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### Travels into several remote nations of the world

in 4 pt.

**Swift, Jonathan**

**London, 1726**

Chap. I. A great Storm described, the Longboat sent to fetch Water, the Author goes with it to discover the Country. He is left on Shore, is seized by one of the Natives, and carried to a Farmer's ...

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# TRAVELS.

## PART II.

### A Voyage to BROBDINGNAG.

#### CHAP. I.

*A great Storm described, the Long-Boat sent to fetch Water, the Author goes with it to discover the Country. He is left on Shore, is seized by one of the Natives, and carried to a Farmer's House. His Reception there, with several Accidents that happened there. A Description of the Inhabitants.*



HAVING been condemned by Nature and Fortune to an active and restless Life, in two months after my Return, I again left my native Country, and took shipping

VOL. I.

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in the *Downs* on the 20th Day of *June* 1702. in the *Adventure*, Capt. *John Nicholas*, a *Cornish* Man, Commander, bound for *Surat*. We had a very prosperous Gale till we arrived at the *Cape of Good-hope*, where we landed for fresh Water, but discovering a Leak we unshipped our Goods, and winter'd there, for the Captain falling sick of an Ague, we could not leave the *Cape* till the end of *March*. We then set sail, and had a good Voyage till we passed the *Streights of Madagascar*; but having got Northward of that Island, and to about five Degrees South Latitude, the Winds which in those Seas are observed to blow a constant equal Gale between the North and West from the beginning of *December* to the beginning of *May*, on the 19th of *April* began to blow with much greater Violence, and more Westerly than usual, continuing so for twenty Days together, during which time we were driven a little to the East of the *Molucca* Islands, and about three  
Degrees

Degrees Northward of the Line, as our Captain found by an Observation he took the 2<sup>d</sup> of *May*, at which time the Wind ceased, and it was a perfect Calm, whereat I was not a little rejoiced. But he being a Man well experienc'd in the Navigation of those Seas, bid us all prepare against a Storm, which accordingly happened the day following: For a Southern Wind, called the Southern *Monsoon*, began to set in.

FINDING it was like to overblow, we took in our Sprit-sail, and stood by to hand the Fore-sail; but making foul Weather, we look'd the Guns were all fast, and handed the Miffen. The Ship lay very broad off, so we thought it better spooning before the Sea, than trying or hulling. We reefed the Fore-sail and set him, we hawl'd aft the Fore-sheet; the Helm was hard a Weather. The Ship wore bravely. We belay'd the Fore-down-hall; but the Sail was split, and we hawl'd down the Yard, and got the Sail

into the Ship, and unbound all the things clear of it. It was a very fierce Storm; the Sea broke strange and dangerous. We hawl'd off upon the Lanniard of the Whipstaff, and helped the Man at Helm. We would not get down our Top-mast, but let all stand, because she scudded before the Sea very well, and we knew that the Top-mast being aloft, the Ship was the wholesomer, and made better way thro' the Sea, seeing we had Sea-room. When the Storm was over, we set Fore-sail and Main-sail, and brought the Ship to. Then we set the Miffen, Main-top-sail and the Foretop-sail. Our Course was East North-east, the wind was at South-west. We got the Star-board Tacks aboard, we cast off our Weather-braces and Lifts; we set in the Lee-braces, and hawl'd forward by the Weather-bowlings, and hawl'd them tight, and belayed them, and hawl'd over the Miffen Tack to Windward, and kept her full and by as near as she could lye.

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DURING this Storm, which was followed by a strong Wind West South-west, we were carried, by my Computation, about five hundred Leagues to the East, so that the oldest Sailor on board could not tell in what part of the World we were. Our Provisions held out well, our Ship was staunch, and our Crew all in good Health; but we lay in the utmost distress for Water. We thought it best to hold on the same Course, rather than turn more northerly, which might have brought us to the North-west parts of great *Tartary*, and into the frozen Sea.

ON the 16th day of *June* 1703. a Boy on the Top-mast discovered Land. On the 17th we came in full View of a great Island or Continent (for we knew not whether) on the South-side whereof was a small neck of Land jutting out into the Sea, and a Creek too shallow to hold a Ship of above one hundred Tuns. We cast anchor within a League of this Creek, and our Captain

sent a dozen of his Men well armed in the Long-boat, with Vessels for Water, if any could be found. I desired his leave to go with them, that I might see the Country, and make what Discoveries I could. When we came to Land we saw no River or Spring, nor any sign of Inhabitants. Our Men therefore wander'd on the Shore to find out some fresh Water near the Sea, and I walked alone about a mile on the other side, where I observed the Country all barren and rocky. I now began to be weary, and seeing nothing to entertain my Curiosity, I returned gently down towards the Creek; and the Sea being full in my View, I saw our Men already got into the Boat, and rowing for Life to the Ship. I was going to hollow after them, although it had been to little purpose, when I observed a huge Creature walking after them in the Sea, as fast as he could: He waded not much deeper than his Knees, and took prodigious strides: But our Men had the start of him half a League, and the  
Sea

Sea thereabouts being full of sharp pointed Rocks, the Monster was not able to overtake the Boat. This I was afterwards told, for I durst not stay to see the issue of that Adventure; but ran as fast as I could the way I first went, and then climbed up a steep Hill, which gave me some prospect of the Country. I found it fully cultivated; but that which first surprized me was the length of the Grass, which in those Grounds that seemed to be kept for Hay, was above twenty foot high.

I FELL into a high Road, for so I took it to be, though it served to the Inhabitants only as a foot Path through a Field of Barley. Here I walked on for some time, but could see little on either side, it being now near Harvest, and the Corn rising at least forty foot. I was an hour walking to the end of this Field, which was fenced in with a Hedge of at least one hundred and twenty foot high, and the Trees so lofty that I could make no Computation

putation of their Altitude. There was a Stile to pass from this Field into the next. It had four Steps, and a Stone to cross over when you came to the uppermost. It was impossible for me to climb this Stile, because every Step was six Foot high, and the upper Stone above twenty. I was endeavouring to find some Gap in the Hedge, when I discovered one of the Inhabitants in the next Field, advancing towards the Stile, of the same Size with him whom I saw in the Sea, pursuing our Boat. He appeared as tall as an ordinary Spire-steeple, and took about ten Yards at every Stride, as near as I could guess. I was struck with the utmost Fear and Astonishment, and ran to hide my self in the Corn from whence I saw him at the top of the Stile, looking back into the next Field on the right hand, and heard him call in a Voice many degrees louder than a speaking Trumpet; but the Noise was so high in the Air, that at first I certainly thought it was Thunder. Whereupon seven Mon-

sters

sters like himself came towards him with Reaping-hooks in their Hands, each Hook about the largeness of six Scythes. These People were not so well clad as the first, whose Servants or Labourers they seem'd to be: For upon some words he spoke, they went to reap the Corn in the Field where I lay. I kept from them at as great a distance as I could, but was forced to move with extreme Difficulty, for the Stalks of the Corn were sometimes not above a foot distant, so that I could hardly squeeze my Body betwixt them. I made shift to go forward till I came to a part of the Field where the Corn had been laid by the Rain and Wind. Here it was impossible for me to advance a step; for the Stalks were so interwoven that I could not creep thorough, and the Beards of the fallen Ears so strong and pointed that they pierced through my Cloaths into my Flesh. At the same time I heard the Reapers not above an hundred Yards behind me. Being quite dispirited with Toil, and wholly over-

come

come by Grief and Despair, I lay down between two Ridges, and heartily wished I might there end my days. I bemoaned my desolate Widow, and fatherless Children. I lamented my own Folly and Wilfulness in attempting a second Voyage against the advice of all my Friends and Relations. In this terrible Agitation of Mind I could not forbear thinking of *Lilliput*, whose Inhabitants looked upon me as the greatest Prodigy that ever appeared in the World: Where I was able to draw an Imperial Fleet in my Hand, and perform those other Actions which will be recorded for ever in the Chronicles of that Empire, while Posterity shall hardly believe them, although attested by Millions. I reflected what a Mortification it must prove to me to appear as inconsiderable in this Nation as one single *Lilliputian* would be among us. But this I conceived was to be the least of my Misfortunes: For, as human Creatures are observed to be more savage and cruel in proportion to their

their

their Bulk, what could I expect but to be a Morfel in the Mouth of the first among these enormous Barbarians that should happen to seize me? Undoubtedly Philosophers are in the right when they tell us, that nothing is great or little otherwise than by Comparison. It might have pleased Fortune to let the *Lilliputians* find some Nation, where the People were as diminutive with respect to them, as they were to me. And who knows but that even this prodigious Race of Mortals might be equally overmatched in some distant part of the World, whereof we have yet no Discovery?

SCARED and confound as I was, I could not forbear going on with these Reflections, when one of the Reapers approaching within ten yards of the Ridge where I lay, made me apprehend that with the next Step I should be squashed to Death under his Foot, or cut in two with his Reaping-hook. And therefore when he was again about to move, I screamed

screamed as loud as Fear could make me. Whereupon the huge Creature trod short, and looking round about under him for some time, at last espied me as I lay on the Ground. He considered a while with the Caution of one who endeavours to lay hold on a small dangerous Animal in such a manner that it may not be able either to scratch or to bite him, as I myself have sometimes done with a Weasel in *Eng-land*. At length he ventured to take me up behind by the middle between his fore Finger and Thumb, and brought me within three yards of his Eyes, that he might behold my Shape more perfectly. I guessed his meaning, and my good Fortune gave me so much Presence of Mind, that I resolved not to struggle in the least as he held me in the Air, about sixty foot from the Ground, although he grievously pinched my Sides, for fear I should slip through his Fingers. All I ventured was to raise mine Eyes towards the Sun, and place my Hands together in a supplicating Posture, and to speak some words  
in

in an humble melancholy Tone, suitable to the Condition I then was in. For I apprehended every moment that he would dash me against the Ground, as we usually do any little hateful Animal which we have a mind to destroy. But my good Star would have it, that he appeared pleased with my Voice and Gestures, and began to look upon me as a Curiosity, much wondering to hear me pronounce articulate words, although he could not understand them. In the mean time I was not able to forbear groaning and shedding Tears, and turning my Head towards my Sides; letting him know, as well as I could, how cruelly I was hurt by the Pressure of his Thumb and Finger. He seemed to apprehend my meaning; for, lifting up the Lappet of his Coat, he put me gently into it, and immediately ran along with me to his Master, who was a substantial Farmer, and the same Person I had first seen in the Field.

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THE Farmer having (as I suppose by their Talk) received such an Account of me as his Servant could give him, took a piece of a small Straw, about the size of a walking Staff, and therewith lifted up the Lappets of my Coat; which it seems he thought to be some kind of Covering that Nature had given me. He blew my Hairs aside to take a better View of my Face. He called his Hinds about him, and asked them (as I afterwards learned) whether they had ever seen in the Fields any little Creature that resembled me; He then placed me softly on the Ground upon all four, but I got immediately up, and walked slowly backwards and forwards, to let those People see I had no Intent to run away. They all sat down in a Circle about me, the better to observe my Motions. I pulled off my Hat, and made a low Bow towards the Farmer. I fell on my Knees, and lifted up my Hands and Eyes, and spoke several words as loud as I could: I took a Purse of Gold out of my Pocket, and humbly presented

presented it to him. He received it on the Palm of his Hand, then applied it close to his Eye, to see what it was, and afterwards turned it several times with the point of a Pin, (which he took out of his Sleeve,) but could make nothing of it. Whereupon I made a Sign that he should place his Hand on the Ground. I took the Purse, and opening it, poured all the Gold into his Palm. There were six *Spanish* Pieces of four Pistoles each, besides twenty or thirty smaller Coins. I saw him wet the Tip of his little Finger upon his Tongue, and take up one of my largest Pieces, and then another, but he seemed to be wholly ignorant what they were. He made me a Sign to put them again into my Purse, and the Purse again into my Pocket, which after offering to him several times, I thought it best to do.

THE Farmer by this time was convinced I must be a rational Creature. He spoke often to me, but the Sound of his

his Voice pierced my Ears like that of a Water-mill, yet his Words were articulate enough. I answered as loud as I could, in several Languages, and he often laid his Ear within two Yards of me; but all in vain, for we were wholly unintelligible to each other. He then sent his Servants to their Work, and taking his Handkerchief out of his Pocket he doubled and spread it on his left Hand, which he plac'd flat on the Ground, with the Palm upwards, making me a Sign to step into it, as I could easily do, for it was not above a foot in thickness. I thought it my part to obey, and for fear of falling, laid my self at length upon the Handkerchief, with the remainder of which he lapped me up to the Head for further Security, and in this manner carried me home to his House. There he called his Wife, and shewed me to her; but she screamed and ran back, as Women in *England* do at the sight of a Toad or a Spider. However, when she had a while seen my Beha-

viour, and how well I observed the Signs her Husband made, she was soon reconciled, and by degrees grew extremely tender of me.

It was about twelve at Noon, and a Servant brought in Dinner. It was only one substantial Dish of Meat (fit for the plain Condition of an Husbandman) in a Dish of about four and twenty foot Diameter. The Company were the Farmer and his Wife, three Children, and an old Grandmother: When they were sat down, the Farmer placed me at some Distance from him on the Table, which was thirty foot high from the Floor. I was in a terrible Fright, and kept as far as I could from the Edge for fear of falling. The Wife minced a bit of Meat, then crumbled some Bread on a Trencher, and placed it before me. I made her a low Bow, took out my Knife and Fork, and fell to eat, which gave them exceeding Delight. The Mistress sent her Maid

for a small Dram cup, which held about three Gallons, and filled it with Drink, I took up the Vessel with much difficulty in both Hands, and in a most respectful manner drank to her Ladyship's Health, expressing the Words as loud as I could in *English*, which made the Company laugh so heartily, that I was almost deafned with the Noife. This Liquor tasted like a small Cyder, and was not unpleasant. Then the Master made me a Sign to come to his Trencher-side; but as I walked on the Table, being in great Surprize all the Time, as the indulgent Reader will easily conceive and excuse, I happened to stumble against a Crust, and fell flat on my Face, but received no Hurt. I got up immediately, and observing the good People to be in much Concern, I took my Hat (which I held under my Arm out of good Manners) and waving it over my Head, made three Huzza's, to shew I had got no Mischief by my Fall. But advancing forwards toward my Master (as I shall henceforth

forth call him) his youngest Son who  
 fate next him, an arch Boy of about ten  
 Years old, took me up by the Legs, and  
 held me so high in the Air, that I trem-  
 bled every Limb; but his Father snatch-  
 ed me from him, and at the same time  
 gave him such a Box on the left Ear, as  
 would have felled an *European* Troop  
 of Horse to the Earth, ordering him to  
 be taken from the Table. But being  
 afraid the Boy might owe me a Spight,  
 and well remembring how mischievous  
 all Children among us naturally are to  
 Sparrows, Rabbits, young Kittens, and  
 Puppy Dogs, I fell on my Knees, and  
 pointing to the Boy, made my Master to  
 understand, as well as I could, that I de-  
 sired his Son might be pardoned. The  
 Father complied, and the Lad took his  
 Seat again; whereupon I went to him and  
 kissed his Hand, which my Master took,  
 and made him stroak me gently with it.

In the midst of Dinner, my Mistress's  
 favourite Cat leapt into her Lap, I

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heard a Noise behind me like that of a dozen Stocking-Weavers at work; and turning my Head, I found it proceeded from the purring of this Animal, who seemed to be three times larger than an Ox, as I computed by the View of her Head, and one of her Paws, while her Mistress was feeding and stroaking her. The Fierceness of this Creature's Countenance altogether discomposed me; though I stood at the further End of the Table, above fifty foot off; and altho' my Mistress held her fast for fear she might give a Spring, and seize me in her Talons. But it happened there was no Danger; for the Cat took not the least Notice of me when my Master placed me within three yards of her. And as I have been always told, and found true by Experience in my Travels, that flying, or discovering Fear before a fierce Animal, is a certain way to make it pursue or attack you, so I resolved in this dangerous Juncture to shew no manner of concern. I walked with Intrepidity

pidity five or six times before the very Head of the Cat, and came within half a yard of her; whereupon she drew her self back, as if she were more afraid of me: I had less apprehension concerning the Dogs, whereof three or four came into the Room, as it is usual in Farmers Houses; one of which was a Mastiff, equal in bulk to four Elephants, and a Greyhound somewhat taller than the Mastiff, but not so large.

WHEN Dinner was almost done, the Nurse came in with a Child of a year old in her Arms, who immediately spied me, and began a Squall that you might have heard from *London-Bridge* to *Chelsea*, after the usual Oratory of Infants to get me for a Play-thing. The Mother out of pure Indulgence took me up, and put me towards the Child, who presently seized me by the Middle, and got my Head in his Mouth, where I roared so loud that the Urchin was frightened, and let me drop, and I should

infallibly have broke my Neck if the Mother had not held her Apron under me. The Nurse to quiet her Babe made use of a Rattle, which was a kind of hollow Vessel filled with great Stones, and fastened by a Cable to the Child's Waste: But all in vain, so that she was forced to apply the last Remedy by giving it suck. I must confess no Object ever disgusted me so much as the sight of her monstrous Breast, which I cannot tell what to compare with, so as to give the curious Reader an Idea of its Bulk, Shape and Colour. It stood prominent six foot, and could not be less than sixteen in Circumference. The Nipple was about half the bigness of my Head, and the hew both of that and the Dug so varified with Spots, Pimples and Freckles, that nothing could appear more nauseous: For I had a near sight of her, she sitting down the more conveniently to give suck, and I standing on the Table. This made me reflect upon the fair Skins of our *English* Ladies, who appear

appear so beautiful to us, only because they are of our own Size, and their Defects not to be seen but through a Magnifying-glass, where we find by Experiment, that the smoothest and whitest Skins look rough and coarse, and ill coloured.

I REMEMBER when I was at *Lilliput*, the Complexions of those diminutive People appeared to me the fairest in the World, and talking upon this Subject with a Person Learning there, who was an intimate Friend of mine, he said that my Face appeared much fairer and smoother when he looked on me from the Ground, than it did upon a nearer View when I took him up in my Hand and brought him close, which he confessed was at first a very shocking sight. He said he could discover great Holes in my Skin; that the Stumps of my Beard were ten times stronger than the Bristles of a Boar, and my Complexion made up of several Colours altogether disagreeable:

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Although I must beg leave to say for my self, that I am as fair as most of my Sex and Country, and very little sun-burnt by my Travels. On the other side, discoursing of the Ladies in that Emperor's Court, he used to tell me, one had Freckles, another too wide a Mouth, a third too large a Nose, nothing of which I was able to distinguish. I confess this Reflection was obvious enough; which however I could not forbear, lest the Reader might think those vast Creatures were actually deformed: For I must do them Justice to say they are a comely race of People; and particularly the features of my Master's Countenance, although he were but a Farmer, when I beheld him from the height of sixty foot, appeared very well proportioned.

When Dinner was done, my Master went out to his Labourers, and as I could discover by his Voice and Gesture, gave his Wife a strict Charge to take care of me. I was very much tired and disposed  
to

to sleep, which my Mistress perceiving, she put me on her own Bed, and covered me with a clean white Handkerchief, but larger and coarser than the Main-sail of a Man of War.

I slept about two Hours, and dreamed I was at home with my Wife and Children, which aggravated my Sorrows when I awaked and found my self alone in a vast Room, between two and three hundred foot wide, and above two hundred high, lying in a Bed twenty yards wide. My Mistress was gone about her household Affairs, and had locked me in. The Bed was eight yards from the Floor. Some natural Necessities required me to get down; I durst not presume to call, and if I had, it would have been in vain, with such a Voice as mine, at so great a distance as from the Room where I lay to the Kitchen where the Family kept. While I was under these Circumstances, two Rats crept up the Curtains, and ran smelling backwards and forwards on the Bed. One of them

them came up almost to my Face, where upon I rose in a Fright, and drew out my Hanger to defend my self. These horrible Animals had the Boldness to attack me on both Sides, and one of them held his Fore-feet at my Collar; but I had the good Fortune to rip up his Belly before he could do me any Mischief. He fell down at my Feet, and the other seeing the Fate of his Comrade, made his Escape, but not without one good Wound on the Back, which I gave him as he fled, and made the Blood run trickling from him. After this exploit, I walked gently to and fro on the Bed, to recover my Breath and Loss of Spirits. These Creatures were of the size of a large Mastiff, but infinitely more nimble and fierce, so that if I had taken off my Belt before I went to sleep, I must have infallibly been torn to pieces and devoured. I measured the Tail of the dead Rat, and found it to be two Yards long, wanting an Inch; but it went against my Stomach

them

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to drag the Carcass off the Bed, where it lay still bleeding; I observed it had yet some Life, but with a strong slash cross the neck I thoroughly dispatched it.

SOON after my Mistress came into the Room, who seeing me all bloody, ran and took me up in her Hand. I pointed to the dead Rat, smiling and making other signs to shew I was not hurt, whereat she was extremely rejoiced, calling the Maid to take up the dead Rat with a pair of Tongs, and throw it out of the Window. Then she set me on a Table, where I shewed her my Hanger all bloody, and wiping it on the Lappet of my Coat, returned it to the Scabbard. I was pressed to do more than one thing, which another could not do for me, and therefore endeavoured to make my Mistress understand that I desired to be set down on the Floor; which after she had done, my Bashfulness would not suffer me to express my self farther than by pointing to the Door, and bowing seve-

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ral times. The good Woman with much Difficulty at last perceived what I would be at, and taking me up again in her Hand, walked into the Garden where she set me down. I went on one side about two hundred yards, and beckoning to her not to look or to follow me, I hid my self between two Leaves of Sorrel, and there discharged the Necessities of Nature.

I HOPE the gentle Reader will excuse me for dwelling on these and the like Particulars, which however insignificant they might appear to grovelling vulgar Minds, yet will certainly help a Philosopher to enlarge his Thoughts and Imagination, and to apply them to a Benefit of publick as well as private Life, which was my sole Design in presenting this and other accounts of my Travels to the World; wherein I have been chiefly studious of Truth, without affecting any Ornaments of Learning or of Style. But the whole Scene of this Voyage made so  
strong

strong an Impression on my Mind, and is so deeply fixed in my Memory, that in committing it to Paper I did not omit one material Circumstance: However, upon a strict Review, I blotted out several Passages of less Moment which were in my first Copy, for fear of being censured as tedious and trifling, whereof Travellers are often, perhaps not without Justice, accused.



CHAP.