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V O Y A G E
I N T O T H E
L E V A N T.

INtellectuall Complexions have no desire so strong, as that of *knowledge*; nor is any knowledge unto man so certain, and pertinent, as that of humane affaires: This *experience* advances best, in observing of people, whose *institutions* much differ from ours; for customes conformable to our owne, or to such wherewith we are already acquainted, doe but repeat our old observations, with little acquist of new. So my former time spent in viewing *Italy*, *France*, and some little of *Spain*, being countries of Christian institution, did but represent in a severall dresse, the effect of what I knew before.

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Then seeing the customes of men are much swayed by their naturall dispositions, which are originally inspired and composed by the Climate whose aire, and influence they receive, it seems naturall, that to our *North-west* parts of the World, no people should bee more averse, and strange of behaviour, then those of the *South-East*: Moreover, those parts being now possessed by the *Turkes*, who are the only moderne people, great in action, and whose Empire hath so suddenly invaded the world; and fixt it selfe such firme foundations as no other ever did; I was of opinion, that hee who would behold these times in their greatest glory, could not find a better *Scene* then *Turky*: these considerations sent me thither; where my generall purpose gave me four particular cares: First, to observe the Religion, Manners, and Policy of the *Turkes*, not perfectly, (which were a task for an inhabitant rather then a passenger,) but

but so far forth, as might satisfie this scruple, (to wit) whether to an unpartiall conceit, the *Turkish* way appeare absolutely barbarous, as we are given to understand, or rather another kind of civility, different from ours, but no lesse pretending: Secondly, in some measure, to acquaint my selfe with those other sects which live under the *Turkes*, as *Greeks*, *Armenians*, *Freinks*, and *Zinganaes*, but especially the *Jewes*; [a race from all others so averse both in nature and institution, as glorying to single it self out of the rest of mankind, remains obstinate, contemptible, and famous: Thirdly, to see the *Turkish* Army, then going against *Poland*, and therein to note, whether their discipline *Military* encline to ours, or else be of a new mould, though not without some touch, from the *Countries* they have subdued; and whether it be of a frame apt to confront the *Christians*, or not: The last and choice piece of my intent, was to

view *Gran Cairo*, and that for two causes; first, it being clearly the greatest concourse of Mankind in these times, and perhaps that ever was; there must needs be some proportionable spirit in the government: for such vast multitudes, and those of wits so deeply malicious, would soon breed confusion, famine, and utter desolation, if in the *Turkish* domination there were nothing but sottish sensuality, as most *Christians* conceive: Lastly, because *Egypt* is held to have been the fountaine of all *Science*, and *Arts civill*, therefore I did hope to find some spark of those cinders not yet put out; or else in the extream contrariety, I should receive an impression as important, from the ocular view of so great a revolution; for above all other senses, the eye having the most immediate, and quicke commerce with the soule, gives it a more smart touch than the rest, leaving in the *fancy* somewhat unutterable; so that an eye-witness

witnesse of things conceives them with an *imagination* more compleat, strong, and intuitive, then hee can either apprehend, or deliver by way of relation; for relations are not only in great part false, out of the relaters mis-information, vanity, or interest; but which is unavoydable, their choice, and frame agrees more naturally with his judgment, whose issue they are, then with his readers; so as the reader is like one feasted with dishes fitter for another mans stomacke, then his owne: but a traveller takes with his eye, and care, only such *occurrences* into observation, as his owne apprehension affects, and through that *sympathy*, can digest the to an experience more naturall for himself, then hee could have done the notes of another: Wherefore I desiring somewhat to informe my selte of the *Turkish* Nation, would not sit down with a booke knowledge thereof; but rather (through all the hazard

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and endurance of travell,) rece
from mine own eye not dazled
any affection, prejudicacy, or n
education, which preoccupa
minde, and delude it with partial
a's, as with a false glasse, represe
the *object* in colours, and propo
untrue: for the just censure of
is to be drawn from their *end* w
they are aimed, without rec
them to our customs, and ordin
or other impertinent respects,
they acknowledg not for their
stone: wherefore hee who
through the severall educati
men, must not try them by his
but weaning his mind from a
mer habit of *opinion*, should as
putting off the old man com
and sincere to consider them
preparation was the cause, w
superstition, policy, entertain
diet, lodging, and other man
the *Turkes*, never provoked me
as usuallly they doe those who

chise the world by their owne home; and this also bars these observations from appearing beyond my owne closet, for to a mind possess'd with any set doctrine, their unconformity must needs make them seem unsound, and extravagant, nor can they comply to a rule, by which they were not made. Neverthelessse considering that *experience* forgotten is as if it never had been, and knowing how much I ventured for it, as little as it is, I could not but esteem it worth retaining in my own memory, though not transferring to others: hereupon I have in these lines registred to my selfe, whatsoever most took me in my journey from *Venice* into *Turkey*.

First, I agreed with a *Ianizary* at *Venice*, to find mee Dyet, Horse, Coach, Passage, and all other usuall charges, as farre as *Constantinople*: Then upon the seventh of *May*, 1634. I imbarq'd on a *Venetian Gally* with a *Caravan* of *Turkes*, and Iemes bound

for the *Levant*, not having any *Christian* with them besides my selfe : this occasion was right to my purpose; for the familiarity of bed, board, and passage together is more opportune to disclose the customes of men, then a much longer habitation in Cities, where society is not so linkt, and behaviour more personate, then in travell, whose common sufferings endear men, laying them open, and obnoxious to one another : The not having any other *Christian* in the *Caravan*, gave mee two notable advantages : First, that no other mans errors could draw either hatred, or engagement upon mee; then I had a freedome of complying upon occasion of questions by them made; whereby I became a thing to all men, which let me into the breasts of many.

The *Gally* lying that day and night in Port at *Lio*, set saile the next morn, and in four and twenty houres arrived at *Bovina* a *Venetian* City in *Istria*: its
stands

stands in a creeke of the *Adriatique*, upon a hill promontory which hath two thirds washed by the *Sea*, the *South-east* side joined to the *Continent*; the soile rocky, and barren, as all that side along the *Gulfe*; it is an hundred miles from *Venice*, and therefore being so far within the *Gulfe*, is not fortified as against much danger, yet hath it a pretty wall, and fortrefs with a small Garrison: from thence wee came to *Zara*: this City stands in *Dalmatia*, and of all others within the *Gulfe*, is by reason of the situation, most apt to command the whole *Adriatique*, and therefore hath formerly been attempted by the *Turke*, wherefore the *Venetians* have fortified it extraordinarily, and now though in times of firm peace, keep it with strong companies both of Horse and Foot: the Generall of the Horse came in another *Gally* with us, hee was first welcomed with a volley of great and small shot from the walls; then by 3 Nobles

Nobles therein severall Offices commanding, he was accompanied to the *Townhall*, where his brief Patent once read, he had the Staffe & Precedency of his Predecessor: after a days view of this place we sailed to *Spalatno* a City of *Sclavonia*, kept by the *Venetians* as their only *Emporium* plyed successively with two *Gallies*, which carry between *Venice*, and that place, such merchandize as are transported into *Turky*, or from thence brought in: it stands in a most pleasant valley on the *South side* of great mountaines: in the wall toward the Sea, appears a great remainder of a gallery in *Diocletian* his Palace: *Southward* of the Towne is the Sea which makes an open Port capable of ten, or twelve *Gallies*; without is an unsecure Bay for great Ships, at the entrance above halfe a mile broad; yet not so renown'd for the skill of *Octavius*, who chained it up, when he besieged *Salone*, as for the fierce resolution of *Vulteius*, and his com.

company there taken; in this Towne the *Venetians* allow the great *Turk* to take custome of the *Merchandize*; whereupon there resides his *Emir* or *Treasurer* who payes him thirty five thousand *Dollars* a yeare, as himselfe, and others told mee: there are high walls, and strong companies to guard this City; yet I heard their chief safety to bee in having so unusefull, and small an *Haven*, wherefore the *Turke* esteems *Spalatro* in effect; but as a land town, nor so much worth as his present custome, and so covers it not like *Zara*, for if he did, he has a terrible advantage upon it, having taken from the *Venetians* *Clyssi*, not above foure miles off; which is the strongest land fortresse that I ever beheld.

At *Spalatro* having stayed three days, our *Carrivan* was furnished with horses; the first journey wee began about Sunser, our lodging two miles off we pitch'd upon a little hill, grown
over