

tries above-mention'd; and rest perswaded, that all possible endeavours shall be employed on our parts, to recommend all, what shall thus be propos'd by them, to *our* Correspondents, with the same earnestness we do our own Directions, suggested by several of our Curious Friends.

## *Inquiries for Suratte,*

*and other parts of the East-Indies.*

**T**hough these *Queries* have been already dispatcht for India, and some of them even received an *Answer*, yet, because 'tis altogether necessary, to have confirmations of the truth of these things from several hands, before they be relyed on, it was thought fit, rather to publish the *Inquiries* alone, for a more certain and full Information, than now to joyn such *Answers* thereunto.

The *Inquiries* are these; as the Relations publisht by *Purchas*, *Linschoten*, and others, concerning those parts, have given occasion to propose them.

1. Whether it be true, that *Diamonds* and other *Pretious Stones*, do grow again after three or four years, in the same places where they have been digg'd out?

2. Whether the *Quarries* of *Stone* near *Fettipore*, not far from *Agra*, in the *Mogol's* Dominions, may be cleft like *Loggs*, and sawn like *Planks*, to ceel *Chambers* and cover *Houses* therewith? Likewise, Whether about *Sadrapatan*, on the *Coast* of *Coromandel*, there be a *Stone* of the like nature, so as, setting a *Wedge* upon it, one may cleave it with a *Mallet* as thick and as thin, as one pleaseth?

3. Whether upon the same *Coast* of *Coromandel*, about *Tutucorin*; and upon that of *Ceylon*, at *Manar*, and *Fasanapatan*, they fish *Pearls*, as good as those about *Ormuz*? Whether those *Pearls* are the better, the deeper they lie? What is the greatest depth, they are known to have been taken at? And whether it be true, that some of the *Natives* there, can stay under *Water* half an hour, without any *Art*?

4. Whether the *Iron* in *Pegu* and *Fapan*, be far better than ours; and if so, what is to be observed in the *melting*, *forging*, and *tempering* of it?

5. Whether

5. Whether in *Sumatra* there be a fountain, running a very Sanative Oyl? And whether the ignivomous Mountain in the same Island, do burn continually, and cast out stones so eaten out by the fire, that they swim?

6. What is the Opinion of the more Inquisitive Men in those parts, of *Amber-gris*? And whether the greatest quantities and masses of it are found about the *Isle Mauritius*?

7. Whether it be Winter on the East-side of the Mountain *Gates*, which comes from the North to *Cape Comorin*, whilst it is Summer on the West-side, and so, *vice versa*?

8. Whether it be true, that upon the Coast of *Coromandel*, 16 deg. Northern Latitude, between *Paleacote* and *Maselupatan*, 50. Leagues in length (the hot winds blowing from the Land-ward from 8. in the Morning, till 4. in the Afternoon, with such a suffocating heat, that the Inhabitants are not able to endure it, without extraordinary helps and refreshments;) every one daily for his provision of drink, hangs his Bottle, made of common pot-earth, and filled with Well-water, or other potable Liquor, upon some Post, Tree, or Wall, in places, where the Sun and Wind are most piercing; leaving it there all the day long in the scorching heat; and then taking it up about Evening at 4. of the Clock, the Drink is more cool, than any depth of Cellerage with us can make it? And whether, on the contrary, the Bottles being suffered to continue in the Air, as before, during the cool Sea-gales, which come in after the said hour, and continue all Night, till 8. in the Morning, to the refreshment of all Creatures, the Liquors grow hot and unfit for drink?

9. Whether the *Tyde* near *Mindanao*, going from the *Molucca's* to the *Philippina's*, are so swift, that neither contrary Winds nor Anchors, can save a Ship from being carried away by it; and that it rises but about 3. or 4. feet? And whether the like be observed in the Bay of *Cambaja*, and in that between *Martaban* and *Pegu*? And particularly, Whether in the said *Bays*, the Tides come in with that impetuosity and swiftness about the *Quarters* of the *Moon*, that the Watch-men from high Towers must with their Trumpets give warning to the people to retire; and that a Horse in his swiftest course, when such a Tide comes upon him, cannot out-run it: as *Isaac Vossius* observes, Lib. *De Motu*

*Marium & Ventorum*. c. 15. And what other particulars are observable upon all those Coasts, concerning the Tydes?

10. Whether there be any Discoveries newer, than the newest printed Maps, of the parts of the World *North-east* of *Japan*? And whether *Japan* be truly an Island, or no?

11. What is the true way of making and colouring *China-Dishes*; and how in *China* and *Japan*, they make the *Black-vernish*?

12. With what Materials, and how they paint both upon Cloths, commonly call'd *Pintado's*, and likewise upon Canvas, &c?

13. Whether the *Lignum Aloes* be the Wood, or Root of a Tree? In what Countrey it is found? And how to know the best of the kind?

14. Whether the best *Tea* be that, which comes forth at the first of the Spring, and are the Top-leaves? In what manner 'tis dried; and whether the too hasty drying thereof hurts it?

15. Whether there grows a Wood in *Java*, that naturally smells like humane Excrement? And if so, what kind of ground it grows in?

16. Whether in the *Molucque* Islands there be a *Red Wood*, which burns, sparkles, and flames, without being consumed; yet may be reduced to powder, by rubbing between ones fingers?

17. Whether near the Fort of *Ternate* there be a Plant, call'd by the Inhabitants *Catopa*, whence fall little Leaves, which are turned into Butter-flies?

18. Whether in *Pegu*, and other places of the *East-Indies*, they use a poyson, that kills by smelling, and yet the poisonous smell is hardly perceived?

19. Whether it be true, that the onely Antidote hitherto known, against the famous and fatal *Macassar*-poyson, is *humane Ordure*, taken inwardly? And what substance that poyson is made of?

20. Whether there be such a Vegetable in *Java*, call'd *Mangas bravas*, that is so poisonous, that it kills presently, and for which no remedy hath been yet found?

21. Where the best *Calamba-wood*, or *Palo d' Aquila*, grows? Whether the *Palo d' Aquila* be much inferiour to *Calamba*, and

how they are distinguished? Whether the later be the *Pith* of the former? Whence the best sort comes? Whether it be stored with a rich and cordial Balme, and that be the cause of its great rate, being much used in cases of decay of Spirits, and the lameness and impotency of Nerves?

22. Whether they draw an *Oyl*, resembling *Oyl* of *Camphire*, from the Roots of *Cinamon-trees*; and if so, how they draw it?

23. Whether the *Camphire* of *Borneo* be not the Exsudation or Gum of a Tree?

24. Whether the *Indians* can so prepare that stupifying Herb, call'd *Dutroa* or *Datura*, that they make it lie several Dayes, Moneths, and Years, according as they design it, in a Mans Body, without doing him any hurt, and at the end kill him, without missing an hours time?

25. Whether the *Betele* hath such a contrariety to the *Durion*, that a few leaves of that, put to a whole Shop-full of *Durions*, will make them all rot suddenly? And whether those, that have surfatted on *Durions*, and thereby over-heated themselves, do, by laying a leaf or two of *Betele* upon their Breasts or Stomachs, immediately cure the Inflammations, and recover?

26. Whether the *Papayas*, which bear fruit like a Melon, do not bear, unless Male and Female (as the Vulgar distinguishes them) stand together?

27. Whether there be two sorts of the Tree, call'd *Arbor Triste*, one, by the Name of *Triste di Die*, the other, *Triste di Notte*; whereof the former sheds his flowers at the Rising, the other, at the Setting of the Sun? And whether the distilled water thereof (call'd *Aqua di Megli*. by the Portugals) may not be transported into these parts?

28. Whether one of those Trees, call'd *Arbre de Rays*, propagates it self into a whole Forrest, by shooting up, and letting fall Roots from all its branches into the ground, that spring up again, and so on? And whether there be any single ones of these Trees, that are above 50. feet in Diameter, as some affirm?

29. What particulars are observable in any other Plants of those parts?

30. Whether those *Shell-fishes*, that are in *these parts* plump and in season at the *Full Moon*, and lean and out of season at the *New*, are found to have contrary Constitutions in the *East-Indies* ?

31. Whether the Animal, that yields the true *Muske*, be like a *Dear*, hornless, found in the High-Country between *Pegu* and *China* ? And whether the *Muske* grows in Baggs, Blisters, or Swellings, which the Beast rubs off against Trees; it being affirmed to have been found in the Woods by the Scent ? Whether true *Muske*, is discerned from false by its yellowness, when rubb'd upon ones hand, and by its keeping that Colour and the Scent ?

32. Whether there be two sorts of *Gum-lack*, one produced by an Insect, a certain winged Ant; the other, the Exudation of a Tree ?

33. To inquire after the Fish call'd *Caballa*, said to be very powerful in stanching of blood ?

34. Whether about *Fava* there be Oysters, or other Shell-fishes, of that vast bigness, as to weigh 300. pounds ?

35. Whether in *Malacca* there grows sometimes a stone in the stomach of a kind of *Porcupine*, call'd *Pedro Porco*, esteemed for its Cordial Vertue above *Bezoar* ?

36. Whether there be found in the head of a certain Snake, a Stone, which laid upon a wound of any Venemous Creature, sticks fast to it, and draws away all the poyson; then being put in Milk, voids its poison, and turns the Milk blew; and then applied again, draws out the rest of the poison, that may be behind, till the wound be perfectly cleansed ?

37. Whether the *Rhinoceros* have such an Antipathy against Elephants, as is commonly related ?

38. Whether in the Island of *St. Helena*, the Tide be at the same time round in the several Coasts of it; and what is the hour of Full Sea, and what the age of the Moon at the time of Observation ?

## *Inquiries for Persia.*

1. **W**Hat are chiefly the present Studies of the *Persians*; and what Kind of Learning they now excell in?

2. What other Trades or Practices, besides *Silk*-and *Tapistry*-making, they are skilled in?

3. Whether, there being already good Descriptions in *Words* of the Excellent Pictures and Bassè Relieves, that are about *Persopolis* at *Chimilnar*, yet none very particular; some may not be found sufficiently skill'd, in those parts, that might be engaged to make a Draught of the Place, and the Stories there pictured and carved?

4. How they make that Plaister, wherewith in those parts and in *India* they line their *Tanks* or *Cisterns*, and which, when dry, shines like Marble, and is much harder?

Other *Quarries*, concerning the Air, *VVaters*, Minerals, Vegetables, Animals, &c. peculiar to *Persia*, may be taken out of those *General Heads* of *Inquiries*, for a *Natural History* of a *Countrey*, printed in *Numb. 11.* and out of those *Articles* of *Inquiries concerning Mines*, publiht in *Numb. 19.* to which we refer the *Reader*.

*As to the Inquiries proper for Turkey, they also are already publish'd. See Numb. 20.*

## *Inquiries*

### *For Virginia and the Bermudas.*

1. **C**oncerning the Varieties of *Earths*; 'tis said, there is one kind of a *Gummy* consistence, white and cleer: Another, white, and so light, that it swims upon water: Another, red, call'd *Wapergh*, like *Terra Sigillata*. Quære, what other considerable kinds are there? And to send over a parcel of each.

2. *VVhat* considerable Minerals, Stones, Bitumens; *Tinctures*, *Drugs*?

3. *VVhat* hot Baths, and of what Medicinal use?

4. *VVhat* is the Original of those large Navigable Rivers, which

which empty themselves into the Bay of *Chesapeak* ? And whether on the other side of that ridge of Mountains, from which they are supposed to proceed, there be not other Rivers, that flow into the *South-Sea* ?

5. How the Silk-grasse is prepared ?

6. To give a full account of that Vulnerary Root, called *Wichagan*: Of *Pocone*, a Root of a red juyce, a good tincture: Of *Musquaspenn*, a Root of a red tincture: Of the Plant *Maricock*, whose fruit is said to be fashion'd like a *Lemon*, exceeding pleasant to the taste; of a blossom most beautiful: Of the *Chincomen*-Tree, whose fruit is said to have a huake like a *Chesnut*, luscious and hearty meat, both raw and boiled.

7. Whether there be in the *Bermudas* a Poison-weed, like our *Ivy*, whose leaves do by the touch cause Blisters ? And a Reed, whose juyce or infusion causeth Vomit ?

8. What kind of Trees those Barks are taken from, that are used instead of Tile or Slate in the covering of their Houses, being cooler in Summer and warmer in Winter, than Stone ?

9. To give a particular account of the Spider in the *Bermudas*, said to be large and beautiful for its colours; weaving a Web betwixt several Trees, which is affirmed to be for substance and colour like perfect raw Silk; so strong, that Birds, like Snites, are snared therein ?

10. Whether Deer have there generally three or four Fawnes at a brood ? And whether any of the Cattle transported from hence, becomes there more fruitful, than they were here ?

11. Whether the Relation be true, of a *Glue* made of Harts-Horn, that will not dissolve in Water; and if so, how made ?

12. Whether at the bottom of the Bay of *Chesapeak* Northward, the Natives be still of such a *Gigantick* Stature, as has been reported ? And, whether there be another people, not far from these, Eastwardly, of a *Dwarfish* Stature ?

13. Whether round about the Coast of the *Bermudas*, the *Tydes* keep the same time; and at what a clock precisely 'tis *High-water* on the Dayes of *Full* and *New Moon*; and how high the Water rises then ? And the like on the Coasts of *Virginia* and *Florida* ?

For

## *For Guaiana and Brasil.*

1. **V**V Hether about *Urraba* near *Oronoque*, some 8. degrees Northern Latitude, and about the Town *Darien*, Toads are presently produced, by throwing a kind of Moorish Water found there, upon the Floors of their Houses? *Linschoten*.

2. Whether it be true, that the Locust of *Brasil*, call'd *Caayara*, changeth in the Spring-time of that Countrey into a Plant, and withers away, like a Plant? And whether in the same Countrey, that kind of *Erwa*, call'd by the Portugals *Lagartas des Verias*, turns into a Bird, admirable for Colour and swift flying; the change thereof being made so leasurly, that one may for a while see half of the Insect, and the other half of the Bird, which the Natives call *Guainumbi*, the Portugals *Pegafrel*. *Piso*.

3. Whether upon the Leaves of that *Brasilian* Tree, call'd *Cereiba*, there is, in a Sun-shiny day, found a *White Salt* in that quantity, that one may gather as much from two or three Leaves, as will well salt a good pot of Broth? *Piso*.

4. Whether there be found about the mouth of the River of *Amazons*, a *green Argilla*, which, though very soft under water, yet, when exposed to the Air, grows almost as hard as a Diamond; in so much that the Natives make *Hatchets* of them, strong and sharp enough to cleave Wood; for which purpose also those *Indians* are said to have used it, before they got Iron-ones? And, whether this *Argilla*, become Stone, have a peculiar vertue against the *Epilepsys*, when carried by the Patient? *Pelleprat* in his Relation of the *Islands* and *Terra-firma* of the *Southern America*.

5. Whether the *Black Bees* in *Guaiana*, about the River *Oronoque*, make black Honey and Wax? And whether they have no Stings, as the same *Pelleprat* affirmeth?

*The other Inquiries, ready for the other Countries above-named, are, to avoid tediousness, referred to another opportunity.*