

Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle

The Large And Renowned Town Of The English Nation In The East-Indies Upon The Coast Of Coromandel, Madras Or Fort St. George, Representing The ...

Schultze, Benjamin

Hall in Saxony, 1750

VD18 12846775-001

The thirtieth Dialogue.

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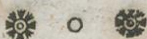


Goddeſs, ſo I think, You have Milk, Butter and Cheeſe in Plenty. *Peter.* Yes, But the Cheeſe, which they do ſhape here and at Bengall don't come in any Compariſon with our Cheeſe or that of Holland. For they are as dry as a Flint and without any Taſt and Smell. *John.* Sir, Some People do like Pork mightily well, pray, have You here alſo Swines? *Peter.* Yes, Sir, of two Sorts, one kind is with long Legs, as in our own Country: and one kind with Short Legs and downward hanging Bellys, which came from China. To ſee a very Sucking Pig with ſuch a Belly, is ſomewhat ſtrange. *John.* 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'll come to Morrow again. *Peter.* Yes, Brother John, fare well and don't fail to come again in my Houſe to Morrow.

The thirtieth Dialogue.

The 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.

John. Good Morrow T'ye, Brother Peter, Don't wonder, that I come ſo early, I bring You very good News. *Peter.* Sir, You are well.



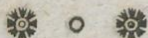
wellcome, and to' hear good News, I am much fond of. *John.* Brother, As soon as I came last Night on Board of our Vesfel, there arrived just an other English Ship, the *Nightingal*, Captain *Goldfinger*, and seeing, it was after the going down of the Sun, he durst not salute the Castle by Firing off his Guns. But we sent immediately 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 Flowermount, as a Bride to the Counsellor Mr. Silver spoon. *Peter.* O! Good Lord, what shall I say? I am all Astonishment! Without the least Doubt, this Lady must needs be our Sister. *John.* Dear Brother, what is the best here to be done? What good Counsell shall we take at present? *Peter.* Sir, Without any further Delay, we must resolve to receive her according to her Character. Pray, Brother John, make haste, take the first Boat and go to her, as presenting my humble Service, and that I would wait on her, as soon as she did come at the Shore. *John.* Well, I'll go this Moment, but what will she think, to see me here? *Peter.* I doubt not, but she will know You still, because it is only two Years, since You left her in our Fathers House. *John.* 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-Gate. *Peter.*



Peter. Yes, do 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 dry Land, because it will cost about three Hours in Going and Coming. *John.* Sir, Here is our dear Sister, Mary! *Peter.* O! Dearly beloved Sister, how do You do? I am extreamly glad to see You here. *The Bride.* 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! *John.* I thank God for his kindness and Favour towards me and likewise for your happy Arrival. Much joy T'ye! Mary, I congratulate you heartily. *Peter.* 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. *Silverſpoon.* After him followeth the Bride on Pallaquin. Behind her at a little Distance there will follow twelve Ladies Pair and Pair on Pallaquins. Now entermeddles the second Set of Music. After these at any Distance comes on Elephant-back Brother John. Again at a small Distance shall go on Camels-back I my self. Further at a Distance there comes on Ox-back Captain *Goldfinger* and again at a Distance there comes on Ass-back Captain

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Friend.



Friendly. Thus I shall go on our Proceſſion and be ended with the third Set of Muſick. *John.* Brother, We are here before Your Houſe, won't ye ſtep in? *Peter.* 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. *The Bride.* Dear Brother, I wiſh You much joy in Your Houſe and I thank You for all the Trouble, You take upon You, for my Sake. *Peter.* My heartily beloved Siſter, I bid You wel-come again in my Houſe. *The Bride.* God be thanked for his infinite Goodneſs, that I am ſo happy as to find You here at Madras in a fair Eſtate. But Brother, is this Your own Houſe? *Peter.* No, dear Siſter, I do but hire it for the Matter of four Pounds a Month. *The Bride.* That is not too dear, according to the Houſe-hire payed in our Country. But how ſtands it with the Malabarian Houſes? *Peter.* They have not ſuch a Building as we Europeans, but they do content themſelves ſo indifferently, every one according to the Condition, he lives in. *The Bride.* I have heard ſay, the Malabarians did build Houſes, which do coſt but two Shillings, Is this true? *Peter.* Yes, Madam, the poorer Sort of People can't provide themſelves a far better Lodging. *The Bride.* I have not yet ſeen one of their little Cottage, but I fancy, they are like our Hogſtys or Baking-Ovens. *Peter.* Yes, Madam, You have hit the main Point. Their Huts are noth worth to be called Houſes.

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The Bride. But pray, how is it possible to build a House at the Expense of two Shillings?

Peter. They cast up a Wall of Clay and Sand in the Compas of ten or twelve Foot wide. Upon this Foundation 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.

The Bride. Oh! Oh! Very fine, indeed! But pray, where about is the Window and the Door to this House?

Peter. 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.

The Bride. In such a House no any honest European will set one Foot upon the Floor.

Peter. To be sure, Madam, but it has happened 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 downward, almost to 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 plucked 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.

The Bride. Dear Brother, I can't forbear to burst out into Laughing. Indeed You make
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me laugh. But I am asured, that besides this European no any Body will try such a Curiosity for the future, to creep into a Malabarian Cottage. Much less will venture this any Lady, that came from Europe. No, let this alone to the Malabarians selves and their own Wives. Now just upon this Case, I must ask You somewhat more about the Women here. Pray, when do they to be given into Mariage? *Peter.* Madam, Pretty young, as about the fourteenth Year of Age till the ninth Year of Age. And among the Bramanes, there is customary to marry away the Daughter, the Girl, the Child, the very Baby in the Craddle, 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 Lifes Time. *The Bride.* Oh! Sottishness, Fie! What does this signifie? 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 Women? *Peter.* 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. *The Bride.* That is now one Thing, I do like heartily. But I must ask You somewhat more about Womens Attire, Pray, How is fashioned their

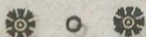
their Cloathing? Do they use one Shape of a Smock, Petticoat, Apron, a Hood, or a Pinner? *Peter.* No, Madam, nothing of all, but they take one Piece of fine Cotton-Cloth, at the Measure of ten till twelve Yards long, and this they know so fitly to wrap about their Body from the very Legs till the Top of the Head, that You will observe here nothing but Decency in their whole Apparel.

The Bride. 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? *Peter.* Madam, these Wives in the East-Indies do shew a far greater Regard to their Husbands, as any Women in the whole World. *The Bride.* 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?

Peter. Madam, Pray, give me Leave, to tell You, in which Manner these Wives do prove their Praiseworthy Subjection. In the first Place, they will keep clean their Rooms every Day. 2. They will dress the Victuals. 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 can't eat in Company with the Husband, but afterwards, when he first has

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filled



filled his Belly, his Wife may go and eat also. *The Bride*. 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? *Peter*. Madam, Somewhat is true enough, but not all. It is an ill Custom among the Heathens, that a Wife has the Priviledge to burn her self alive for her deceased Husband. But this is not to be understood, as If 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 Mogools Territory. And very seldom happened such a Spectacle in a Jurisdiction, that belongs to a petty Prince, who is still an Idolater himself. *The Bride*. 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 Heathens to grant them the Happiness of the Gospel! May the good Lord sent his holy Word by able Ministers to preach the heavenly Doctrine for the Benefit of the Conversion of these Natives, is likewise my sincere Wish and Prayer! Yea, May the glorious Name of our Dear Redeemer, Jesus Christ, be manifested everywhere all over the World and that untill its very

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