

DAMBERGER

TRAVELS
IN THE
INTERIOR OF AFRICA,
FROM THE
CAPE OF GOOD HOPE
TO
MOROCCO,
FROM THE YEARS 1781 TO 1797;
THROUGH
*CAFFRARIA, THE KINGDOMS OF MATAMAN, ANGOLA,
MASSI, MONCEMUGI, MUSCHATO, &c.*
LIKEWISE ACROSS THE
GREAT DESERT OF SAHARA,
AND THE
NORTHERN PARTS OF BARBARY.

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN OF
CHRISTIAN FREDERICK DAMBERGER.

ILLUSTRATED WITH COLOURED PLATES.

NEW-YORK:
PRINTED FOR WILLIAM DURELL,
NO. 106, MAIDEN-LANE.

1801.

come into the village. Here I first asked for meal, which was immediately given me, and then inquired for the *mani*, upon which the very man I spoke to said he was the *mani*. I asked him for hospitality, to which he replied, "This you have." I then asked his permission to pass the night in the village. "If you are not a Christian," was his answer. "I am an Arab," replied I. "Why are you come here?" he again inquired, "You want to steal slaves." "That do I not," said I. "All I wish is, to travel through this place to my native home." "How far is it?"—"I must travel four moons longer toward the east."—"If you are not a Christian," repeated he, "you may sleep in my hut, where no one shall disturb you: at present sit down here." I sat down before the hut, and he continued narrowly observing me for a while; till at length he asked me where and how I had learnt the language of the country; to which I answered, that I had lived three months with a king, by whom I had been very kindly treated.

Till midnight people came to see me through curiosity, and handled and questioned me, but always so as not to give me cause to be angry. I slept in the back part of the hut very quiet; and in the morning, when I was setting off, some meal was again presented to me; and the *mani* advised me to keep more to the eastward, as I should otherwise, by travelling northward, be seized, in the great forest through which I must then pass, and most probably very ill-treated, by the Angolans, who infest those parts. However, I continued faithful to my plan, by travelling directly north; and having passed very near a Sovian village, reached the wood, which is half a day's journey long, forming a crescent from north-east to south-west, and in a part where it is intersected by a small river, constitutes the boundary between the Sovians and the kingdom of Angola. This small river I reached toward evening, quite exhausted, and ex-

tremely thirsty. I therefore lay down on the bank, refreshed myself with excellent water, and remained beside it all night.

On the 25th October, in the morning, I quitted the wood and came to a fine plain, where I found very fine and high rushes. At noon, beside a small wood, I suddenly fell in with ten men from Matam-ba, who traded in salt. They came up to me with civility and kindness, but asked me many questions, which, as far as I could understand, regarded the object of my journey. These I answered as well as I could, and they seemed to understand me; for they asked no more, but endeavored to persuade me to join them. From this I excused myself, as they were travelling more to the westward than the northward, and took leave of them, after they had given me some meal and water, in front of the village of Galitv.

This is the first village in the kingdom of Argala Proper, and is very populous. Having entered it, I enquired for the man's hut, to ask his protection. He was a rough, austere man, and turned me away; three guides, however, made him more civil; he gave me milk, meal, and dried pears, and showed me to a resting place among the sheep and goats, in the hut appropriated for their reception.

The kingdom of Angola extends fourteen days' journey from east to west, and ten from north to south. The face of the country is alternately varied with mountains, bare rocks, sterile vales, and the finest pastures, which offer the inhabitants competency and superfluity, were they not too lazy to enjoy the blessings nature bestows, caring for their daily sustenance alone. The country is intersected by many small rivers, besides the great river Bambe, which forms the northern boundary between this kingdom and that of Congo, and the waters with its numerous branches the adjacent countries. To the east Angola is bounded by the kingdom of Matam-

ba, to the south by Benguela and Sova, and to the west by the sea.

This country produces saltpetre, silver, tin, and a great quantity of ivory, all which the Portuguese endeavor to purchase, as also a great quantity of skins of all sorts. It is one of the richest countries in beasts of all kinds, and affords its inhabitants the means of subsistence without much labor. Of the elephant and rhinoceros it seems, as it were, the native home, for they are met with in large herds; but the breeding of cattle is not in repute, the flesh of wild beasts being generally eaten.

The kings of Angola were formerly subject to the sovereigns of Congo; but the present king separated from them, asserted his liberty, and thus obtained the love and veneration of his subjects, insomuch that women and children take the field whenever war is declared against him. He has also a court, consisting of twenty-four *manus*, fifty priests, and two hundred and fifty soldiers, armed with muskets, which they use with great dexterity, and which were taken in a sudden attack made on the Portuguese in 1763. Each city is superintended by two *manus*, and every village by one; who, however, cannot judge any cause, but must make a report to the king, and receive his decision. At this time the king was about thirty-six years old, wore long blue breeches and a red cloak, made of bad materials. He is an enemy to the Portuguese, and to all christians; he therefore restrains their liberty of trading in his territories, and seems only waiting a proper opportunity entirely to prohibit their entering his dominions.

The military force consists of fifty thousand well-disciplined infantry; but there is no cavalry, owing to the scarcity of horses, their increase being prevented by the great number of wild beasts. Buffaloes are used for military operations, and to carry the baggage.

The king generally gives audience in the open air, surrounded by his body guard, and officers holding

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IN TWO VOLUMES—VOLUME SECOND.
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1801.

In this place it may be proper to say something concerning the nation, described to be so savage, I was now visiting. The tract of country inhabited by them is divided into three parts; and, though mountainous, is yet very fruitful. Their minerals are copper, lead, tin, and a small matter of gold-dust. The soil produces pulse, turkish corn, millet, gourds, the sugar-cane and tobacco. Here is also made a very tolerable palm-wine, and an excellent liquor from the expressed juice of plumbs. The profits arising from cotton are at present but trifling, as from the perpetual wars with the neighbouring nations the culture of it is much diminished and impeded: thus, for instance, in 1789, the fine forest near the city Alimthangoy, or Angoy, six miles long, and nearly as broad, which used to produce great quantities of cotton, was entirely burnt. Animals, both wild and tame, are found in great abundance; as elephants, highly prized for their ivory, rhinoceros, lions, tigers, and wolves, in the skins whereof a great trade is carried on to Malemba, the emporium of commerce in this country, and there sold to the Europeans, particularly the Dutch. Besides these, here are buffalos, oxen, peacocks, ostriches, red and blue striped rock-doves of extraordinary size, pheasants, &c. The hares of this country, which are called mazato, are as large as the West-Indian silk hares, but their fur, as well as the wool of the sheep, which resemble our hounds, is entirely useless. The great lake above the town of the Malemba yields excellent fish.—The three divisions of the country are: The upper part, bordering on the sea, belongs to the Portugueze. 2. The middle region, inhabited by the Malembanese themselves, who dwell in the heart of the country, and on the eastern side are contiguous to the portuguese factories. 3. The third, or lower part, is the kingdom of Cacongo. Both these nations,

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Fictitious voyage; written in collaboration with a certain "Magister Junge", who also assisted the author in compiling two other fictitious voyages, published under titles: Beschreibung einiger See- und Landreisen nach Asien, Afrika und Amerika von einem gebohrnen Aegyptier Zacharias Taurinius. Leipzig F.G. Jacobäer, 1799-1800; and See- und Landreise nach Ostindien und Aegyptien ... in den Jahren 1795-1799 von Joseph Schrödter. Leipzig Wolf und Compagnie, 1800. cf. Neue allgemeine deutsche Bibliothek, v. 58, p. 442-459.

References:

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