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Travels into several remote nations of the world

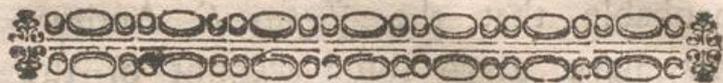
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Swift, Jonathan

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Chap. XI. The Author leaves Luggnagg, and sails to Japan. From thence he returns in a Dutch Ship to Amsterdam, and from Amsterdam to England.

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CHAP. XI.

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THOUGHT this Account of the *Struldbruggs* might be some Entertainment to the Reader, because it seems to be a little out of the common way; at least, I do not remember to have met the like in any Book of Travels that hath come to my hands: And if I am deceived, my Excuse must be, that it is necessary for Travellers, who describe the same Country, very often to agree in dwelling on the same Particulars, without deserving the Censure of having borrowed or transcribed from those who wrote before them.

THERE is indeed a perpetual Commerce between this Kingdom and the

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great

great Empire of *Japan*, and it is very probable that the *Japanese* Authors may have given some account of the *Struldbruggs*; but my Stay in *Japan* was so short, and I was so intirely a Stranger to that Language, that I was not qualified to make any Enquiries. But I hope the *Dutch*, upon this Notice, will be curious and able enough to supply my Defects.

HIS Majesty having often pressed me to accept some Employment in his Court, and finding me absolutely determined to return to my Native Country, was pleased to give me his Licence to depart, and honoured me with a Letter of Recommendation under his own Hand to the Emperor of *Japan*. He likewise presented me with four hundred forty four large Pieces of Gold (this Nation delighting in even Numbers) and a red Diamond, which I sold in *England* for eleven hundred Pounds.

ON the sixth day of *May*, 1709, I took a solemn Leave of his Majesty, and

and all my Friends. This Prince was so gracious, as to order a Guard to conduct me to *Glanguenstald*, which is a Royal Port to the South-West part of the Island. In six days I found a Vessel ready to carry me to *Japan*, and spent fifteen days in the Voyage. We landed at a small Port-Town called *Xamoschi*, situated on the South-East part of *Japan*; the Town lies on the Western Point, where there is a narrow Streight, leading Northward into a long Arm of the Sea, upon the North-West part of which, *Tedo*, the Metropolis, stands. At landing, I shewed the Custom-house Officers my Letter from the King of *Luggnagg* to his Imperial Majesty. They knew the Seal perfectly well; it was as broad as the Palm of my Hand. The Impression was, *A King lifting up a Lame Beggar from the Earth*. The Magistrates of the Town hearing of my Letter, received me as a Publick Minister; they provided me with Carriages and Servants, and bore my Charges to *Tedo*, where I was admitted to an Audience, and deli-

delivered my Letter, which was opened with great Ceremony, and explained to the Emperor by an Interpreter, who then gave me notice, by his Majesty's Order, that I should signify my Request, and whatever it were, it should be granted for the sake of his Royal Brother of *Luggnagg*. This Interpreter was a Person employed to transact Affairs with the *Hollanders*; he soon conjectured by my Countenance that I was an *European*, and therefore repeated his Majesty's Commands in *Low-Dutch*, which he spoke perfectly well. I answered, (as I had before determined,) that I was a *Dutch* Merchant, shipwrecked in a very remote Country, from whence I travelled by Sea and Land to *Luggnagg*, and then took shipping for *Japan*, where I knew my Countrymen often traded, and with some of these I hoped to get an Opportunity of returning into *Europe*: I therefore most humbly entreated his Royal Favour to give Order, that I should be conducted in Safety to *Nangasac*. To this I added another Petition,

tion, that for the sake of my Patron the King of *Luggnagg*, his Majesty would condescend to excuse my performing the Ceremony imposed on my Countrymen of *trampling upon the Crucifix*, because I had been thrown into his Kingdom by my Misfortunes, without any Intention of Trading. When this latter Petition was interpreted to the Emperor, he seemed a little surprized, and said, he believed I was the first of my Countrymen who ever made any Scruple in this Point, and that he began to doubt whether I was a real *Hollander*, or no, but rather suspected I must be a CHRISTIAN. However, for the Reasons I had offered, but chiefly to gratify the King of *Luggnagg*, by an uncommon Mark of his Favour, he would comply with the *Singularity* of my Humour; but the Affair, must be managed with Dexterity, and his Officers should be commanded to let me pass, as it were, by Forgetfulness. For he assured me, that if the Secret should be discovered by my Countrymen, the *Dutch*, they would cut my Throat in
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the Voyage. I returned my Thanks by the Interpreter, for so unusual a Favour, and some Troops being at that time on their March to *Nangasac*, the Commanding Officer had Orders to convey me safe thither, with particular Instructions about the Business of the *Crucifix*.

ON the 9th Day of *June*, 1709, I arrived at *Nangasac*, after a very long and troublesome Journey. I soon fell into company of some *Dutch* Sailors, belonging to the *Amboyna* of *Amsterdam*, a stout Ship of 450 Tons. I had lived long in *Holland*, pursuing my Studies at *Leyden*, and I spoke *Dutch* well. The Seamen soon knew from whence I came last; they were curious to enquire into my Voyages and Course of Life. I made up a Story as short and probable as I could, but concealed the greatest part. I knew many Persons in *Holland*; I was able to invent Names for my Parents, whom I pretended to be obscure People in the Province of *Guelderland*. I would have given the
 Captain

Captain (one *Theodorus Vangrult*) what he pleased to ask for my Voyage to *Holland*; but understanding I was a Surgeon, he was contented to take half the usual Rate, on condition that I would serve him in the way of my Calling. Before we took shipping, I was often ask'd by some of the Crew, whether I had performed the Ceremony above-mentioned: I evaded the Question by general Answers, that I had satisfied the Emperor and Court in all Particulars. However, a malicious Rogue of a Skipper went to an Officer, and pointing to me, told him, I had not yet *trampled on the Crucifix*: But the other, who had received Instructions to let me pass, gave the Rascal twenty Strokes on the Shoulders with a Bamboo, after which I was no more troubled with such Questions.

NOTHING happened worth mentioning in this Voyage. We sailed with a fair Wind to the *Cape of Good Hope*, where we staid only to take in fresh Water. On the 16th of *April* we arrived

rived safe to *Amsterdam*, having lost only three Men by Sickness in the Voyage, and a fourth who fell from the Fore-mast into the Sea, not far from the Coast of *Guinea*. From *Amsterdam* I soon after set sail for *England*, in a small Vessel belonging to that City.

ON the 10th of *April*, 1710, we put in at the *Downs*. I landed the next Morning, and saw once more my native Country, after an Absence of five Years and six Months compleat. I went strait to *Redriff*, where I arrived the same day at Two in the Afternoon, and found my Wife and Family in good Health.

The End of the THIRD PART.

