

Dänisch-Hallesche Mission

Propagation of the Gospel in the East

Propagation of the Gospel in the East: Being a Farther Account of the Success Of The Danish Missionaries, Sent to the East-Indies, For The Conversion Of The Heathens in Malabar

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The Third Question.

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Of the Indian Kings.

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The manner of settling upon this Coast is thus: About *six, seven, eight, nine* or *ten* Leagues distance, there is either a Fort, Town, or Village inhabited by *Europeans*; from whence they can enlarge their Trade and Commerce, and advance it to the furthestmost Parts of the Island; and this by the Help and Influence of their *Malabarick* Servants, and by virtue of the Bargain every Sea-Port Town of the *Europeans* has struck up with the neighbouring Heathen Kings.

The *Danes* had formerly many Settlements, as well upon this Sea-Coast, as in divers other Places in the *East-Indies*; when now they have only some in *Benjalen*, and upon the *Pepper-Coast* as they call it: yet they may Sail and Traffick freely throughout all *India*, and *Persia*, and where-ever they please, they being every where admitted by the Heathen Kings, as well as by the *Europeans*; but their Lading runs for the most part upon Merchandises they purchase from the *Moorish* Merchants. Thus have both the *Indians* and *Europeans* some Communication with the *Danish* Colony.

The Third Question.

How far reacheth the Territory of the Indian King who borders upon the Colony? Which is the Place of his Residence? What Power has he? What other Kings are there in this great Peninsula belonging to the Jurisdiction of the great Mogol? Are they Sovereigns or Vassals, &c?

Answer. The King who reigneth here upon the Coast of *Coromandel*, has but a small Ter-

ritory, not much extending above a *Hundred English Miles* in Length, and *Seventy* in Breadth.

Tanjour is the Name of his Residence, distant about sixty *English Miles* from hence. The Town it self is pretty large, and encompassed with a strong Wall: the Castle or Residence very spacious and magnificent. Besides which, the King has two other very pleasant Castles, the first being in the Town of *Dirumarur*, about *thirty two Miles* from us; and the second, on the other side, in the Town of *Diruwiramá-rudur*, much about the same distance from hence. He hath several other smaller Castles, which he visiteth but very seldom.

There are in the whole Kingdom *four* fortified Towns or Fortresses, *viz*: The Towns of *Tanjour*, *Pattukotei*, about *Forty eight English Miles* from this Place; *Mannakowil*, forty Miles distant from hence; and the little Seaport Town *Kalkalatschéri*, but *sixteen Miles* from hence. Many other large Towns are in this Kingdom, famous on Account of the *Pagodes* they have in them, being stately and spacious Buildings. The former Kings have spared no Cost in raising and building such and the like *Pagodes*, and in erecting many large *Refectories* or *Piazza's*, for the Entertainment of Strangers, Pilgrims, and Travellers. These *Refectories* are very numerous throughout the whole Kingdom, in all Towns and Villages, and even in the high Ways, at about *four Miles* distance, where every one, especially during the great Heats, may freely enter, lodge, and continue therein as long as he pleaseth, let him be Heathen or Mahometan, black or white Christian.

Christian. Most of the Heathens, if they be but in any tolerable good Circumstances, will be at the Charge of Building such Houses or *Refectories*. Some of them will constantly keep and maintain Servants therein, in order to wait on Travellers, and provide fresh Water for them; this being one of the greatest Benefits in those hot Countries.

The King's Power consists chiefly in Wealth and Riches. He draws yearly out of his Dominions above *thirty* Tuns of Gold in Money: In his Treasury are said to be lodged above *Thirty Hundred Thousand* Tuns of Gold. He keeps *one Hundred and forty four* Elephants in his Army, trained up for Battle; and above *three Hundred* Horses, both which are brought to him from foreign Countries. In time of Peace, his Forces are not considerable; but when he engages in War, he can with his Money raise, in a very short time, a most numerous Army. 'Tis about ten Years since he besieged the Town of *Tranquebar* with *forty Thousand* Men, for the Space of nine whole Months, from which he would not retire, till they paid him down a Sum of Money, and agreed to such Terms as he demanded. He is obliged to pay Annually a very great Sum of Money to the *Mogol*, to whom he is Tributary. Thus is he no Sovereign King, but a Vassal of the great *Mogol*. And such are all the other Kings and Princes upon the other Coasts, since they all pay Tribute to the *Mogol*.

About a *Hundred and forty four English* Miles from hence, is a Kingdom which is governed by a Queen, as others are by Parliaments.

ments. In the ordinary course of my reading *Malabar Books*, I have met with up and down several Histories relating to the former State and Condition of the *Indian Kings*, together with an Account of their Genealogie for the Space of some Thousand Years. At present there is no Sovereign King in all *East-India*, except in the Island of *Ceylon*, who is called *Kāndiarāsha*, and is altogether independent. The *Malabarians* have written many voluminous Books relating the Atchievements and warlike Exploits of former Kings, most of which I am like to purchase in time.

The Fourth Question :

In what Parts of India is the Malabarick Language spoken? Has it any relation to the Arabick, Persian, Mogol, or Sinesian Languages?

Answer : Eighteen different Languages are spoken among the *Malabarick Heathens*, of which the *Kerendum*, *Damul*, and *Wardagū*, are the Chief, being most frequently used in Conversation and Correspondence. The *Kerendum* is the ordinary Language of the *Bramanes*, and is esteemed among the Heathens, as the *Latin* is by the *Europeans*. The most vulgar Language is the *Damul*, or the common *Malabarick*, spoke in the compass of near *three Thousand two Hundred English Miles*, being almost known every where, and in many distant Kingdoms. Upon this Coast, the *Malabarick* is spoken in its greatest Purity and Perfection : So that *Malabarick Books* of all sorts are written in this Dialect.