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Travels into several remote nations of the world

in 4 pt.

Swift, Jonathan

London, 1726

Chap. VIII. The King and Queen make a Progress to the Frontiers. The Author attends them. The manner in which he leaves the Country very particularly related. He returns to England.

[urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-48497](https://nbn-resolving.org/urn:nbn:de:hbz:466:1-48497)



CHAP. VIII.

The King and Queen make a Progress to the Frontiers. The Author attends them. The manner in which he leaves the Country very particularly related. He returns to England.



HAD always a strong Impulse that I should some time recover my Liberty, though it was impossible to conjecture by what Means, or to form any project with the least Hope of succeeding. The Ship in which I sailed was the first ever known to be driven within sight of that Coast, and the King had given strict Orders, that if at any time another appeared, it should be taken ashore, and, with all its Crew and Passengers, brought in a Tumbril to *Lorbrulgrud*. He was strongly bent to get me a Woman of my own Size, by whom

whom

whom I might propagate the Breed: But, I think, I should rather have died than undergone the Disgrace of leaving a Posterity to be kept in Cages like tame Canary Birds, and perhaps, in time, sold about the Kingdom to Persons of Quality for Curiosities. I was, indeed, treated with much Kindness: I was the Favourite of a great King and Queen, and the Delight of the whole Court, but it was upon such a foot as ill became the Dignity of human Kind. I could never forget those domestick Pledges I had left behind me. I wanted to be among People with whom I could converse upon even Terms, and walk about the Streets and Fields without fear of being trod to Death like a Frog or a young Puppy. But my Deliverance came sooner than I expected, and, in a manner, not very common: The whole Story and Circumstances of which I shall faithfully relate.

I had now been two Years in this
Country;

Country; and, about the beginning of the third, *Glumdalclitch* and I attended the King and Queen in a Progress to the South Coast of the Kingdom. I was carried, as usual, in my Travelling-Box, which, as I have already described, was a very convenient Closet of twelve foot wide. And I had ordered a Hammock to be fixed, by silken Ropes, from the four Corners at the top, to break the Jolts, when a Servant carried me before him on Horseback, as I sometimes desired, and would often sleep in my Hammock while we were upon the Road. On the Roof of my Closet, not directly over the middle of the Hammock, I ordered the Joyner to cut out a Hole of a foot square, to give me Air in hot Weather, as I slept; which Hole I shut, at Pleasure, with a Board that drew backwards and forwards through a Groove.

WHEN we came to our Journey's end, the King thought proper to pass a few days at a Palace he hath near *Flanflasnic*,
a City

a City within eighteen *English* Miles of the Sea-side. *Glumdalclitch* and I were much fatigued; I had gotten a small Cold, but the poor Girl was so ill as to be confined to her Chamber. I longed to see the Ocean, which must be the only Scene of my Escape, if ever it should happen. I pretended to be worse than I really was, and desired Leave to take the fresh Air of the Sea, with a Page whom I was very fond of, and who had sometimes been trusted with me. I shall never forget with what unwillingness *Glumdalclitch* consented, nor the strict charge she gave the Page to be careful of me, bursting at the same time into a flood of Tears, as if she had some Foreboding of what was to happen. The Boy took me out in my Box about half an hour's Walk from the Palace towards the Rocks on the Sea-shore. I ordered him to set me down, and lifting up one of my Sashes, cast many a wistful melancholy look towards the Sea. I found my self not very well, and told the Page
that

that I had a mind to take a nap in my Hammock, which I hoped would do me good. I got in, and the Boy shut the Window close down to keep out the cold. I soon fell asleep, and all I can conjecture is, that while I slept, the Page, thinking no Danger could happen, went among the Rocks to look for Bird's Eggs, having before observed him from my Window searching about, and picking up one or two in the Clefs. Be that as it will, I found my self suddenly awaked with a violent Pull upon the Ring which was fastned at the top of my Box for the Conveniency of Carriage. I felt my Box raised very high in the Air, and then born forward with prodigious Speed. The first Jolt had like to have shaken me out of my Hammock, but afterwards the Motion was easy enough. I called out several times, as loud as I could raise my Voice, but all to no Purpose. I looked towards my Windows, and could see nothing but the Clouds and Sky. I heard a noise just over my Head like the clapping

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ping of Wings, and then began to perceive the woful Condition I was in, that some Eagle had got the Ring of my Box in his Beak, with an intent to let it fall on a Rock like a Tortoise in a Shell, and then pick out my Body, and devour it. For the Sagacity and Smell of this Bird enable him to discover his Quarry at a great Distance, though better concealed than I could be within a two-inch Board.

IN a little time I observed the noise and flutter of Wings to increase very fast, and my Box was tossed up and down like a Sign-post in a windy Day. I heard several Bangs or Buffets, as I thought, given to the Eagle, (for such I am certain it must have been that held the Ring of my Box in his Beak,) and then all on a sudden felt my self falling perpendicularly down for above a minute, but with such incredible swiftness that I almost lost my Breath. My Fall was stopped by a terrible Squash, that sounded louder to
mine

mine Ears than the Cataract of *Niagara*; after which I was quite in the dark for another Minute, and then my Box began to rise so high that I could see Light from the tops of my Windows. I now perceived that I was fallen into the Sea. My Box, by the Weight of my Body, the Goods that were in, and the broad Plates of Iron fixed for Strength at the four Corners of the top and bottom, floated above five foot deep in Water. I did then, and do now suppose that the Eagle which flew away with my Box was pursued by two or three others, and forced to let me drop while he was defending himself against the rest, who hoped to share in the Prey. The Plates of Iron fasten'd at the bottom of the Box, (for those were the strongest,) preserved the Balance while it fell, and hinder'd it from being broken on the Surface of the Water. Every Joint of it was well grooved; and the Door did not move on Hinges, but up and down like a Sash, which kept my Closet so tight that very
little

little Water came in. I got with much Difficulty out of my Hammock, having first ventured to draw back the Slip-board on the Roof already mentioned, contrived on purpose to let in Air, for want of which I found my self almost stifled.

How often did I then with my self with my dear *Glumdalclitch*, from whom one single hour had so far divided me! And I may say, with Truth, that in the midst of my own Misfortunes I could not forbear lamenting my poor Nurse, the Grief she would suffer for my Loss, the Displeasure of the Queen, and the Ruin of her Fortune. Perhaps many Travellers have not been under greater Difficulties and Distress than I was at this Juncture, expecting every moment to see my Box dashed in pieces, or at least overfet by the first violent Blast, or a rising Wave. A Breach in one single Pane of Glafs would have been immediate Death: Nor could any thing have preserved the
Windows

Windows but the strong Lattice-Wires placed on the out-side against Accidents in Travelling. I saw the Water ooze in at several Crannies, although the Leaks were not considerable, and I endeavoured to stop them as well as I could. I was not able to lift up the Roof of my Closet, which otherwise I certainly should have done, and sat on the Top of it, where I might, at least, preserve my self some hours longer than by being shut up, as I may call it, in the Hold. Or if I escaped these Dangers for a day or two, what could I expect but a miserable Death of Cold and Hunger! I was four hours under these Circumstances, expecting, and indeed wishing, every moment to be my last.

I HAVE already told the Reader, that there were two strong Staples fixed upon that side of my Box which had no Window, and into which the Servant who used to carry me on horseback would put a leathern Belt, and buckle it about his Waste.

Being

Being in this disconsolate state, I heard, or at least thought I heard some kind of grating Noise on that side of my Box where the Staples were fixed, and soon after I began to fancy that the Box was pulled or towed along in the Sea; for I now and then felt a sort of tugging, which made the Waves rise near the tops of my Windows, leaving me almost in the dark. This gave me some faint hopes of Relief; although I was not able to imagine how it could be brought about. I ventured to unscrew one of my Chairs, which were always fastned to the Floor; and having made a hard shift to screw it down again directly under the slipping Board that I had lately opened, I mounted on the Chair, and putting my Mouth as near as I could to the Hole, I called for Help in a loud Voice, and in all the Languages I understood. I then fastned my Handkerchief to a Stick I usually carried, and thrusting it up the Hole, waved it several times in the Air, that if any Boat or Ship were near, the

Seamen might conjecture some unhappy Mortal to be shut up in this Box.

I FOUND no Effect from all I could do, but plainly perceived my Closet to be moved along; and in the space of an hour, or better, that side of the Box where the Staples were, and had no Window, struck against something that was hard. I apprehended it to be a Rock, and found my self tossed more than ever. I plainly heard a noise upon the cover of my Closet, like that of a Cable, and the grating of it as it passed through the Ring. I then found my self hoisted up by degrees, at least three foot higher than I was before. Whereupon I again thrust up my Stick and Handkerchief, calling for help till I was almost hoarse. In return to which, I heard a great shout repeated three times, giving me such transports of Joy, as are not to be conceived but by those who feel them. I now heard a trampling over my Head, and somebody calling

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ling through the hole with a loud Voice in the *English* Tongue, If there be any Body below, let them speak. I answered, I was an *Englishman*, drawn by ill fortune into the greatest Calamity that ever any Creature underwent, and begged, by all that was moving, to be delivered out of the Dungeon I was in. The Voice replied, I was safe, for my Box was fasten'd to their Ship; and the Carpenter should immediately come and saw an Hole in the Cover large enough to pull me out. I answered, that was needless, and would take up too much time, for there was no more to be done, but let one of the Crew put his Finger into the Ring, and take the Box out of the Sea into the Ship, and so into the Captain's Cabbin. Some of them upon hearing me talk so wildly, thought I was mad; others laughed; for indeed it never came into my head that I was now got among People of my own Stature and Strength. The Carpenter came, and in a few minutes saw-

ed a Passage about four foot square, then let down a small Ladder, upon which I mounted, and from thence was taken into the Ship in a very weak Condition.

THE Sailors were all in Amazement, and asked me a thousand Questions, which I had no inclination to answer. I was equally confounded at the sight of so many Pigmies, for such I took them to be, after having so long accustomed mine Eyes to the monstrous Objects I had left. But the Captain, Mr. *Thomas Wilcocks*, an honest worthy *Shropshire* Man, observing I was ready to faint, took me into his Cabbin, gave me a Cordial to comfort me, and made me *turn in* upon his own Bed, advising me to take a little Rest, of which I had great need. Before I went to sleep I gave him to understand that I had some valuable Furniture in my Box, too good to be lost; a fine Hammock, an handsome Field-Bed, two Chairs, a Table, and a Cabinet.

That

That my Closet was hung on all sides, or rather quilted, with Silk and Cotton: That if he would let one of the Crew bring my Closet into his Cabbin, I would open it there before him, and shew him my Goods. The Captain hearing me utter these Absurdities, concluded I was raving: However, (I suppose to pacify me,) he promised to give Order as I desired, and going upon Deck sent some of his Men down into my Closet, from whence (as I afterwards found) they drew up all my Goods, and stripped off the Quilting; but the Chairs, Cabinet and Bedsted being screwed to the Floor, were much damaged by the ignorance of the Seamen, who tore them up by force. Then they knocked off some of the Boards for the use of the Ship, and when they had got all they had a mind for, let the Hulk drop into the Sea, which by reason of many Breaches made in the Bottom and Sides, sunk to rights. And indeed I was glad not to have been a Spectator of the Havock they made; be-

cause I am confident it would have sensibly touched me, by bringing former Passages into my Mind, which I had rather forget.

I SLEPT some hours, but perpetually disturbed with Dreams of the Place I had left, and the Dangers I had escaped. However, upon waking I found myself much recovered. It was now about eight a-clock at Night, and the Captain ordered Supper immediately, thinking I had already fasted too long. He entertained me with great kindness, observing me not to look wildly, or talk inconsistently; and when we were left alone, desired I would give him a Relation of my Travels, and by what Accident I came to be set adrift in that monstrous wooden Chest. He said, that about twelve a-clock at Noon, as he was looking through his Glass, he spied it at a distance, and thought it was a Sail, which he had a mind to make, being not much out of his Course, in hopes

hopes

hopes of buying some Bisket, his own beginning to fall short. That upon coming nearer, and finding his error, he sent out his Long-boat to discover what I was; that his Men came back in a fright, swearing they had seen a swimming House. That he laughed at their Folly, and went himself in the Boat, ordering his Men to take a strong Cable along with them. That the Weather being calm, he rowed round me several times, observed my Windows, and the Wire-lattices that defended them. That he discovered two Staples upon one side, which was all of Boards, without any passage for Light. He then commanded his Men to row up to that side, and fastening a Cable to one of the Staples, ordered them to tow my Chest (as they called it) towards the Ship. When it was there, he gave directions to fasten another Cable to the Ring fixed in the Cover, and to raise up my Chest with Pullies, which all the Sailors were not able to do above two or three foot. He

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said, they saw my Stick and Handkerchief thrust out of the Hole, and concluded that some unhappy Man must be shut up in the Cavity. I asked whether he or the Crew had seen any prodigious Birds in the Air about the time he first discovered me. To which he answered, that discoursing this matter with the Sailors while I was asleep, one of them said he had *observed* three Eagles flying towards the North, but remarked nothing of their being larger than the usual size, which I suppose must be imputed to the great height they were at; and he could not guess the reason of my Question. I then asked the Captain how far he reckoned we might be from Land; he said, by the best Computation he could make, we were at least an hundred Leagues. I assured him, that he must be mistaken by almost half, for I had not left the Country from whence I came above two hours before I dropt into the Sea. Whereupon he began again to think that my Brain was disturb-
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ed, of which he gave me a hint, and advised me to go to Bed in a Cabbin he had provided. I assured him I was well refreshed with his good Entertainment and Company, and as much in my Senses as ever I was in my Life. He then grew serious, and desired to ask me freely whether I were not troubled in mind by the Conscioufness of some enormous Crime, for which I was punished at the Command of some Prince, by exposing me in that Chest, as great Criminals in other Countries have been forced to Sea in a leaky Vessel without Provisions: For although he should be sorry to have taken so ill a Man into his Ship, yet he would engage his Word to set me safe on Shore in the first Port where we arrived. He added, that his Suspicions were much increased by some very absurd Speeches I had delivered at first to the Sailors, and afterwards to himself, in relation to my Closet or Chest, as well as by my odd Looks and Behaviour while I was at Supper.

I BEG-

I BEGGED his Patience to hear me tell my Story, which I faithfully did from the last time I left *England* to the moment he first discovered me. And as Truth always forceth its way into rational Minds, so this honest worthy Gentleman, who had some tincture of Learning, and very good Sense, was immediately convinced of my Candour and Veracity. But further to confirm all I had said, I entreated him to give order that my Cabinet should be brought, of which I had the Key in my Pocket, (for he had already informed me how the Seamen disposed of my Closet.) I opened it in his own Presence, and shewed him the small collection of Rarities I made in the Country from whence I had been so strangely delivered. There was the Comb I had contrived out of the Stumps of the King's Beard, and another of the same Materials, but fixed into a Paring of her Majesty's Thumb-nail, which served for the Back. There was a collection of Needles and Pins from a foot

to

to half a yard long; four Wasp-stings, like Joiners Tacks; some Combings of the Queen's Hair; a gold Ring which one day she made me a Present of in a most obliging manner, taking it from her little Finger, and throwing it over my Head like a Collar. I desired the Captain would please to accept this Ring, in return of his Civilities; which he absolutely refused. I shewed him a Corn that I had cut off with my own Hand, from a Maid of Honour's Toe; it was about the bigness of a *Kentish* Pippin, and grown so hard, that when I returned to *England*, I got it hollowed into a Cup, and set in Silver. Lastly, I desired him to see the Breeches I had then on, which were made of a Mouse's Skin.

I COULD force nothing on him but a Footman's Tooth, which I observed him to examine with great Curiosity, and found he had a fancy for it. He received it with abundance of Thanks,
 more

more than such a Trifle could deserve. It was drawn by an unskilful Surgeon, in a Mistake, from one of *Glumdalclitch's* Men, who was afflicted with the Tooth-ach, but it was as sound as any in his Head. I got it cleaned, and put it into my Cabinet. It was about a foot long, and four inches in Diameter.

THE Captain was very well satisfied with this plain Relation I had given him, and said, he hoped when we returned to *England*, I would oblige the World by putting it in Paper, and making it publick. My Answer was, That I thought we were already over-stocked with Books of Travels: That nothing could now pass which was not extraordinary; wherein I doubted some Authors less consulted Truth than their own Vanity, or Interest, or the Diversion of ignorant Readers. That my Story could contain little besides common Events, without those ornamental Descriptions
of

of strange Plants, Trees, Birds and other Animals, or of the barbarous Customs and Idolatry of savage People, with which most Writers abound. However, I thanked him for his good Opinion, and promised to take the Matter into my Thoughts.

HE said, he wondered at one thing very much, which was, to hear me speak so loud, asking me whether the King or Queen of that Country were thick of hearing. I told him, it was what I had been used to for above two Years past; and that I admired as much at the Voices of him and his Men, who seemed to me only to whisper, and yet I could hear them well enough. But when I spoke in that Country, it was like a Man talking in the Street to another looking out from the top of a Steeple, unless when I was placed on a Table, or held in any Person's Hand. I told him, I had likewise observed another thing, that when I first got
I into

into the Ship, and the Sailors stood all about me, I thought they were the most little contemptible Creatures I had ever beheld. For, indeed, while I was in that Prince's Country, I could never endure to look in a Glass after mine Eyes had been accustomed to such prodigious Objects, because the Comparison gave me so despicable a Conceit of my self. The Captain said, that while we were at Supper, he observed me to look at every Thing with a sort of Wonder, and that I often seemed hardly able to contain my Laughter, which he knew not well how to take, but imputed it to some disorder in my Brain. I answered, it was very true; and I wondered how I could forbear, when I saw his Dishes of the size of a silver Threepence, a Leg of Pork hardly a Mouthful, a Cup not so big as a Nutshell; and so I went on, describing the rest of his Household-stuff and Provisions after the same manner. For although the Queen had ordered a little Equipage of
all

all things necessary while I was in her Service, yet my Ideas were wholly taken up with what I saw on every side of me, and winked at my own Littleness as People do at their own Faults. The Captain understood my Raillery very well, and merrily replied with the old *English* Proverb, that he doubted mine Eyes were bigger than my Belly, for he did not observe my Stomach so good, although I had fasted all Day; and continuing in his Mirth, protested he would have gladly given an hundred Pounds to have seen my Closet in the Eagle's Bill, and afterwards in its fall from so great an height into the Sea; which would certainly have been a most astonishing Object, worthy to have the Description of it transmitted to future Ages: And the Comparison of *Phaeton* was so obvious, that he could not forbear applying it, although I did not much admire Conceit.

THE Captain having been at *Tonquin*

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was in his return to *England* driven North eastward to the Latitude of 44 Degrees, and of Longitude 143. But meeting a Trade Wind two Days after I came on board him, we sailed Southward a long time, and coasting *New-Holland* kept our course West-south-west, and then South-south-west till we doubled the *Cape of Good-hope*. Our Voyage was very prosperous, but I shall not trouble the Reader with a Journal of it. The Captain called in at one or two Ports and sent in his Long-boat for Provisions and fresh Water, but I never went out of the Ship till we came into the Downs, which was on the 3d. Day of *June* 1706, about nine Months after my Escape. I offered to leave my Goods in Security for Payment of my Freight; but the Captain protested he would not receive one Farthing. We took kind leave of each other, and I made him promise he would come to see me at my House in *Redriff*. I hired a Horse and Guide for five Shillings, which I borrowed of the Captain.

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As I was on the Road, observing the Littleness of the Houses, the Trees, the Cattle and the People, I began to think my self in *Lilliput*. I was afraid of trampling on every Traveller I met, and often called aloud to have them stand out of the way, so that I had like to have gotten one or two broken Heads for my Impertinence.

WHEN I came to my own House, for which I was forced to enquire, one of the Servants opening the Door, I bent down to go in (like a Goose under a Gate) for fear of striking my Head. My Wife ran out to embrace me, but I stooped lower than her knees, thinking she could otherwise never be able to reach my Mouth. My Daughter kneeled to ask me blessing, but I could not see her till she arose, having been so long used to stand with my Head and Eyes erect to above sixty foot; and then I went to take her up with one Hand, by the Waste. I

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looked

looked down upon the Servants and one or two Friends who were in the House, as if they had been Pigmies, and I a Giant. I told my Wife she had been too thrifty, for I found she had starved herself and her Daughter to nothing. In short, I behaved my self so unaccountably, that they were all of the Captain's Opinion when he first saw me, and concluded I had lost my Wits. This I mention as an Instance of the great Power of Habit and Prejudice.

IN a little time I and my Family and Friends came to a right understanding: But my Wife protested I should never go to Sea any more; although my evil Destiny so ordered that she had not Power to hinder me, as the Reader may know hereafter. In the mean time I here conclude the second Part of my unfortunate Voyages.

The End of the First Volume.