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Dialogue 28: Two Sea-faring Brothers do encounter one with the other at unawares on the Sea-shore to Madras

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the Eight and twentieth Dialogue XXVIII

Two Sea-faring Brothers do encounter one with the other at unawares on the Sea-shore to Madras

a. Honest friend from whence do you come?

b. Sir, we come from Malacca.

a. What is your Ships Name?

b. The Tyger, Capt. Friendly.

a. Pray, what is your Name?

b. My name is John Crookson.

a. What! Crookson is your Name? pray don't take a mist, that I am so bold as to ask You one word more. What is your native Country?

b. My native Country is Flowermount, near Princetown.

a. My dear Friend, I desire, don't become uneasy for my Curiositys sake, in asking You thus, about your own family, because I wish but to hear, whether You have any Relation at home?

b. Sir, I have still alive my Parents and two sisters but one brother is gone to sea now twenty Years ago and we did hear nothing more of him, so that no body knows, what became of the poor fellow

6.

a. That is somewhat strange, I confess, but as for me, it is a surprising thing, to see You here and to hear You thus talking, because I myself know Your Town very well and I know likewise that therein is no other Gentleman with such a Name, as Crookson, than my Father ^{himself}, and so, and so, hear what I say, You must needs be my Brother, I am Peter, You took for lost.

b. O! good Lord, what exorbitant Point of Providence is this, to meet here on shore my dear Brother, Peter. O ten thousand Thanks be given to GOD Almighty for this hour and how glad shall become our Father and Mother with the two Sisters, as soon they may hear the good news, that You, Peter, are still alive.

a. Well then, Brother John, come let us go to my Lodging and You shall dine with me at noon.

b. With all my heart, dear Brother Peter, I'll go along with You, this is unhappy day in deed.

7.

a. Yes, Yes, GOD be thanked for all his Goodness, towards us and specially for his wonderful Direction in bringing us here together. Now dear Brother ^{page 6} sit down, eat and be of good Cheer, and when You have mind to drink, call for liquor.

b. Very well, I'll do so, but what sort of Wine have You here in this Country?

8.

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b. Very well, I'll do so, but what sort of Wine have You here in this Country?

- 9
- a. We have several sorts of wine and as I think, the same is Cheap enough.
- b. Pray, tell me the names of these wine.

- 10
- a. That I may do without any great trouble. In the first place You must know, that we have four and more sorts of French-wine, likewise so many sorts of wine from the Cape of good hope. Farther there is to be had white-wine, red-wine, Claret-wine, Rheneish-wine, Moselle-wine, Spanish-wine or Sack, Malaga-wine, Canary-wine, Mustadel-wine, Chalmseg-wine, Madera-wine, Palma-wine and Persia-wine.
- b. I wonder at the large specification of so many sorts of wine, but which is the best in this Country?

- 11
- a. Dear Brother John, they are all together very good, but the Madera wine gives the best Taste, when drunken with water.
- b. What, good Brother Peter, is this to say: drunk with water? I don't understand what You mean.

- 12
- a. Very well, I'll tell You presently the meaning thereof. If any body is dry and calls for drink, he fills the Glass up with three parts of water and one part of Madera-wine and then is it very savoury to quench the Thirst.
- b. Now well done! I'll try, being I am just dry, pray let me have one Glass according to this fashion. My service I give.

13.
a. Many thanks, God bless You, pray, drink all up. How do You like this draught?
b. I like it well, it is as pleasing, as any Drink in the world and I suppose, it is very wholesome too in this hot Country, but on this occasion, I must ask You one thing, namely, in case, I could not get Madera-Wine would not any other Wine do the same turn?

14.
a. No, Sir, there is some wine by nature delicious enough, if drunken alone, but mixt with water, it spoiles the good savor and becomes as nauseous as some Physic. For instance, I may name but one sort of red Cape wine
b. Well, I understand now this matter, but Brother Peter, You did mention before, that the Wine was here tolerably cheap, pray, what cost one quart bottle of Rhenish Wine?

15.
a. I have bought one bottle of Rhenish wine for half a Crown, likewise, at the same rate, one bottle Spanish Sack. And the rest of the other sorts of wine is thus cheap, that I pay for one bottle no more than one and half a Shilling.
b. In deed, the wine is very cheap, but I suppose, the reason thereof is, because this hot Country, as fit for ripening all the grapes, causes such a low price upon the wine.

16.
a. No, Brother John, You are mistaken in this, although this Country is mightily hot, and able enough to ripe all sorts of Grapes, but for all that, we don't make any wine here.

b. Why so? what is the reason? Dont these Natives understand to plant Vineyards and to dress Vines? I hear, the Inhabitants of Persia do gather every Year a great quantity, so that they may sell abroad an exceeding abundance thereof, gaining thereby no small profit to the very Interest of their own Country.

17

a. That is all true, You are in the right, but here is quite an other case, which hinders these Natives from doing so.

b. Pray, Brother Peter, tell me this strange matter, as the hindrance by which they are kept off from cultivating vines, being I am very curious to know it.

18

a. Hear, Brother John, the Neglect of not managing vines in this Country, dont proceed of the heat of this Climate, nor dont come of the want of Skill and Industry to handle the business, but there are innumerable Squirrels all over the Country and for their sake is it, that no body can sufficiently defend the fruits of the tree and hinder the spoiling of the Grapes.

b. That is a thing again, that I never heard before of. All Europeans and I myself did believe, this Country must be very fruitful in bringing forth good Wine, but now You tell me quite the contrary. Seeing then, that the Malabarians cant enjoy the pleasure to make wine, it is as good as presupposed, that no body in this Country knows how the Vine grows, as a people, that never saw in their lifes time any grapes or a cluster of Grapes.

- a. Brother John, Your reasoning is not quite out of the way, but I tell You what, although we don't make wine in this Country; from thence don't follow, that we also have no grapes.
- b. Dear Brother, I take for granted, what You say, but I do argue thus: If Grapes are to be had in this Country, the people will certainly make wine also.

- a. No, Sir, You can't maintain Your argument with me. Pray, give me leave to compose our difference. In this Country we have almost every Year a small number of Clusters of Grapes as the greatest Rarity, but there is not so much as a sufficient Stock to fill one little barrel with Wine.
- b. So, so, stands the matter thus! now I understand the case better than before. But whereabouts is then to be found this Rarity of Grapes every Year?

- a. Very near, and that in a place about two English miles distant of from Fort St. George, namely at Mailapour.
- b. Who is the Gentleman, that contrives such pleasing Play?

- a. The Landlord is a Portuguese, which did plant such a little Vineyard some years ago, keeping therein two or three dozen Vines, but as soon as the Grapes begin to ripen, casting up a sweet smell, he is forced at the number of Clusters of Grapes, to procure so many leathern bags, in order to keep off the biting of the Squirrels,

that flock together to feed upon.

- b. O! Strange management of procuring of grapes.
I never did hear such a thing in all my life time.
But dear Brother, I must certainly say, the Owner of
his Vineyard will be put to a good deal of Expence, be-
sides all the trouble, he gets with tying and binding
up all these leathern bags, what Profit reapes he by
the whole Play? 23.

- a. Sir, Don't think, he is a loosing thereby, no, not
at all, because in the first place, he himself has the
pleasure to see grown these Vines and in the second
place, he sells every bunch of Grapes, as a great Rarity
some for two Rixdollars and some for one Rix dollar
and so gradually on.

- b. As I admire the cunning of this Gentleman, so
do I detest the destroying worm; these bad Squirrels.
Mean while we are thus discoursing about the Grapes
and Squirrels, it comes me in the mind: if perhaps the
Bible has made already mention of both in the Song
of Solomon: seeing, we read there in the second Chap.
c. 15. Take us the foxes, the little foxes, that spoil
the Vines.

- 24
a. That is a Digression, which I never could light upon!
Brother John, let this your free thinking fall as easily
out, as it just came in. You may be sure, not one
Divine will agree to such an extravagant Exposition
of the holy Writ, in making Squirrels to little foxes and
again, little foxes to Squirrels. No, let this matter quite
alone, the name of the little foxes there, must be in-

interpreted spiritually in a Mystical sense.

- b. Well, Brother Peter, I'll do so. But ^{you} did mention before of many names of Wine and among those, of the Palma-wine too. Pray, does this Palma-wine grow upon the Palm-trees in this Country?

25

- a. No, in no wise, the juice of Palm-trees is quite an other liquor, than the true Palma-Wine. Near the Island of Madiera, there lies one little Isle, that is called Palma, from thence comes this very rare and precious Wine!
- b. I give You many thanks for the good Information about the different sorts of Wine, but don't You make Use of Beer in this Country?

26

- a. Yes, we have small Beer and strong Beer, all which is brought either from England and Germany, so that You may call for what sort, You please, and You will find it here.
- b. Pray, what cost one Pipe or hogshead of English beer?

27

- a. I have payed for one Pipe thirty Rixdollars, but we rather buy whole Chests with beer, filled up in quart-bottles, which does keep far better in this hot Country.
- b. How many dozen bottles does contain one Chest?

28

- a. Twelve till thirteen dozen bottles. But, Brother John, although we are not able to dress vine in this Country, in the mean while I do brew every day, the Beer, I drink.
- b. Don't talk so, Brother, I know, You never have

been a Brewet, nor do I see, where about You
Should have here a Brew-house.

- 29
a. Brother John, dont think, that I speak in jest, it is
indeed so, for I my self, or in behalf of me, my servant,
we must brew every day my beer, and that commonly
twice, once in the morning and once in the evening.
b. Brother Peter, the case is somewhat strange to me, but I
will not contradict You, only I desire, tell me, how You
go on to work with Your Brewing?

30.
a. Sir, we take about six spoons full of English Aromg beer
half so much Syrup, a little Dregs and put all this together
in one quart bottle, and having filled this bottle with good
Water, but not till the mouth, which we stop with a Cork
and tie it very fastly. When all is done, we shake this
bottle a quarter of an hour and place it in the sight of the
sun or somewhere near to the fire, by thus doing we
bring the mingled Water to a fermentation and in
the compass of six hours we get thereby the most
pleasing Drink of Beer.

- b. Many thanks, Brother, for this information
too and for your kind entertainment, but You
see, the sun is a setting, I must go on board the
Ship. I wish You a good night and to morrow
morning, please God, I'll come again to wait
upon You.