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### **Travels into several remote nations of the world**

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Chap. IX. The Author's Return to Maldonada, sails to the Kingdom of Luggnagg. The Author confined. He is sent for to Court. The Manner of his Admittance. The King's great Lenity to his Subjects.

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## C H A P. IX.

*The Author's Return to Maldonada.  
Sails to the Kingdom of Luggnagg.  
The Author confined. He is sent  
for to Court. The manner of his  
Admittance. The King's great Le-  
nity to his Subjects.*

**T**H E Day of our Departure be-  
ing come, I took leave of his  
Highness the Governor of *Glubb-  
dubdribb*, and returned with my two  
Companions to *Maldonada*, where after  
a Fortnight's waiting, a Ship was ready  
to sail for *Luggnagg*. The two Gentle-  
men and some others were so generous  
and kind as to furnish me with Provi-  
sions, and see me on board. I was a  
Month in this Voyage. We had one  
violent Storm, and were under a necessi-  
ty

ty of steering Westward to get into the Trade-Wind, which holds for above sixty Leagues. On the 21st of *April*, 1711. we sailed in the River *Clumegnig*, which is a Sea-port Town, at the South-East Point of *Luggnagg*. We cast Anchor within a League of the Town, and made a Signal for a Pilot. Two of them came on board in less than half an hour, by whom we were guided between certain Shoals and Rocks which are very dangerous in a Passage to a large Basin, where a Fleet may ride in safety within a Cable's length of the Town-Wall.

SOME of our Sailors, whether out of Treachery or Inadvertence, had informed the Pilots that I was a Stranger and a great Traveller, whereof these gave notice to a Custom-House Officer, by whom I was examined very strictly upon my landing. This Officer spoke to me in the Language of *Balnibarbi*, which by the force of much Commerce is generally understood in that Town, especially

ally by Sea-men, and those employed in the Customs. I gave him a short Account of some Particulars, and made my Story as plausible and consistent as I could; but I thought it necessary to disguise my Country, and call my self an *Hollander*, because my Intentions were for *Japan*, and I knew the *Dutch* were the only *Europeans* permitted to enter into that Kingdom. I therefore told the Officer, that having been shipwrecked on the Coast of *Balnibarbi*, and cast on a Rock, I was received up into *Laputa*, or the flying Island (of which he had often heard) and was now endeavouring to get to *Japan*, from whence I might find a Convenience of returning to my own Country. The Officer said, I must be confined till he could receive Orders from Court, for which he would write immediately, and hoped to receive an Answer in a fortnight. I was carried to a convenient Lodging, with a Centry placed at the Door; however, I had the liberty of a large Garden, and was treated

ted with Humanity enough, being maintained all the time at the King's charge. I was invited by several Persons, chiefly out of Curiosity, because it was reported that I came from Countries very remote, of which they never heard.

I hired a young Man, who came in the same Ship, to be an Interpreter; he was a Native of *Luggnagg*, but had lived some Years at *Maldonada*, and was a perfect Master of both Languages. By his assistance I was able to hold a Conversation with those who came to visit me; but this consisted only of their Questions, and my Answers.

THE Dispatch came from Court about the time we expected. It contain'd a Warrant for conducting me and my Retinue to *Traldragdubh* or *Trildrogdrib*, for it is pronounced both ways as near as I can remember, by a party of ten Horse. All my Retinue was that poor Lad for an Interpreter, whom I persuaded

ded into my Service, and at my humble Request, we had each of us a Mule to ride on. A Messenger was dispatch'd half a day's Journey before us, to give the King notice of my Approach, and to desire that his Majesty would please to appoint a Day and Hour, when it would be his gracious Pleasure that I might have the honour to *lick the Dust before his Footstool*. This is the Court Style, and I found it to be more than matter of form. For upon my Admittance two days after my arrival, I was commanded to crawl on my Belly, and lick the Floor as I advanced; but on account of my being a Stranger, care was taken to have it swept so clean, that the Dust was not offensive. However this was a peculiar Grace, not allowed to any but Persons of the highest Rank, when they desire an Admittance. Nay, sometimes the Floor is strewed with Dust on purpose, when the Person to be admitted happens to have powerful Enemies at Court. And I have seen a great Lord with his Mouth

Mouth so crammed, that when he had crept to the proper Distance from the Throne, he was not able to speak a Word. Neither is there any remedy, because it is Capital for those who receive an Audience to spit or wipe their Mouths in his Majesty's presence. There is indeed another Custom, which I cannot altogether approve of. When the King hath a mind to put any of his Nobles to death in a gentle indulgent manner, he commands to have the Floor strewed with a certain brown Powder, of a deadly Composition, which being licked up, infallibly kills him in twenty-four Hours. But in justice to this Prince's great Clemency, and the care he hath of his Subjects Lives, (wherein it were much to be wished that the Monarchs of *Europe* would imitate him) it must be mentioned for his Honour, that strict orders are given to have the infected parts of the Floor well washed after every such Execution; which if his Domesticks neglect, they are in danger  
of

of incurring his Royal Displeasure. I my self heard him give Directions, that one of his Pages should be whipt, whose turn it was to give notice about washing the Floor after an Execution, but maliciously had omitted it; by which Neglect, a young Lord of great Hopes coming to an Audience, was unfortunately poisoned, although the King at that time had no design against his Life. But this good Prince was so gracious, as to forgive the poor Page his Whipping, upon promise that he would do so no more, without special Orders.

To return from this Digression; when I had crept within four Yards of the Throne, I raised my self gently upon my Knees, and then striking my Forehead seven times on the Ground, I pronounced the following Words, as they had been taught me the Night before, *Ickpling Gloffthrobb Squutserumm bllsiop Mlasonalt, Zwin tnodbalkguffh Sliophad Gurdlubb Asht.* This is the Compliment

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ment established by the Laws of the Land for all Persons admitted to the King's Presence. It may be rendered into *English* thus: *May your cœlestial Majesty out-live the Sun, eleven Moons and an half.* To this the King returned some Answer, which although I could not understand, yet I replied as I had been directed; *Fluft drin Talerick Dwuldom prastrad mirpush,* which properly signifies, *My Tongue is in the Mouth of my Friend,* and by this Expression was meant that I desired leave to bring my Interpreter; whereupon the young Man already mentioned was accordingly introduced, by whose Intervention I answer'd as many Questions as his Majesty could put in above an hour. I spoke in the *Balnibarbian* Tongue, and my Interpreter delivered my Meaning in that of *Luggnagg.*

THE King was much delighted with my Company, and ordered his *Bliffmarklub,* or high Chamberlain, to appoint

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a Lodging in the Court for me and my Interpreter, with a daily Allowance for my Table, and a large Purse of Gold for my common Expences.

I stayed three Months in this Country out of perfect Obedience to his Majesty, who was pleas'd highly to favour me, and made me very honourable Offers. But, I thought it more consistent with Prudence and Justice to pass the remainder of my Days with my Wife and Family.



C H A P.