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Schultze, Benjamin

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Dialogue 30: These two Gentlemens Sister arrives as a Bride, is conveyed in the Town with Pomp and askes many questions about the women in the East-Indies.

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The thirtieth Dialogue XXX

These two Gentlemens Sister arrives as a Bride, is conveyed in the Town with Pomp and asks many questions about the women in the East-Indies.

^{a.} John. Good morrow Tye, Brother Peter, Don't wonder, that I come so early, I bring You very good News.

^{b.} Peter. Sir, You are wellcome and to hear good News, I am much fond of.

^{a.} Brother, as soon as I came last night on board of our Vessel, there arrived an other English Ship, the Nightingale, Capt. Goldfinger, and being it was after the going down of the Sun, he durst not salute the Castle by firing of his guns. But we sent immediatly our little boat to him, asking, whether he had brought along with him some Passengers? Upon this he sent us word, that there was My Lady Crookson, of Flower-mount as a Bride to the Counsellor Mr. Silver-spoon.

^{b.} O! good Lord, what shall I say? I am all astonishment! without the least doubt, this Lady must needs be our sister.

^{a.} Dear Brother, what is here the best to be done? what good Counsell shall we at present take?

^{b.} Without any further delay, we must resolve to receive her according to her Character. Pray, Brother John, make haste, take the first boat and goe to her, as presenting my humble service, and that I would wait on her, as soon as she did come at the shoar.

a. Well, I'll goe this moment, but what will she think, to see me here?

b. I doubt not, but she will know you still, because it is only two years, you left her in our fathers house.

a. Yes, and after having saluted her, I know which way I may prepare her, to hear the glad tidings of you, viz that you are not lost, but in an happy condition here, and ready to encounter her at the sea-shore.

b. Yes, so so, mean while, I shall take care of the rest and I hope to be near at hand on the sea-shore, before you fetch her upon the land, because it will cost about three hours in going and coming.

a. Sir, here is our dear Sister, Mary!

b. O! dearly beloved Sister, how do you do? I am extremely glad to see you here.

a. O my good Brother, God be thanked for ever! Let the great Name of the Lord be praised for such an happiness as to see you again in this life.

b. I thank God for his kindness and favour towards me and likewise for your happy Arrival. Much joy Tye! Mary, I congratulate you heartly.

Now My Ladies and Gentlemen, if you will do me the honour to accompany my Sister into the Town and to attend her within my doors, I desire, you will take the Rank of the Procession in such a manner.

Before the whole troop, there is walking a
Set of Malabarian Musick. After these there
comes on horse-back the Bridegroom, Mr. Silver,
Spoon. After him followeth on Pallaquim the
Bride. Behind her at a little distance there
will follow on Pallaquims twelve Ladies pair ^{and} pair.
Now entermeddles the second Set of Musick.
After these at any distance comes on Elephant-
back, Brother John. Again at a small distance
shall go on Camels back I myself. Further at a
distance there comes on Ox-back Capt. Goldfinger
and again at a distance there comes on a ft-back
Capt. Friendly. Thus shall go on our Procession and
be ended with the third Set of Musick.

8.

^a Brother, we are here before Your house, won't ye step in?
^b Yes, with Your leave, I must go before You, to receive the
Bride, the Bridegroom and the Guests. But I desire,
be pleased to walk in.

9.

^a The Bride. Dear Brother, I wish You much joy in your
house and thank You for all the trouble, You take
upon You for my sake.

^b My heartily beloved Sister, I bid You welcome
again in my house. 10.

^a God be thanked for his infinite Goodness, that I am

- So happy as to find You here at Madras in a fair
State. But Brother is this Your own house?
b. No, Dear Sister, I do but hire it for the matter
of four Pounds a month.

11.

- a. That is not too dear, according to the house-hire
payed in our Country. But how stands with the
Malabarian houses?
b. They have not such a building, as we Europeans,
but they do content themselves so indifferently,
everyone according to the Condition, he lives in.

12.

- a. I have heard say, the Malabarians did build
houses, which do cost but two shillings, is this true?
b. Yes, Madam, the poorer sort of people can't pro-
vide themselves a far better lodging.

13.

- a. I have not yet seen one of their little Cottage, but
I fancy, they are like our hogsties or baking ovens.
b. Yes, Madam, You have hit the main point, their
huts are not worth to be called houses.

14.

- a. But pray, how is it possible to build a house at
the expence of two shillings?
b. They cast up a wall of Clay and sand in the com-
pas of ten or twelve foot wide. Upon this found,

dation round about they do fix little sticks, which they tie together with rushes upon the Tob. When all this is done, they take Palm-leaves and cover therewith their new house.

15.

a. Oh! oh! very fine, indeed! But, pray, whereabouts is the window and the door to this house?

b. Madam, as for windows, they don't want any ones, and in stead of a door, there is left in the midst of the wall somewhat of an opening, as a hole, through which they do creep in and out.

16.

a. In such a house, no any honest European will set one foot upon the floor.

b. To be sure, Madam, But it has happned few Years ago, that an European did pay a Visit to one of these people in such a Cottage. As he now was moving on, to get out, he was forced again to bow himself right down ward, almost the very ground, but passing through the Opening of the door, he hastened somewhat too much, to lift up his head sooner, than he ought to do, and look! there he pluck up with his Shoulder-blade, the half part of the roof and would fair have carried the upper house away on his back, if the Owner within, did not hinder him, by crying out after him.

a. Dear Brother, I can't forbear to burst out into laughing. In deed you make me laugh. But I am assured, that besides this European, no any Body for the future will trie such a curiosity to creep into a Malabarian Cottage. Much less will venture this any Lady, that came from Europe. No, let this alone to the Malabarians, & close and her own Wiver. Now just upon this case, I must ask You somewhat more about the Womens here. Pray, when do they to be given into marriage?

b. Madam, pretty young, as about the fourteenth year of age till the ninth year of age. And among the Bramanes, there is one Customary to marry away, the daughter, the girl, the Child, the very baby in the Cradle, and in case her Bridegroom the little boy, the sucking Child dies, she becomes a widow and that in such a dismal Condition, that she never can be married again to any other one in all her life time.

a. Oh! Sottishness, fie! what does this signify? albeit I am not able to dive into their mystery, perhaps lies here under one blame, viz. that they can't keep too well the virtue of Chastity. Pray how is the common Character of the Malabarian Womens?

b. Madam, to speak generally and to do them their justice, the Malabarian Wives here have the best Character of the World, so that it was to be wished their own husbands would come up to the same Continency too.

19.

a. That is now one thing, I do like heartily. But I must ask You somewhat more about womens attire. Pray, how is fashioned their Cloathing? Do they use one shape of a smock, Petticoat, Apron, a hood, or a Pinner?

b. No, Madam, nothing of all, but they take one piece of fine cotton Cloth, at the measure of ten till twelve yards long and this they know so fitly to wrap about their body from the very legs till the top of the head, that You will observe here nothing but decency in their whole Apparel.

20

a. Dear Brother, I beseech You, don't grow weary to answer me further, Pray, how do they behave themselves towards their own husbands? Do they bear a due Respect to them?

b. Madam, these Wives in the East-Indies do shew a far greater Regard to their husbands as any women in the whole World.

21

a. How can that be? which way will they outdo

a good, honest, sober European Wife, that truly
minds her husband to please and cherish him?

- b. Madam, pray, give me leave, to tell you, in which
manner these Wives do prove their praise worthy
Subjection. In the first place, they will keep clean
their rooms every day. 2. They will dress the victu-
als. 3. They will carry 'em in and place modestly
the bowl with the rice before the husband. 4. They
will stay behind him, mean while he eats, as waiting
upon him. 5. None of them must be so bold as to call
him by his name, because this would, in their opinion, abate
somewhat of his authority. 6. They shall eat in com-
pany with the husband, but afterwards, when he first
has filled his belly, his Wife may go and eat also.

22.

- a. But one thing I must still ask, in order to know the
certainty thereof, I have heard, likewise say: when
in this Country the husband dies, his Wife must burn
herself alive for his sake, is this true?
- b. Madam, Somewhat is true enough, but not all.
It is an ill Customary among the heathen, that
a Wife has the Privilege to burn herself alive for
her deceased husband. But this is not to be
understood, as every Widow was obliged to do so,
no, by no any means. Further so is this
cruel Burning alive quite forbidden and

abolished in the Great Mogool Territory.
And very seldom happened such a Spectacle in
a Jurisdiction that belongs to a petty Prince
who still is an Idolater^{him} self.

23

a. Dear Brother, this Notice is at present
enough for me, I will not trouble You more to
ask any other Thing, but mean while I give You
many Thanks for the good Service, You have
done me herewith. May God Almighty have
Mercy upon these Heathen to grant them the
Happiness of the Gospel! May the good Lord
send his holy Word by able Ministers to preach
the heavenly Doctrines for the Benefit of the
Conversion of these Natives, is likewise my
heartly Wish and sincere Prayer! Yea, May
the glorious Name of our Dear Redeemer,
JESUS CHRIST be manifested every-
where, all over the World and that untill
its very End!