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Schultze, Benjamin

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Dialogue 29: The two brothers, Peter and John are discoursing about food and the kind of Victuals in the East-Indies

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Dialogue XXIX

The two brothers, Peter and John are discoursing
about food and the kind of Victuals in the East-Indies

John^{a.} Good morrow Tye, brother, according to Your
command, I come this morning again to render You
my Respect.

Peter^{b.} Dear brother, You are well come, I am obliged Tye
for this kindness and I hope, You will do me the
favour to dine with me again.

a. Yes, Sir, with the greatest pleasure of the World, being
I am not yet engaged some other where.

b. That is, what I wish, for I think to have the best right in
claiming to myself such an opportunity, which we don't
meet with every day. 3.

a. I thank You still for the yester days entertainment and
like wise for so many good Advice, given me, concerning
the matter of drinking in this hot Country. Now I
wish also to hear, what sort of victuals, You are able
to dress on the table. Because I was told formerly
at home, that the People in the East-Indies did live
upon nothing else, than leaves of the trees and roots
of the bushes.

b. Yes, such and the like Talk is to be heard in Countries
some what distant from the East-Indies, but when

any body him self comes hither, he will presently apprehend the Contrary. And, dear Brother, You may be an eye-witnes thereof, after Ye found yesterday with me some good wholeſom food of ſeveral ſorts.

a. Yes, Sir, but to keep day ⁴ by day a convenient table at home, thereto will be required many things for the Kitchen.

b. To be ſure, but GOD be thanked, who has made already ſo good a Provision for this Countrey, that any one may be full content therewith. 5

a. Well brother, give me leave to ask You one thing and the other. Pray, what is it, that You do commonly eat with meat?

b. We do eat bread, wheaten-bread, white-bread and fine manchet bread, but Rice only as often, we have mind thereto

a. Why do You not eat Rye-bread and houſhold-bread, as far better nourishing than any other ſort of bread? 6

b. Sir, to tell You the truth, brown-bread or coarſe-bread is here with us a great Rarity.

a. What is the reaſon thereof? 7

b. Sir, this Countrey does not bear Rye, although we have tryed the ſowing thereof ſeveral times and in divers ſoils.

But wheat grows here and there as for inſtance, at Bengall, within this Continent and about Suratt, and thus is the wheaten-bread cheap and the Rye-bread very rare.

a. Well then, I know, what bread You do eat, but what ſort of meat is to be had here? 8

b. We have goose, fowls, Capon, ducks, pigeons, teal, woodcock, Snipe, and many sorts of little birds. Besides this we don't want mutton and Pork, venison too, hares, Hare, Roe and boar. Likewise we meet now and then with beef and veal

9.
a. But what provision is here for fish?

b. The best, we may wish for, are here to be had in abundance but I can't tell their names, except one and other sort as Cod-fish, whiting, Eel, Dolphin and the like. Further we have Oysters, crab, cray-fish and shrimp.

10.
a. Pray, Sir, have you here also herbs and roots?

b. Yes, we have turnips, Carrots, Cabbage, Cucumbers, Melons, Colewort, Parsley, Onion, Potted, Spargrass, Beans, French beans and pease

11.
a. I fear to become to you somewhat troublesome, in asking so many questions, but I hope, I shall have almost done. Pray what fruits have you here?

b. We have abundance thereof, although their shape and taste entirely differs from those of Europe. For you will find here fig-trees, dates, Oranges, Lemons, Guavas, Mangoes, Plantains or Pisangs and Pomegranates etc.

12.
a. How stand the case with flowers? have you also any Rose, Tulip, and Gilly-flower?

b. No, Sir, but in their stead, as fair and fine, many good other flowers, and at Ceylon there is abundance of Rose-mary

13.
a. Sir, above, in your answer about meat, I did observe

that You spoke these words: we do now and then meet
with Beef and Veal, pray what is the meaning thereof?
have Ye not here every day Beef and Veal, as we in Europa?

b. No, Sir, we live here among the heathens, one of their chief
Worship is the very Cow. Now You ^{may} guess, with what mind
they will suffer to see, when Europeans are so bold as to kill
without any mercy her Goddes.

one daughter
of

14

a. What foolishness! will they adore a living Cow with
two horns and four hoofs?

b. Yes, Sir, every Year, about our Epiphany they do celebrate
a Cow-feast.

15

a. What are they doing in solemnizing their stupid Festival?

b. Sir, I'll tell You, what I saw once with my own eyes.

The Malabarians of two, three or four villages came dri-
ving their Cattle in one large place together. Every one
of the Owners had trimmed their Cows with Fineries of
leaves upon their horns and with garlands of flowers about
their neck. As soon as this herd now closely stood in one
spot of ground, the Inhabitants with their Masick began
to encircle these Cows, going three times in a Procession
round about these beasts and lastly they all laid themselves
flat down along upon their own faces, paying their duty;
and rising up from the ground, the Worship was over and
done.

again

16

a. O! inestimable dignity of our Christian Religion, by which
we know, how to worship the Creator of heaven and earth, and
our dear Redeemer JESUS CHRIST, who alone is worth
to be worshiped and besides Him no any creature, much less a
Cow-beast

- b. GOD be thanked, that we are brought up among good Christians! May please the Lord to keep us further in the ^{right} way, that is fit, to lead us up to heaven.

17

- a. Seeing the heathen have here Cows enough, because they do honour them as their Goddess, so I think you have milk butter and Cheese in plenty.
- b. Yes, but the Cheese, which they do shape here and as Denmark don't come in any comparison with our Cheese or that of Holland. For they are as dry as a flint and without any taste and smell.

18.

- a. Sir, some people do like pork mightly well, pray, have you here also Swines?
- b. Yes, Sir, of two sorts, one kind is with long legs, as in our own Country: and one kind with short legs and down ^{ward} hanging bellies, which came from China. To see a sucking pig with such a belly, it is somewhat strange.

19.

- a. Now, dear Brother, that is the second day, I have spent with you in this Country, I like it well, because it is in some respect a continually green Spring. But my business calls me away, I must go on board the Ship, please GOD, I come to morrow again.
- b. Yes, Brother John, fare well and don't fail to come again in my house to morrow.