The aforesaid Christians made us see an experiment with the two kinds of perfume. One of them had a little of both sorts. The calamfort was about two ounces, and he made my companion hold it in his hand as long as he could say four times, "Misere mei, Deus;" holding it firmly in his closed hand. Then he made him open his hand. Truly, I never smelt such an odour as that was, which exceeded all our perfumes. Then he took a piece of benzoine as large as a walnut, and he took of that (the calamfort) which grows in Sarnau about half a pound, and had it placed in two chambers in vases with fire within. In truth I tell you, that that little produced more odour, and a greater softness and sweetness, than two pounds of any other kind would have done. It is impossible to describe the excellence of those two kinds of scents and perfumes. So that you have now heard the reason why these said things do not come to our parts. There also grows here a very great quantity of laca [lac] for making red colour, and the tree of this is formed like our trees which produce walnuts.

In this country I saw the most beautiful works of art I ever saw in my life, that is, some boxes worked in gold, which they gave for two ducats each, which, in truth, with us, would be valued at one hundred ducats. Again, I saw here in one street about five hundred money-changers, and these because a very great number of merchants come to this city, where they carry on a very extensive traffic. For the sleeping of these people, there are good beds of cotton, covered with silk and cotton sheets. In this island they have an extreme abundance of timber, and they make here great ships which they call giunchi [junks], which carry three masts, and have a prow before and behind, with two rudders before and two behind. And when they navigate through any archipelago, (for here there is a great sea like a canal), while sailing, the wind will sometimes come in their face, they immediately lower the sail, and quickly, without turning, hoist sail on the other mast, and turn back. And you must know that they are the most active men I have ever met with. They are also very great swimmers, and excellent masters of the art of making fireworks.

The habitations of the said place consist of walled houses of stone, and they are not very high, and a great many of them are covered with the shells of sea turtles, because they are found here in great quantities, and in my time I saw one weighed which weighed one hundred and three pounds. I also saw two elephants' teeth which weighed three hundred and thirty-five pounds. And I saw, moreover, in this island, serpents very much larger than those of Calicut. Let us revert to our Christian companions, who were desirous of returning to their country; wherefore they asked us what was our intention, whether we wished to remain here, or go farther on, or to return back. My companion answered them: "Since I am brought where the spices grow, I should like to see some kinds before I return back." They said to him: "No other spices grow here excepting those which you have seen." And he asked them where the nutmegs and the cloves grew. They answered: "That the nutmegs and mace grew in an island which was distant from there three hundred miles." We then asked them if we could go to that island in safety, that is, secure from robbers or corsairs. The Christians answered: "That secure from robbers we might go, but not from the chances of the sea"; and they said that we could not go to the said island with that large ship. My companion said: "What means then might there be for going to this island?" They answered: "That it was necessary to purchase a chiampana [sampan, junk]." That is, a small vessel, of which many are found there. My companion begged them to send for two, which he would buy. The Christians immediately found two, furnished with people whom they had there to manage them, with all things necessary and proper for such a voyage; and they bargained for the said vessels, men, and necessary things, for four hundred pardsa, which were paid down by my companion, who then began to say to the Christians: "O my very dear friends, although we are not of your race, we are all sons of Adam and Eve, will you abandon me and this other my companion who is born in your faith?" "How in our faith? This companion of yours, is he not a Persian?" He replied: "He is a Persian now, because he was purchased in the city of Jerusalem." The Christians hearing Jerusalem mentioned, immediately raised their hands to heaven, and then kissed the earth three times, and asked at what time it was that I was sold in Jerusalem. We replied: "That I was about fifteen years old." Then said they: "He ought to remember his country." Said my companion: "Truly he does recollect it, for I have had no other pleasure for many months but that of hearing of the things of his country, and he has taught me (the names of) all the members of the body and the names of the things to eat." Hearing this, the Christians said: "Our wish was to return to our country, which is distant from here three thousand miles; for your sake and for that of your companion we are willing to come where you shall go; and if your companion is willing to remain with us, we will make him rich, and if he shall desire to observe the Persian law, he shall be at liberty to do so." My companion replied: "I am much pleased with your company, but it is out of order for him to remain with you, because I have given him a niece of mine to be his wife for the love which I bear him. So that, if you are willing to come in
company with us, I wish that you first take this present which I give you, otherwise I should never be satisfied.” The good Christians answered: “That he might do as he pleased, for they were satisfied with everything.” And so he gave them half a coria [coric, score] of rubies, which were ten, of the value of five hundred pordis. Two days afterwards the said chieftains were ready, and we put on board many articles of food, especially the best fruits I ever tasted, and thus took our way towards the island called Bandan [Banda].

CHAPTER XIII

CONCERNING THE SPICE ISLANDS

In the course of the said journey we found about twenty islands, part inhabited and part not, and in the space of fifteen days we arrived at the said island, which is very ugly and gloomy, and is about one hundred miles in circumference, and is a very low and flat country. There is no king here, nor even a governor, but there are some peasants, like beasts, without understanding. The houses of this island are of timber, very gloomy, and low. Their dress consists of a shirt; they go barefooted, with nothing on their heads; their hair long, the face broad and round, their colour is white, and they are small of stature. Their faith is pagan, but they are of that most gloomy class of Calicut called Poliar and Hiran [Pulayan and Vettuvan]; they are very weak of understanding, and in strength they have no vigour, but live like beasts. Nothing grows here but nutmegs and some fruits. The trunk of the nutmeg is formed like a peach-tree, and produces its leaves in like manner; but the branches are more close, and before the nut arrives at perfection the mace stands round it like an open rose, and when the nut is ripe the mace claps it, and so they gather it in the month of September; for in this island the seasons go as with us, and every man gathers as much as he can, for all are common, and no labour is bestowed upon the said trees, but nature is left to do her own work. These nuts are sold by a measure, which weighs twenty-six pounds, for the price of half a carlin. Money circulates here as in Calicut. It is not necessary to administer justice here, for the people are so stupid, that if they wished to do evil they would not know how to accomplish it. At the end of two days my companion said to the Christians: “Where do the cloves grow?” They answered: “That they grew six days’ journey hence, in an island called Monoeh [the Moluccas], and that the people of that island are as beastly, and more vile and worthless than those of Bandan [Banda].” At last we determined to go to that island be the people what they might, and so we set sail, and in twelve days arrived at the said island.

We disembarked in this island of Monoeh, which is much smaller than Bandan; but the people are worse than those of Bandan, but live in the same manner, and are a little more white, and the air is a little more cold. Here the cloves grow, and in many other neighbouring islands, but they are small and uninhabited. The tree of the cloves is exactly like the box tree, that is, thick, and the leaf is like that of the cinnamon, but it is a little more round, and is of that colour which I have already mentioned to you in Zeilan [Ceylon], which is almost like the leaf of the laurel. When these cloves are ripe, the said men beat them down with canes, and place some mats under the said tree to catch them. The place where these trees are is like sand, that is, it is of the same colour, not that it is sand. The country is very low, and the north star is not seen from it. When we had seen this island and these people, we asked the Christians if there was anything else to see. They replied: “Let us see a little how they sell these cloves.” We found that they were sold for twice as much as the nutmegs, but by measure, because these people do not understand weights. We were now desirous of changing countries, in order to learn new things in every way. Then said the Christians: “O dear companion, since God has conducted us so far in safety, if it please you, we will go to see the largest island in the world, and the most rich, and you will see a thing which you have never seen before. But we must first go to another island which is called Bornel [Buru], where we must take a large ship, for the sea is more rough.” He replied: “I am well pleased to do that which you wish.” And so we took our way towards the said island, the route to which is constantly to the southward. While on our way the said Christians had no other pleasure, night and day, than that of conversing with me upon subjects relating to the Christians and about our faith. And when I told them of the Volco Santo which is in St. Peter’s, and of the heads of St. Peter and St. Paul, and of many other saints, they told me secretly that if I would go with them I should be a very great lord, for having seen these things. I doubted that after they had conducted me there I should ever have been able to return to my country, and therefore I abstained from going. When we had arrived in the island of Bornel, which is distant from Monoeh about two hundred miles, we found it to be somewhat larger than the above mentioned, and much lower. The people of this island are pagans, and are good people. Their colour is more white than otherwise. Their dress consists of a cotton shirt, and
some go clothed in camelots. Some wear red caps. In this island justice
is strictly administered, and every year a very great quantity of camphor
is shipped, which they say grows there, and which is the gum of a tree.
If it be so, I have not seen it, and therefore I do not affirm it. Here my
companion chartered a vessel for one hundred ducats.

When the chartered vessel was supplied with provisions, we took our
way towards the beautiful island called Giava [Java], at which we arrived
in five days, sailing towards the south. The captain of the said ship carried
the compass with the magnet after our manner, and had a chart which
was all marked with lines, perpendicular and across. My companion
asked the Christians: “Now that we have lost the north star, how does
he steer us? Is there any other north star than this by which we steer?”
The Christians asked the captain of the ship this same thing, and he showed
us four or five stars, among which there was one which he said was cen-
tario della (opposite to) our north star, and that he sailed by the north
because the magnet was adjusted and subjected to our north. He also
told us that on the other side of the said island, towards the south, there
are some other races, who navigate by the said four or five stars opposite
to ours; and, moreover, they gave us to understand that beyond the said
island the day does not last more than four hours, and that there it was
colder than in any other part of the world. Hearing this we were much
pleased and satisfied.

CHAPTER XIV
CONCERNING THE ISLAND OF JAVA

Following then our route, in five days we arrived at this island of
Giava, in which there are many kingdoms, the kings of which are
pagans. Their faith is this: some adore idols as they do in Calicut,
and there are some who worship the sun, others the moon; many worship
the ox; a great many the first thing they meet in the morning; and others
worship the devil in the manner I have already told you. This island
produces an immense quantity of silk, part in our manner and part wild,
and the best emeralds in the world are found here, and gold and copper
in great quantity; very much grain, like ours, and excellent fruits like
those of Calicut. Animal food of all kinds, like ours, is found in this
country. I believe that these inhabitants are the most trustworthy men
in the world: they are white and of about our stature, but they have the
face much broader than ours, their eyes large and green, the nose much
depressed, and the hair long. The birds here are in great multitude, and
all different from ours excepting the peacocks, turtle-doves, and black
crows, which three kinds are like ours. The strictest justice is administered
among these people, and they go clothed all apastileto in stuffs of silk,
camelot, and cotton, and they do not use many arms, because those only
fight who go to sea. These carry bows, and the greater part darts of cane.
Some also useare bollite [sanglitt] (blow-pipes), with which they throw
poisoned darts; and they throw them with the mouth, and, however little
they draw blood, the (wounded) person dies. No artillery of any kind is
used here, nor do they know at all how to make it. These people eat bread
made of corn; some also eat the flesh of sheep, or of stags, or, indeed,
of wild hogs, and some others eat fish and fruits.

The people in this island who eat flesh, when their fathers become so
old that they can no longer do any work, their children or relations set
them up in the market-place for sale, and those who purchase them kill
them and eat them cooked. And if any young man should be attacked
by any great sickness, and that it should appear to the skillful that he
might die of it, the father or the brother of the sick man kills him, and they
do not wait for him to die. And when they have killed him they sell him
to others to be eaten. We, being astonished at such a thing, some mer-
chants of the country said to us: “O you poor Persians, why do you leave
such charming flesh to be eaten by the worms?” My companion hearing
this immediately exclaimed: “Quick, quick, let us go to our ship, for
these people shall never more come near me on land.”

The Christians said to my companion: “O my friend, take this news
to your country, and take this other also which we will show you. Look
there, now that it is mid-day, turn your eyes towards where the sun sets.”
And raising our eyes we saw that the sun cast a shadow to the left more
than a palmo. And by this we understood that we were far distant from
our country, at which we remained exceedingly astonished. And, accord-
ing to what my companion said, I think that this was the month of June;
for I had lost our months, and sometimes the name of the day. You must
know that there is little difference between the cold with us and here.
Having seen the customs of this island, it appeared to us that there was
not much reason to remain in it, because it was necessary to be all night
on guard for fear some wretch should come and carry us off to eat us.
Wherefore, having called the Christians, we told them that, as soon as
they could, we would return to our country. Before we departed, how-
ever, my companion bought two emeralds for a thousand pardol, and he
purchased for two hundred pardol two little children who had no sexual
CHAPTER XV
CONCERNING THE RETURN TO CALICUT

HAVING remained in this island of Giava altogether fourteen days, we determined to return back, because, partly through the fear of their cruelty in eating men, partly also through the extreme cold, we did not dare to proceed farther, and also because there was hardly any other place known to them (the Christians). Wherefore we chartered a large vessel, that is, a giunque [junk], and took our way outside the islands towards the east; because on this side there is no archipelago, and the navigation is more safe. We sailed for fifteen days and arrived at the city of Melacha, and here we stopped for three days, where our Christian companions remained, whose bewailings and lamentations it would be impossible shortly to describe; so that, truly, if I had not had a wife and children, I would have gone with them. And likewise they said, that if they had known how to come in safety, they would have accompanied us. And I believe also that my companion comforted them for not coming, because they would not be obliged to give an account to the Christians of so many lords who are in their country, who are also Christians and possess immense riches. So that they remained, saying that they would return to Sarnau [Siamb], and we went with our ship to Cioromandel [Negapatam]. The captain of the ship said that around the island of Giava, and around the island of Sumatra, there were more than eight thousand islands. Wherefore my companion bought in Melacha five thousand pardai worth of small spices, and silk stuffs, and odoriferous things. We sailed for fifteen days, and arrived at the said city of Citoromandel, and here the ship chartered in Giava was unloaded. We remained in this country about twenty days, and then took a ship, that is to say, a ciamunda [large junk], and went to Colon [Quillen], where I found twenty-two Portuguese Christians. On which account I had a very great desire to escape, but I remained, because they were few, and I was afraid of the Moors; for there were some merchants with us who knew that I had been at Mecha and to the body of Mahomet, and I was afraid that they might imagine that I should discover their hypocrisy, wherefore I abstained from running away. Twelve days afterwards we took our route towards Calicut, that is, by the river [i.e. the backwater], and arrived there in the space of ten days.

Now it will be an easy thing for every kind reader to perceive, by the long discourse concerning various countries contained in the above written books, that my companion and myself having become wearied, partly by the different temperatures of the air as may be imagined, partly by the different customs we met with at every step as has been described, and especially by the inhuman men not unlike beasts, determined to return. I will now recount shortly, (in order that my narrative may not be wearisome,) what happened to me on our return, because it will be useful to some either in restraining their too eager appetite for seeing the inestimable greatness of the world, or, being on their road, in knowing how to regulate themselves and use their understanding in sudden emergencies. Being then arrived in Calicut on our return, as I have shortly before written, we found two Christians who were Milanese [i.e. Italians]. One was called Joan-Maria, and the other Pietro Antonio, who had arrived from Portugal with the ships of the Portuguese, and had come to purchase jewels on the part of the king. And when they had arrived in Cochin [Cochin], they fled to Calicut. Truly I never had greater pleasure than in seeing these two Christians. They and I went naked after the custom of the country. I asked them if they were Christians. Joan-Maria answered: "Yes, truly we are." And then Pietro Antonio asked me if I was a Christian. I answered: "Yes, God be praised." Then he took me by the hand, and led me into his house. And when we had arrived at the house, we began to embrace and kiss each other, and to weep. Truly, I could not speak like a Christian: it appeared as though my tongue were large and hampered, for I had been four years without speaking with Christians. The night following I remained with them; and neither of them, nor could I, either eat or sleep solely for the great joy I had. You may imagine that we could have wished that that night might have lasted for a year, that we might talk together of various things, amongst which I asked them if they were friends of the King of Calicut. They replied that they were his chief men, and that they spoke with him every day. I asked them also what was their intention. They told me that they would willingly have returned to their country, but that they did not know by what way. I answered them: "Return by the way you came." They said that that was not possible, because they had escaped from the Portuguese, and that the King of Calicut had obliged them to make a great quantity of artillery against their will, and on this account they did not wish to
return by that route; and they said that they expected the fleet of the King of Portugal very soon. I answered them, that if God granted me so much grace that I might be able to escape to Cananor when the fleet had arrived, I would so act that the captain of the Christians should pardon them; and I told them that it was not possible for them to escape by any other way, because it was known through many nations that they made artillery. And many kings had wished to have them in their hands on account of their skill, and therefore it was not possible to escape in any other manner. And you must know that they had made between four and five hundred pieces of ordnance large and small, so that in short they had very great fear of the Portuguese; and in truth there was reason to be afraid, for not only did they make the artillery themselves, but they also taught the pagans to make it; and they told me, moreover, that they had taught fifteen servants of the King to fire spring-guns. And during the time I was here, they gave to a pagan the design and form of a mortar, which weighed one hundred and five cantars, and was made of metal. There was also a Jew here who had built a very beautiful galley, and had made four mortars of iron. The said Jew, going to wash himself in a pond of water, was drowned. Let us return to the said Christians: God knows what I said to them, exhorting them not to commit such an act against Christians. Piero Antonio wept incessantly, and Ioan-Maria said it was the same to him whether he died in Calicut or in Rome, and that God had ordained what was to be.

The next morning I returned to find my companion, who was making great lamentation, for he thought that I had been killed. I told him, in order to excuse myself, that I had been to sleep in a Moorish mosque to render thanks to God and to Mahomet for the benefit received in that we had returned in safety, and with this he was much pleased. And in order that I might be able to know what was going on in the country, I told him that I would continue to sleep in the mosque, and that I did not want any goods, but that I wished always to be poor. And wishing to escape from them, I thought that I could only deceive them by hypocrisy: for the Moors are the most stupid people in the world, so that he was satisfied. And this I did in order that I might be able to talk frequently with the Christians, because they knew everything, from day to day, from the court of the king. I began to put my hypocrisy in practice, and pretended to be a Moorish saint, and never would eat flesh excepting in the house of Ioan-Maria, where every night we ate two brace of fowls. And I would no longer associate with merchants, neither did any man ever see me smile, and all day I remained in the mosque excepting when he (my companion) sent for me to go and eat; and he scolded me because I would not eat flesh. I replied: "That too much eating leads man to many sins," and in this manner, I began to be a Moorish saint, and happy was he who could kiss my hand and see my knees.

It happening that a Moorish merchant fell sick of a very great malady, and could not by any means get natural relief, he sent to my companion, who was a great friend of his, to know if he or anyone in his house could give him any remedy. He answered that I would go to visit him; and so he and I together went to the house of the sick man and questioned him about his illness. He said to us: "I feel very bad in my stomach and bowels." I asked him if he had had any cold by which this illness might have been caused? The sick man replied: "That it could not be cold, for he did not know what that was." Then my companion turned to me and asked me: "O Junus, dost thou know any remedy for this my friend?" I replied: "That my father was a physician in my country, and that that which I knew, I knew by the practice which he had taught me." My companion said: "Well, then, let us see if any remedy this merchant, my very dear friend, can be relieved.″ Then I said: "Riguleus de rachman erethi," and then I took his hand, and, feeling his pulse, found that he had a great deal of fever, and I asked him if his head ached. He replied: "Yes, it aches very much." Then I asked him if his bowels were relieved. He answered: "They had not been relieved for three days." I immediately thought to myself: this man has an overloaded stomach, and to assist him he requires an injection; and saying so to my companion he replied: "Do what you like, so that he be cured." Then I made preparation for the injection in this wise: I took sugar, eggs, and salt, and for the decoction I took certain herbs, which did more harm than good: the said herbs were such as leaves of walnuts. And in this way, in the course of a day and a night, I administered five injections to him; and it did him no good on account of the herbs, which produced a contrary effect, so that I should have been guiltless had I not been involved in such a task. At length, seeing that he could not obtain relief on account of the wretched herbs, I took a good bunch of purslain, and made about half a jug of liquor, and put in it the same quantity of oil, and a good deal of salt and sugar, and then strained it all well. And here I committed another blunder, for I forgot to warn him, and administered it cold as it was. As soon as the injection was administered, I tied a cord to his feet, and we hoisted him up until he touched the ground with his hands and head, and we held him up thus high for the space of half a quarter of an hour. My companion said: "O Junus, is it the custom to do thus in your country?" I replied: "Yes, when the sick
man is in extremis." He said that that was a good reason, for in that position the mixture would penetrate better. The poor sick man cried out and said: "Matte, Matte, gnancia tu poi, gnancia tu poi?" that is, "No more, no more, for I am killed; I am killed!" and so we standing there to comfort him, whether it were God or nature, his bowels began to act like a fountain, and we immediately let him down; and truly he was relieved to the extent of half a vat full, and he was well pleased. On the following day he had neither fever nor pain in his head or stomach, and, after that, he was relieved several times.

The next morning, he said that he felt pain in his side. I made him take cow or buffalo butter and anoint himself and bind himself up with hemp tow, and then I told him that if he wished to be cured he must eat twice a day, and before eating, I wished him to walk a mile on foot. He replied: "O moni ivani tino hirta hirta gnancia tu poi?" that is, "If you do not wish me to eat more than twice in the day, I shall be dead very soon"; for they eat eight or ten times a day. This order appeared to him very severe. However, at last he was very well cured, and this gained great credit for my hypocrisy. They said that I was the friend of God. This merchant wished to give me ten ducats, but I would not receive anything.

I even gave three ducats which I had to the poor, and this I did publicly in order that they might know that I did not want any property or money. From this time forward happy was he who could take me to his house to eat, happy was he who kissed my hands and feet; and when anyone kissed my hands, I kept my ground steadily, giving him to understand that he did an act which I deserved, as being a saint. But it was my companion above all who procured me credit, because he also believed me, and said that I did not eat lehs, and that he had seen me at Mecca, and at the body of Mahomet, and that I had always travelled in his company, and that he knew my manners, and that I was truly a saint, and that, knowing me to be of a good and holy life, he had given me one of his nieces for my wife, so that, in this way every man wished me well, and every night I went secretly to talk with the Christians, who told me, on one occasion, that twelve Portuguese ships had come to Cannonor. Then I said, now is the time for me to escape from the hands of dogs, and we considered together for eight days in what manner I could escape. They advised me to escape by land, but I had not the courage, through the fear that I might be killed by the Moors, I being white and they black.

One day, while eating with my companion, two Persian merchants of Cannonor arrived, whom he immediately called to eat with him. They answered: "We have no wish to eat and bring bad news." We asked them: "What words are these which you utter?" They said: "Twelve ships of the Portuguese have arrived, which we have seen with our eyes." My companion asked: "What people are they?" The Persians replied: "They are Christians, and are all armed in white arms, and they have commenced building a very strong castle in Cannonor." My companion turned to me and asked me: "O lunus, what people are these Portuguese?" I answered him: "Do not speak to me of such a race, for they are all thieves and corsairs of the sea, and I should like to see them all of our Mahomedan faith." Hearing this he became very malignant, and I rejoiced much in my heart.

On the following day all the Moors, having heard the news, went to the mosque to say their prayers. But first some, deputed to this office, mounted the tower of their church, as is the custom amongst them three or four times a day, and, instead of bells, began with a loud voice to call the others to this same prayer, keeping one finger constantly in their ear and saying [the azin or call to prayer]: "Alla u eccabar, Alla u eccabar, alladassile alladassile alladassile Alla u eccabar tella illa illo eccuenda ana Mahomet necculade," that is, "God is great, God is great, come to the church, come to the church, come to praise God, come to praise God, God is great, God is great, God will be, Mahomet the messenger of God will rise again." And they took me also with them, saying to me that they wished to pray to God for the Moors; and so they set me publicly to make the prayer, which you shall hear, which prayer is as common with them as the Pater Noster is with us, and the Ave Maria. The Moors stand all in a row; but there are many rows, and they have a priest as we have, who, after they have well washed, begins to pronounce the prayer in this manner, saying [the fithha, daily prayer]: "Un ghibli nimi saichu u regin bizinjin e erkahon e erkahon hamudali ari biharami e erkahon meliicht taum eimi tachie nabudu haiche nasta himi edina sanathel mostachia ledina ana antha aliyin garyil magdaluhin adekhihim sualla da tim amir alla u eccabar." And so I pronounced the prayer [the opening verses of the Koran] in the presence of all the people, and then I returned home with my companion. On the next day I pretended to be very ill, and remained about eight days wherein I would not eat with him, but every night I went to eat with the two Christians. He [my companion] was very much surprised, and asked me why I would not eat. I replied: "That I felt very ill, and my head felt as though it were very large and full; and I said to him that it appeared to me that it proceeded from that air, that it was not good for me." He, for the singular affection which he bore me, would have done everything to please me; wherefore, hearing that the air of Calicut was injurious to
me, he said to me: “Go and stay in Canonor until we return to Persia, and I will direct you to a friend of mine, who will give you all that you require.” I answered him: “That I would gladly go to Canonor, but I hesitated because of these Christians.” “Do not hesitate,” said he, “nor have any fear of them, for you shall remain constantly in the city.” Finally, having well seen all the fleet which was preparing in Calicut, and all the artillery, and the army which had been raised against the Christians, I set out on my journey to give them notice of it, and to save myself from the hands of dogs.

One day, before I set out, I arranged all that I had to do with the two Christians, and then my companion placed me in the company of those two Persians who carried the news of the Portuguese, and we took a little bark. Now, you will understand in what danger I placed myself, because there were twenty-four Persian, Syrian, and Turkish merchants, all of whom knew me, and bore me great affection, and knew well what the genius of Christians was. I feared that if I took leave of them, they would think that I wanted to escape to the Portuguese. If I departed without speaking with them, and I was by chance discovered, they would have said to me: “Why did you not speak to us?” And this I balanced in my mind. However, I determined to go without speaking to any one excepting my companion. On Thursday morning, the third of September, I set out with the two Persians by sea, and when we had got about a bow-shot in the sea, four Naeri [Nairs] came to the sea-shore, who called the captain of the vessel, and we immediately returned to land. The Naeri said to the captain: “Why do you carry away this man without leave of the king?” The Persians answered: “This man is a Moorish saint, and we are going to Canonor.” “We know well,” said the Naeri, “that he is a Moorish saint, but he understands the language of the Portuguese, and will tell them all we are doing here, because a great fleet is being got ready”; and they ordered the captain of the ship that he should not take me away on any account, and he acted accordingly. We remained on the sea-shore, and the Naeri returned to the king’s house. One of the Persians said: “Let us go to our house,” that is, to Calicut. I answered: “Do not go, for you will lose these fine sinahghat (which were pieces of cloth we carried), because you have not paid the king’s dues.” The other Persians said: “O sir, what shall we do?” I replied: “Let us go along this shore until we find a poror, that is, a small bark; and they were pleased so to do, and we took our way for twelve miles, always by land, laden with the said goods. You may imagine how my heart felt, seeing myself in such danger. At length we found a poror which carried us to Canonor. We arrived at

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Canonor on Saturday evening, and I immediately carried a letter which my companion had written for me to a merchant his friend; the tenor of which letter stated that he should do as much for me as for his own person until he came; and he told him about my being a saint, and of the relationship there was between him and me. The merchant, as soon as he had read the letter, laid it on his head and said, that he would answer for me with his head; and immediately had an excellent supper prepared, with many chickens and pigeons. When the two Persians saw the chickens come, they exclaimed: “Alas, what do you do?” “Colli tine til,” that is, “This man does not eat flesh”; and other things came immediately. When we had finished eating, the said Persians said to me: “Let us go a little to the sea to amuse ourselves”; and so we went where the Portuguese fleet was. Imagine, O reader, the joy I felt. Going a little farther, I saw before a certain low house three empty casks, from which I imagined that the factory of the Christians was there. Then, being somewhat cheered up, I felt a desire to escape within the said gate; but I considered that, if I did so in their presence, the whole country would be in an uproar. And I, not being able to fly in safety, noted the place where the castle of the Christians was being made, and determined to wait until the following day.

CHAPTER XVI
CONCERNING THE ESCAPE TO THE PORTUGUESE

On Sunday morning I rose early, and said that I would go to amuse myself a little. My companions answered: “Go where you please”; and so I took my way according to my fancy, and went where the castle of the Christians was being built; and when I was a little distant from my companions, coming to the sea-shore I met two Portuguese Christians, and said to them: “O sirs, where is the fortress of the Portuguese?” These two Christians said: “Are you a Christian?” I answered; “Yes, sir, praised be God.” And they said to me: Where do you come from?” I answered them: “I come from Calicut.” Then said the one to the other of the two companions: “Go you to the factory, and I will take this man to Don Lorenzo,” that is, the son of the Viceroy. And so he conducted me to the said castle, which is distant from the beach half a mile. And when we arrived at the said castle, the Señor Don Lorenzo was at breakfast. I immediately fell on my knees at the feet of his lordship and said: “Sir, I commend myself to you to save me, for I am a Christian.”
At this juncture, we heard a great uproar in the neighbourhood because I had escaped. The bombardiers were immediately summoned, who loaded all the artillery, fearing that those of the city might come to the castle to fight. Then the captain, seeing that those of the place did not do any harm, took me by the hand and conducted me into a chamber to interrogate me concerning the affairs of Calicut, and kept me three days to talk with me; and I, being desirous of the victory of the Christians, gave them all the particulars about the fleet preparing in Calicut. These conversations being concluded, he sent me with a galley to the Viceroy his father in Cuccin, of which a knight named Joan Sarrao was captain. The Viceroy was exceedingly pleased when I arrived, and showed me great distinction, because I had informed him of all that was doing in Calicut; and I also said, that if his lordship would pardon Joan-Maria and Piero Antonio, who made artillery in Calicut, and assure me of their safety, that I would induce them to return, and that they would not do that injury to Christians which they had done, although against their will, and that they were afraid to return without a safe conduct. The Viceroy was extremely pleased and much satisfied, and gave me the safe conduct; and the captains of our ships and our vicar promised for the Viceroy; and at the end of three days he sent me back with the said galley to Canonor, and gave me a letter which he addressed to his son, that he should give me as much money as I required for payment of the spies to be sent to Calicut. When we had arrived at Canonor, I found a pagan, who gave me his wife and children as a pledge, and I sent him with my letter to Calicut, to Joan-Maria and Piero Antonio, by which I advised them how the Viceroy had pardoned them, and that they might come in safety. You must know that I sent the spy five times backwards and forwards, and that I always wrote to them that they should be on their guard, and should not trust their wives or their slave; for each of them had a wife, and Joan-Maria had a son and a slave. They always wrote to me that they would come willingly. In the last letter they said to me thus: "Let us conceal, we have given all our goods to this spy; come on such a night with a galley or brigate where the fishermen are, because there is no watch in that part, and, if it please God, we will both come with all our party." You must know that I wrote to them that they should come alone, and that they should leave their wives, their son, their goods, and the slave, and that they should only bring their jewels and money. And you must know that they had a diamond which weighed thirty-two carats, which they said was worth thirty-five thousand ducats; and they had a pearl which weighed twenty-four carats; and they had two thousand rubies, which weighed a carat and a carat and a half each; and they had sixty-four rings with set jewels; and they had one thousand four hundred pards; and they also wished to save seven spingarde and three apes, and two civet-cats, and the wheel for repairing jewels; so that their avarice caused their death. Their slave, who was of Calicut, saw that they wanted to escape, and immediately went to the king and told him everything. The king did not believe him. Nevertheless, he sent five Naers to their house to remain in their company. The slave, seeing that the king would not put them to death, went to the Gadi of the faith of the Moors, and repeated to him those same words which he had said to the king, and, moreover, he told him that they informed the Christians of all that was done in Calicut. The Moorish Gadi held a council with all the Moorish merchants, amongst whom were collected one hundred ducats, which they carried to the King of the Gioghi, who was at that time in Calicut with three thousand Gioghi [jig, ascetics], to whom the said Moor said: "Sir, thou knowest that in other years when thou hast come here we have shown thee much kindness, and more honour than we show thee now; the reason is this: there are here two Christians who are enemies of our faith and yours, who inform the Portuguese of all that is done in this country; wherefore, we beseech thee to kill them, and to take these hundred ducats." The King of the Gioghi immediately sent two hundred men to kill the said two Christians, and when they went to their house, they began by tens to sound their horns and demand alms. And when the Christians saw so many people increasing they said: "These want something else besides alms"; and began to fight, so that these two killed six of them, and wounded more than forty. At last, these Gioghi cast at them certain pieces of iron which are made round like a wheel [quits], and they threw them with a sling, and struck Joan-Maria on the head and Piero Antonio on the head, so that they fell to the ground; and then they ran upon them and cut open the veins of their throats, and with their hands they drank their blood. The wife of Joan-Maria escaped with her son to Canonor, and I purchased the son for eight ducats of gold, and had him baptised on St. Lawrence's day, and gave him the name of Lorenzo, because I baptised him on that same day, and at the end of a year on that same day he died of the French disease. You must know that I have seen this disease three thousand miles beyond Calicut, and it is called faint, and they say that it is about seventeen years since it began, and it is much worse than ours. ณ On the twelfth of March 1596, this news of the Christians being killed arrived. On this same day the immense fleet departed from Panam [Ponan], and from Calicut, and from Capogat [Kapat], and from
Pandarani, and from Tormapatam [Pandalavini and Dharmapatam]. All this fleet was two hundred and nine sail, of which eighty-four were large ships, and the remainder were rowing vessels, that is, *paraus* [proa, prow]. In which fleet there was an infinite number of armed Moors; and they wore certain red garments of cloth stuffed with cotton, and they were certain large caps stuffed, and also on the arms bracelets and gloves stuffed; and a great number of bows and lances, swords and shields, and large and small artillery after our custom. When we saw this fleet, which was on the 16th of the month above-mentioned, truly, seeing so many ships together, it appeared as though one saw a very large wood. We Christians always hoped that God would aid us to confound the pagan faith. And the most valiant knight, the captain of the fleet, son of Don Francisco dal Meda [o'Almeida], Viceroy of India, was here with eleven ships, amongst which there were two galleys and one brigantine. When he saw such a multitude of ships, he acted like a most valiant captain: he called to him all his knights and men of the said ships, and then began to exhort and beseech them that, for the love of God and of the Christian faith, they would expose themselves willingly to suffer death, saying in this wise: "O sirs, O brothers, now is the day that we must remember the Passion of Christ, and how much pain He endured to redeem us sinners. Now is that day when all our sins will be blotted out. For this I beseech you that we determine to go vigorously against these dogs; for I hope that God will give us the victory, and will not choose that His faith should fail." And then the spiritual father stood upon the ship of the said captain, with the crucifix in his hand, and delivered a beautiful discourse to all, exhorting us to do that which we were bound to do. And then he gave us absolution from punishment and sin, and said: "Now, my sons, let us all go willingly, for God will be with us." And he knew so well how to speak, that the greater part of us wept, and prayed God that He would cause us to die in that battle. In the meantime the immense fleet of the Moors came towards us to pass by. On that same day, our captain departed with two ships and went towards the Moors, and passed between two ships, which were the largest in the Moorish fleet. And when he passed between the said ships, he saluted both of them with very great discharges of artillery; and this our captain did in order to know these two ships, and how they behaved; for they carried very great ensigns, and were captains of all the fleet. Nothing more was done that day. Early on the following morning, the Moors began all to make sail and come towards the city of Canonor, and sent to our captain to say that he should let them pass and go on their voyage, for they did not wish to fight with Christians.

Our captain sent to them to say, that the Moors of Calicut would not allow Christians to return who were staying in Calicut in their faith, but killed forty-eight of them, and robbed them of three thousand ducats between goods and money. And then he said to them: "Pass, if pass you can, but first know what sort of people Christians are." Said the Moors: "Our Mahomet will defend us from you Christians"; and so began all to sail with the greatest fury, wishing to pass, and they always navigate near land, eight or ten miles. Our captain allowed them to come until they arrived opposite the city of Canonor. Our captain did his because the King of Canonor was looking on, and to show him how great was the courage of the Christians. And when it was the time for eating, the wind began to freshen a little, and our captain said: "Now, up brothers, for now is the time; for we are all good knights"; and began to go towards these two largest ships. It would be impossible to describe to you the kinds of instruments which they sounded, according to their custom. Our captain grappled valiantly with one of the ships of the Moors, that is, the largest, and three times the Moors threw off our grappling-irons; at the fourth time we remained fast, and immediately our Christians leaped on board the said ship, in which there were six hundred Moors. Here, a most cruel battle was fought with immense effusion of blood, so that not one escaped from this ship: they were all killed. Then our captain went to find the other very large ship of the Moors, which was now grappled fast by another of our ships; and there also a cruel battle was fought, in which five hundred Moors died. When these two large ships were taken, all the rest of the fleet of the Moors fought with desperation, and divided our sixteen ships, so that there were some of our ships which had around them fifteen or twenty of those of the Moors to fight. It was a beautiful sight to see the gallant deeds of a very valiant captain, Ioan Sarano [João Serrão], who, with a galley made such a slaughter of the Moors as it is impossible to describe. And there was a time when he had around his galley fifty vessels, some with cans and some with sails, and all with artillery. And by the grace of God, neither in the galley nor in the ships was any one of the Christians killed, but many were wounded, for the fighting lasted all that day. Once our brigantine separated a little from the ships, and was immediately placed in the middle of four of the Moorish ships; and they fought her sharply, and at one time fifteen Moors were on the brigantine, so that the Christians had all withdrawn to the poop. When the valiant captain named Simon Martin saw that there were so many Moors upon the brigantine, he leaped amongst these dogs, and said: "O Jesus Christ, give us the victory! help thy faith!" and with the sword in his hand he
cut off the heads of six or seven. All the other Moors threw themselves into the sea and fled, some here, some there. When the other Moors saw that this brigate had gained the victory, four other ships went to succour their people. The captain of the brigate, seeing the said Moors coming, immediately took a barrel which had contained powder, and then he took a piece of a sail and thrust it in the bung-hole of the said barrel, which appeared like the stone of a mortar, and he put a handful of powder over the barrel, and standing with fire in his hand, made as though he were going to fire a mortar. The Moors, seeing this, thought that the said barrel was a mortar, and immediately turned back. And the said captain withdrew where the Christians were with his brigate, victorious. Our captain then placed himself amongst these dogs, of whom seven ships were captured, laden in part with spices and in part with other merchandise; and nine or ten were sunk by our artillery, amongst which there was one laden with elephants. When the Moors saw so many of their ships sunk, and that the two ships, the captains of the fleet and others were taken, they immediately took to flight, some one way, some another, some by land, some by sea, some in the port, some in the opposite direction. At the conclusion, our captain, seeing all our ships safe, said; “Praised be Jesus Christ, let us follow up our victory against these dogs”; and so we all together set ourselves to follow them. Truly, to any one who had seen these dogs fly, it would have appeared that they had a fleet of a hundred ships behind them. And this battle commenced with the hour for eating and lasted until the evening. And then they were pursued all night, so that all this fleet was put to flight without the death of a single Christian; and our ships which remained here followed another large ship, which was tacking out at sea. Finally our ships prevailed over theirs, which was surrounded by us, so that all the Moors cast themselves [into the sea] to swim, and we constantly followed them to the shore in the skiff, with crossbows and lances killing and wounding them. But some saved themselves by dint of swimming, and these were as many as two hundred persons, who swam more than twenty miles, sometimes under and sometimes on the water, and sometimes we thought they were dead, when they rose again to the surface a crossbow-shot distant from us. And when we came near them to kill them, thinking that they were exhausted, they dived again under the water; so that their being able to continue swimming so long appeared like a very great miracle. At last, however, the greater part were killed, and their ship sank from the blows of our artillery. On the following morning, our captain sent the galleys, the brigate, with some other vessels, along the shore, to see what bodies they could count. They found that those who were killed on the shore and at sea, and those of the ships taken, were counted at three thousand six hundred dead bodies. You must know that many others were killed when they took to flight, who threw themselves into the sea. The King of Canonor, seeing all this battle, said: “These Christians are very brave and valiant men.” And truly I have found myself in some battles in my time, but I never saw any men more brave than these Portuguese. The next day after, we returned to our Viceroy, who was at Cuccin [Cochin]. I leave you to imagine how great was the joy of the Viceroy and of the King of Canonor, who is a true friend of the King of Portugal, on seeing us return victorious.

Let us leave the fleet of the King of Calicut, which was defeated, and return to my own affairs. At the end of three months, the Viceroy gave me, of his favour, a certain office, which was that of the factorship of these parts, and I remained in this office about a year and a half. Some months afterwards, my lord the Viceroy sent me by a ship to Canonor, because many merchants of Calicut went to Canonor, and took the safe conduct from the Christians by giving them to understand that they were of Canonor, and that they wished to pass with merchandise in the ships of Canonor, and which was not true. Wherefore, the Viceroy sent me to these merchants, and to understand these frauds. It happened at this time that the King of Canonor died, and the next king that was made was a great enemy of ours; wherefore the King of Calicut made him [king] by force of money, and lent him twenty-three pieces of artillery (bocche di fuoco). In 1507, there commenced a very great war on the 27th of April, and it continued until the 17th of August. Now, you shall understand what the Christian faith is, and what sort of men the Portuguese are. One day, the Christians going to get water, the Moors assaulted them, through the great hatred they bore us. Our people retired into the fortress, which was now in a good state, and no harm was done on that day. Our captain, who was called Lorenzo de Britto, sent to inform the Viceroy, who was at Cuccin, of this new occurrence; and Don Lorenzo immediately came with a caravel, furnished with everything that was necessary, and at the expiration of four days the said Don Lorenzo returned to Cuccin, and we remained to fight with these dogs, and we were not more than two hundred men. Our food consisted solely of rice, sugar, and nuts, and we had no water to drink within the castle; but twice a week we were obliged to take water from a certain well, which was a bow-shot distant from the castle. And every time we went for water, we were always obliged to take it by force of arms; and every time we skirmished with them, the least people that