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

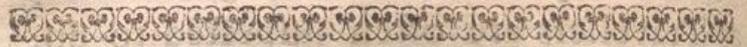
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**Swift, Jonathan**

**London, 1726**

Chap. V. Several Adventures that happened to the Author. The Execution of a Criminal. The Author shews his Skill in Navigation.

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## CHAP. V

*Several Adventures that happened to the Author. The Execution of a Criminal. the Author shews his Skill in Navigation.*



SHOULD have lived happy enough in that Country, if my Littleness had not exposed me to several ridiculous and troublesome accidents: some of which I shall venture to relate. *Glumdalclitch* often carried me into the Gardens of the Court in my smaller Box, and would sometimes take me out of it, and hold me in her Hand, or set me down to walk. I remember, before the Dwarf left the Queen, he followed us one day into those Gardens, and my Nurse having set me down, he and I being close together, near some Dwarf Apple trees, I must need shew my Wit  
by

CHAP.

by a silly Allusion between him and the Trees, which happens to hold in their Language as it doth in ours. Whereupon, the malicious Rogue watching his opportunity, when 'I was walking under one of them, shook it directly over my Head, by which a dozen Apples, each of them near as large as a *Bristol* Barrel, came tumbling about my Ears; one of them hit me on the Back as I chanced to stoop, and knocked me down flat on my Face, but I received no other hurt, and the Dwarf was pardoned at my Desire, because I had given the Provocation.

ANOTHER day *Glumdalclitch* left me on a smooth Grass-plot to divert my self while she walked at some distance with her Governess. In the meantime there suddenly fell such a violent shower of Hail, that I was immediately by the force of it struck to the ground: And when I was down, the Hail-stones gave me such cruel Bangs all over the  
Body,

Body, as if I had been pelted with Tennis balls; however I made a shift to creep on all four, and shelter my self by lying flat on my Face on the Leese side of a Border of Lemon Thyme, but so bruised from Head to Foot that I could not go abroad in ten days. Neither is this at all to be wondered at, because Nature in that Country observing the same Proportion thro' all her Operations, a Hail-stone is near eighteen hundred times as large as one in *Europe*, which I can assert upon Experience, having been so curious to weigh and measure them.

BUT, a more dangerous Accident happened to me in the same Garden, when my little Nurse believing she had put me in a secure Place, which I often entreated her to do, that I might enjoy my own Thoughts, and having left my Box at home to avoid the Trouble of carrying it, went to another part of the Gardens with her Governess and some Ladies  
of

of her Acquaintance. While she was absent, and out of hearing, a small white Spaniel belonging to one of the chief Gardiners, having got by Accident into the Garden, happened to range near the Place where I lay: The Dog following the Scent, came directly up, and taking me in his Mouth, ran strait to his Master, wagging his Tail, and set me gently on the Ground. By good Fortune he had been so well taught, that I was carried between his Teeth without the least Hurt, or even tearing my Clothes. But the poor Gardiner, who knew me well, and had a great Kindness for me, was in a terrible Fright: He gently took me up in both his Hands, and asked me how I did; but I was so amazed and out of Breath, that I could not speak a Word. In a few Minutes I came to my self, and he carried me safe to my little Nurse, who by this Time had returned to the Place where she left me, and was in cruel Agonies when I did not appear, nor answer when she called: She severely reprimanded

manded the Gardiner on Account of his Dog. But the Thing was hushed up, and never known at Court; for the Girl was afraid of the Queen's Anger, and truly as to my self, I thought it would not be for my Reputation that such a Story should go about.

THIS Accident absolutely determined *Glumdalclitch* never to trust me abroad for the future out of her Sight. I had been long afraid of this Resolution, and therefore concealed from her some little unlucky Adventures that happened in those Times when I was left by my self. Once a Kite hovering over the Garden made a Stoop at me, and if I had not resolutely drawn my Hanger, and run under a thick Espalier, he would have certainly carried me away in his Talons. Another Time walking to the top of a fresh Mole-hill, I fell to my Neck in the Hole, through which that Animal had cast up the Earth, and coined some Lie, not worth remembering, to excuse my self

self

self for spoiling my Clothes. I likewise broke my right Shin against the Shell of a Snail, which I happened to stumble over, as I was walking alone, and thinking on poor *England*.

I CANNOT tell whether I were more pleased or mortified, to observe in those solitary Walks, that the smaller Birds did not appear to be at all afraid of me, but would hop about within a Yard distance, looking for Worms, and other Food, with as much Indifference and Security, as if no Creature at all were near them. I remember, a Thrush had the confidence to snatch out of my Hand, with his Bill, a piece of Cake that *Glumdalclitch* had just given me for my Breakfast. When I attempted to catch any of these Birds, they would boldly turn against me, endeavouring to pick my Fingers, which I durst not venture within their Reach; and then they would turn back unconcerned, to hunt for Worms or Snails, as they did before. But one Day I took

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a thick Cudgel, and threw it with all my Strength so luckily at a Linnet, that I knocked him down, and seizing him by the Neck with both my Hands, ran with him in Triumph to my Nurse. However, the Bird, who had only been stunned, recovering himself, gave me so many Boxes with his Wings on both sides of my Head and Body, though I held him at Arms length, and was out of the reach of his Claws, that I was twenty times thinking to let him go. But I was soon relieved by one of our Servants, who wrung off the Bird's Neck, and I had him next day for Dinner, by the Queen's Command. This Linnet, as near as I can remember, seemed to be somewhat larger than an *England* Swan.

THE Maids of Honour often invited *Glumdalclitch* to their Apartments, and desired she would bring me along with her, on purpose to have the Pleasure of seeing and touching me. They would often strip me naked from Top to Toe, and

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and lay me at full length in their Bosoms ; wherewith I was much disgusted ; because, to say the Truth, a very offensive Smell came from their Skins ; which I do not mention or intend to the Disadvantage of those excellent Ladies, for whom I have all manner of Respect ; but, I conceive that my Sense was more acute in Proportion to my Littleness, and that those illustrious Persons were no more disagreeable to their Lovers, or to each other, than People of the same Quality are with us in *England*. And, after all, I found their natural Smell was much more supportable than when they used Perfumes, under which I immediately swooned away. I cannot forget that an intimate Friend of mine in *Lilliput* took the Freedom in a warm Day, when I had used a good deal of Exercise, to complain of a strong Smell about me, although I am as little faulty that way as most of my Sex: But I suppose his Faculty of Smelling was as nice with regard to me, as mine was to that of this People. Up-

on this Point, I cannot forbear doing Justice to the Queen my Mistres, and *Glumdalclitch* my Nurse, whose Persons were as sweet as those of any Lady in *England*.

THAT which gave me most Uneasiness among these Maids of Honour, (when my Nurse carried me to visit them) was to see them use me without any manner of Ceremony, like a Creature who had no sort of Consequence. For, they would strip themselves to the Skin, and put on their Smocks in my Presence, while I was placed on their Toylet directly before their naked Bodies, which, I am sure, to me was very far from being a tempting Sight, or from giving me any other Emotions than those of Horror and Disgust. Their Skins appeared so coarse and uneven, so variously coloured, when I saw them near, with a Mole here and there as broad as a Trencher, and Hairs hanging from it thicker than Pack-threads, to say  
nothing

nothing further concerning the rest of their Persons. Neither did they at all scruple while I was by to discharge what they had drunk, to the Quantity of at least two Hogsheds, in a Vessel that held above three Tuns. The handsomest among these Maids of Honour, a pleasant frolicksome Girl of sixteen, would sometimes set me astride upon one of her Nipples, with many other Tricks, wherein the Reader will excuse me for not being over particular. But I was so much displeas'd, that I intreated *Glumdalclitch* to contrive some Excuse for not seeing that young Lady any more.

ONE Day a young Gentleman, who was Nephew to my Nurse's Governess, came and pressed them both to see an Execution. It was of a Man who had murdered one of that Gentleman's intimate Acquaintance. *Glumdalclitch* was prevail'd on to be of the Company, very much against her Inclination, for she was

naturally tender-hearted: And, as for my self, although I abhorred such kind of Spectacles, yet my Curiosity tempted me to see something that I thought must be extraordinary. The Malefactor was fixed in the Chair upon a Scaffold erected for the Purpose, and his Head cut off at a Blow with a Sword of about forty foot long. The Veins and Arteries spouted up such a prodigious Quantity of Blood, and so high in the Air, that the great *Jett d'eau* at *Versailles* was not equal for the time it lasted; and the Head, when it fell on the Scaffold-Floor, gave such a Bounce, as made me start, although I were at least half an *Englisch* Mile distant.

THE Queen, who often used to hear me talk of my Sea Voyages, and took all Occasions to divert me when I was melancholy, asked me whether I understood how to handle a Sail, or an Oar, and whether a little Exercise of Rowing might not be convenient for my Health:  
I an-

I answered, that I understood both very well: For although my proper Employment had been to be Surgeon or Doctor to the Ship, yet often, upon a Pinch, I was forced to work like a common Mariner. But I could not see how this could be done in their Country, where the smallest Wherry was equal to a First-rate Man of War among us, and such a Boat as I could manage would never live in any of their Rivers. Her Majesty said, if I would contrive a Boat, her own Joiner should make it, and she would provide a Place for me to sail in. The Fellow was an ingenious Workman, and, by my Instructions, in ten Days finished a Pleasure-Boat, with all its Tackling, able conveniently to hold eight *Europeans*. When it was finished, the Queen was so delighted, that she ran with it in her Lap to the King, who ordered it to be put in a Cistern full of Water, with me in it, by Way of Tryal; where I could not manage my two Sculls, or little Oars for want of Room. But

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the Queen had before contrived another project. She ordered the Joiner to make a wooden Trough of three hundred foot long, fifty broad, and eight deep; which being well pitched to prevent leaking, was placed on the Floor along the Wall, in an outer Room of the Palace. It had a Cock near the Bottom to let out the Water when it began to grow stale, and two Servants could easily fill it in half an Hour. Here I often used to row for my own Diversion, as well as that of the Queen and her Ladies, who thought themselves well entertained with my Skill and Agility. Sometimes I would put up my Sail, and then my Business was only to steer, while the Ladies gave me a Gale with their Fans; and when they were weary, some of the Pages would blow my Sail forward with their Breath, while I shewed my Art by steering Starboard or Larboard, as I pleased. When I had done, *Glumdalclitch* always carried back my Boat into her Closet, and hung it on a Nail to dry.

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IN this Exercise I once met an Accident which had like to have cost me my Life: For, one of the Pages having put my Boat into the Trough, the Governess, who attended *Glumdalclitch*, very officiously lifted me up to place me in the Boat, but I happened to slip through her Fingers, and should have infallibly fallen down forty foot upon the Floor, if by the luckiest chance in the World, I had not been stopp'd by a Corking-pin that stuck in the good Gentlewoman's Stomacher; the Head of the Pin passed between my Shirt and the Waste-band of my Breeches, and thus I was held by the Middle in the Air till *Glumdalclitch* ran to my Relief.

ANOTHER time, one of the Servants, whose Office it was to fill my Trough every third day with fresh Water, was so careless to let a huge Frog (not perceiving it) slip out of his Pail. The Frog lay concealed till I was put  
into

into my Boat, but then seeing a resting Place, climbed up, and made it lean so much on one side, that I was forced to balance it with all my Weight on the other, to prevent overturning. When the Frog was got in, it hopped at once half the Length of the Boat, and then over my Head, backwards and forwards, dawbing my Face and Clothes with its odious Slime. The Largeness of its Features made it appear the most deformed Animal that can be conceived. However, I desired *Glumdalclitch* to let me deal with it alone. I banged it a good while with one of my Sculls, and at last forced it to leap out of the Boat.

BUT, the greatest Danger I ever underwent in that Kingdom, was from a Monkey, who belonged to one of the Clerks of the Kitchen. *Glumdalclitch* had locked me up in her Closet, while she went somewhere upon Business, or a Visit. The Weather being very warm, the Closet-Window was left open, as  
well

well as the Windows and the Door of my bigger Box, in which I usually lived, because of its Largeness and Conveniency. As I sat quietly meditating at my Table, I heard something bounce in at the Closet-Window, and skip about from one side to the other; whereat, although I were much alarmed, yet I ventured to look out, but not stirring from my Seat; and then I saw this frolicksome Animal, frisking and leaping up and down, till at last he came to my Box, which he seemed to view with great Pleasure and Curiosity, peeping in at the Door and every Window. I retreated to the farther Corner of my Room, or Box, but the Monkey looking in at every side, put me into such a Fright, that I wanted Presence of Mind to conceal my self under the Bed, as I might easily have done. After some time spent in peeping, grinning, and chattering, he at last espied me, and reaching one of his Paws in at the Door, as a Cat does when she plays with  
a Mouse,

a Mouſe, although I often ſhifted Place to avoid him, he at Length caught hold of the Lappet of my Coat, (which being made of that Country Cloth, was very thick and ſtrong,) and dragged me out. He took me up in his right Fore-foot, and held me as a Nurſe does a Child ſhe is going to ſuckle, juſt as I have ſeen the ſame ſort of Creature do with a Kitten in *Europe*: And when I offered to ſtruggle, he ſqueezed me ſo hard, that I thought it more prudent ſo ſubmit. I have good reaſon to believe that he took me for a young one of his own Species, by his often ſtroaking my Face very gently with his other Paw. In theſe Diversions he was interrupted by a Noiſe at the Cloſet Door, as if ſome Body were opening it; whereupon he ſuddenly leaped up to the Window, at which he had come in, and thence upon the Leads and Gutters, walking upon three Legs, and holding me in the fourth, till he clamber'd up to a Roof that was next to ours. I heard *Glumdalclitch* give a Shreek  
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at the Moment he was carrying me out. The poor Girl was almost distracted: That Quarter of the Palace was all in an uproar, the Servants ran for Ladders; the Monkey was seen by hundreds in the Court, sitting upon the Ridge of a Building, holding me like a Baby in one of his Fore-paws, and feeding me with the other, by cramming into my Mouth some Victuals he had squeezed out of the Bag on one side of his Chaps, and patting me when I would not eat; whereat many of the Rabble below could not forbear laughing; neither do I think they justly ought to be blamed, for without Question the Sight was ridiculous enough to every Body but my self. Some of the People threw up Stones, hoping to drive the Monkey down; but this was strictly forbidden, or else very probably my Brains had been dashed out.

THE Ladders were now applied, and mounted by several Men, which the Monkey observing, and finding himself almost

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most encompassed; not being able to make speed enough with his three Legs, let me drop on a Ridge-Tyle, and made his Escape. Here I sat for some time three hundred yards from the Ground, expecting every moment to be blown down by the Wind, or to fall by my own Giddiness, and come tumbling over and over from the Ridge to the Eves: But an honest Lad, one of my Nurse's Footmen, climbing up, and, putting me into his Breeches-Pocket, brought me down safe,

I WAS almost choaked with the filthy Stuff the Monkey had crammed down my Throat; but my dear little Nurse picked it out of my Mouth with a small Needle, and then I fell vomiting, which gave me great Relief. Yet I was so weak, and bruised in the Sides, with the Squeezes given me by this odious Animal, that I was forced to keep my Bed a Fortnight. The King, Queen, and all the Court, sent every Day to enquire after my Health, and her Majesty  
made

made me several Visits during my Sick-  
ness. The Monkey was killed, and an  
Order made that no such Animal should  
be kept about the Palace.

WHEN I attended the King after my  
Recovery, to return him thanks for his  
Favours, he was pleased to rally me a  
good deal upon this Adventure. He  
asked me what my Thoughts and Spe-  
culations were while I lay in the Mon-  
key's Paw; how I liked the Victuals he  
gave me; his manner of feeding; and  
whether the fresh Air on the Roof had  
sharpen'd my Stomach. He desired to  
know what I would have done upon  
such an Occasion in my own Country.  
I told his Majesty, that in *Europe* we  
had no Monkeys, except such as were  
brought for Curiosities from other places,  
and so small, that I could deal with a  
dozen of them together, if they pre-  
sumed to attack me. And as for that  
monstrous Animal with whom I was so  
lately engaged, (it was indeed as large

as an Elephant,) if my Fears had suffered me to think so far as to make use of my Hanger, (looking fiercely and clapping my Hand upon the Hilt as I spoke,) when he poked his Paw into my Chamber, perhaps I should have given him such a Wound, as would have made him glad to withdraw it with more haste than he put it in. This I delivered in a firm Tone, like a Person who was jealous lest his Honour should be called in question. However, my Speech produced nothing else besides a loud Laughter, which all the Respect due to his Majesty from those about him could not make them contain. This made me reflect how vain an Attempt it is for a Man to endeavour doing himself Honour among those who are out of all degree of Equality or Comparison with him. And yet I have seen the Moral of my own Behaviour very frequent in *England* since my Return, where a little contemptible Varlet, without the least Title to Birth, Person, Wit, or common Sense, shall presume

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sume to look with Importance, and put himself upon a foot with the greatest Persons of the Kingdom.

I was every day furnishing the Court with some ridiculous Story; and *Glum-dalclitch*, although she loved me to Excess, yet was arch enough to inform the Queen, whenever I committed any Folly that she thought would be diverting to her Majesty. The Girl who had been out of order, was carried by her Governess to take the Air about an hour's distance, or thirty miles from Town. They alighted out of the Coach near a small Foot-path in a Field, and *Glum-dalclitch* setting down my travelling Box, I went out of it to walk. There was a Cow-dung in the Path, and I must needs try my Activity by attempting to leap over it. I took a run, but unfortunately jump'd short, and found my self just in the middle up to my Knees. I waded thro' with some Difficulty, and one of the Footmen wiped me as clean

as he could with his Handkerchief; for I was filthily bemired, and my Nurse confined me to my Box till we returned home; where the Queen was soon informed of what had passed, and the Footmen spread it about the Court; so that all the Mirth, for some days, was at my expence.

