*, there must be good heed taken of him, because he is armed from head to foot, with his dark gray horn on his nose, exceeding sharp, of two foot long, his scales not penetrable by any thing whatsoever, of Chestnut colour: if they can lay hold on man and horse, they will fling them six paces from them. At the *Escurial* in Spain I saw one that was brought from the *Indies*; but because he had overturned a Chariot full of Nobility, though fortunately no harm was done, the King commanded his eyes should be put out, and his horn cut off.

The difficulty was in the execution; for they were constrained to put him in a close place to bind him, which was done with so much trouble and danger, that nothing more; for he wounded and maimed divers: there was one *Casabuena*, a bold resolute man, who to prevent danger, put an armour of proof under his man, the beast came upon him with such force, that he Caslock, the beast came upon him with such violence, he was carried threw him against the wall with such violence, he was carried forth for dead, bleeding both at mouth and nose. The Duke of Medina advised the King to kill him with a Musket, because he had maimed a Gentleman of his, one *Cavalier Mortel*, but the King would not, and at last they compassed their ends; and his eyes were put out, and his horn cut off. By this we may see how dangerous the chase is. They are chiefly found in *Bengala*, *Patana*, and *Macharana*.

Very dangerous Wolves.

There is another kind of beast like to our Wolf, but black, and so fierce, they will venture on a man armed with sword and buckler, and he must quit himself well to escape; the skin is hard as a Bufflers. The *Indian* Kings delight much to see the fury of this beast, exercised upon some unfortunate criminal, and 'tis lamentable to see how they will tear their throats out. For this purpose I remember the King of *Casubi* had a great black Monkey chained, who armed with his staffe, the King would set to fight against a man; such as came without arms he strangled; but he met at last with an *Indian* so valliant and resolute, he subdued him, and ordered him so handsomely, the King gave him to him for his trophy.

He made him cleanse the streets, and carry the filth out of town,

An armed Monkey.

town, and when he muttered or grumbled he gave him the cudgel soundly; so as he got his Master a livelyhood, who was a poor man newly come out of slavery. We often met upon the way with several of these savage beasts, but we never met with any so safe as are the *Lyons*, who will not rise at the approach of men, be they never so few.

They seem to look for nothing from passengers, but if they are sought for, and assaulted, they defend themselves in a furious manner, and are light and strong runners.

One day as we went from *Casubi*, to *Transiana*, with a numerous convoy of all nations, *Moors*, *Gentiles*, *Malabates* and others, because there is no other travelling through these forests, repleat with such beasts, and every water and river swimming with *Crocodiles* or *Caymans*, a youth who waited on *de la Courbe* in his chamber, a *Frenchman* one of our company, of a daring spirit, had a desire to shoot at a *Lyon* he had spy'd, for which purpose he left the way some twenty paces, and had with him an *Indian* called *Talmassac* a person of courage likewise: a *Bramin* advised them as soon as they had given fire to make all haste with the best speed of their horses for fear of mischief.

The *Lyon* lay along under a tree, and though he received two shots at the same instant one in the head, the other in the left shoulder, notwithstanding finding himself wounded, he sprung so vigorously after them, that though they made good haste, he overtook one of them in going two hundred paces, and caught his horse by the Crouper, which he killed like lightning, though his strength was spent. Poor *Talmassac* was so astonished with a blow he gave with his head on the side, that he fell sick, and we were fain to send him back to *Casubi* in a *Palanquin* or Litter with four *Camalons* or Porters, yet for a further mischief he was stript by the way. The *Naires*, with leave of the hunters took the *Lyon*, and presented it to the King of *Transiana*, who admired his growth, having teeth great and thick, as a pullets egge.

The King recompensed *Talmassac* with another horse in lieu of that he had lost, which was looked upon as a great liberality for the esteem they make of horses in that country, and our *Frenchman* had a gown of razed cloth of gold, and the King caused us all to be treated and entertained in his Palace, enquiring diverse things of *Sieur de la Courbe*, amongst others the state of our King; and because I understood something of the country language, I was called to the conference, and I know not if he were pleased with my discourse, but he called one of his grooms of his chamber to bring him a handful of gold, which he gave me, telling me, if I would stay with him, he would give me every Moon as much, and that I should have care of his person, for the *Sieur de la Courbe* had intimated to him

The King of Transiana his curiosity, and affability.

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that I applied my self to Physick. I made him an humble reverence and acknowledgement, saying: I was of such a humour, I should never serve Princes for their money, but I should be sufficiently satisfied with the honour to be near his Majesty: he was exceedingly pleased with my answer, saying the *French* are the flower of the world, and I am delighted with your conversation.

Esteem of
the French
on the
East.

Afterwards he shewed us two Culverins given him by a Captain of *Diepe*, well wrought, and upon either of them a Dragon for Armes.

The Sieur
de la
Courbe's
present.

The *Sieur de la Courbe* presented him with a steel sword of *Damis*, which he had gotten in the *Indies*, a thing the Prince highly prized, and instantly taking a ring off his finger, with three rich Rubies, would have given it him, but the *Sieur* would not receive it, rendering thanks; and saying, 'twere a great indiscretion in him to accept of such a rarity, that was worth a thousand times more than his present; and that it was a full satisfaction, and ample recompence, that his Majesty would vouchsafe to accept so poor a thing; with many more respects and compliments, which gained the Kings esteem much more; saying, 'twas apparent there was something of great amongst the Christians, because their discourse was more elegant and polite than the ordinary language of other Merchants; and if he would stay at Court, he would conferre upon him any office in his Palace, he should like of, and would tender him as his brother; the *Sieur* rendering his acknowledgement with reverence and submission. In brief, we were obligingly treated by this Prince, on whom we waited to chafe, which is a thing truly royal and magnificent.

In this country there is another kinde of savage beast, exceeding fierce, that indifferently falls on all things come before her. She hath four teeth that cut like a razor. About the size of a midling ox, a head like a Bear, and ataille like a hogge.

These beasts are naturally black, they hunt them for their hydes which are of admirable strength to resist blows: the flesh is good and spends like Pork, though it be something red.

This chase is exceeding dangerous, and some alwayes perisht, for the flies most furiously on the first that attempts her, and failes not to strangle him, though a hundred should come to his rescue, if they kill her not at the first stroake. She is exceeding licorous of a fruit they call *Cocoma*, which is of excellent taste, and great refreshment, so as in Summer 'tis much sought after: for one shall no sooner eat of it, but he perceives an entire refreshment, nay a chilnes if he eat a quantity.

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The *Indians* make hollowes in great trees, near this fruit, and hide themselves within to wait for this beast, and kill her, when she comes to feed: but when she findes her self surprized, She enters into such rage, that she tears up the tree for spight. There are so many other sorts of savage beasts, that it were too troublesome to rehearse them all. They have divers birds of delicate plumage, whereof they make divers works, the most quaint and lively in the world; and birds so great, they will take a calf up into the ayre. They have *Griffins*, which in my opinion, are, no other then that they call a *Toson*, of white plumage, and reddish under the belly; but they have not four feet, as our Painters draw them; but two only long and great, as likewise *Talions* like a *Falcon*, but large, and exceeding strong; the beake like an Eagle, but much thicker; they are cruel creatures.

They have here likewise those we call the birds of Paradise, the *Birds of* *Irico*: they cut the feet off, and sell them so to Merchants; as I *Paradis.* said in another place:

They have abundance of *Turkies*; and wild ones, that go in flocks, as *Peacocks*, white *Partridgers*, and other birds and fowles of divers kinds.

CHAP. XXXVI.

Of Transiana, the valour of their women,

THE Town of *Transiana*, which is likewise the name of *Transiana* the kingdome, lying between the Towns of *Sian* and *Tinco*, is the last in subjection to the Empire of *Pegu*, towards the North, having Westward the Province or kingdome of *Tazatay*, Northward the kingdom of *Carforan*, South *pegu*, and Eastward *Cauchinchine*, situate upon a pleasant river, that comes from the lake *Daracan*.

The country is temperate enough, except in the extreme heats of Summer, when they must of necessity travel by night.

Here they have a Myne of Diamonds, which they call *Geay*, besides those of Gold and Silver in abundance, and of the purest in the East, abundance of grain and fruits of all sorts, and Palm-wine, which they call *Serolle*.

The people are insolent and proud; of make, and fashion like the *Persians*: the women exceeding beautiful, more then in other parts; but something lascivious, and affecting the conversation of strangers.

They love to dance to the musick of their *Pan*, and delight much

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Women,