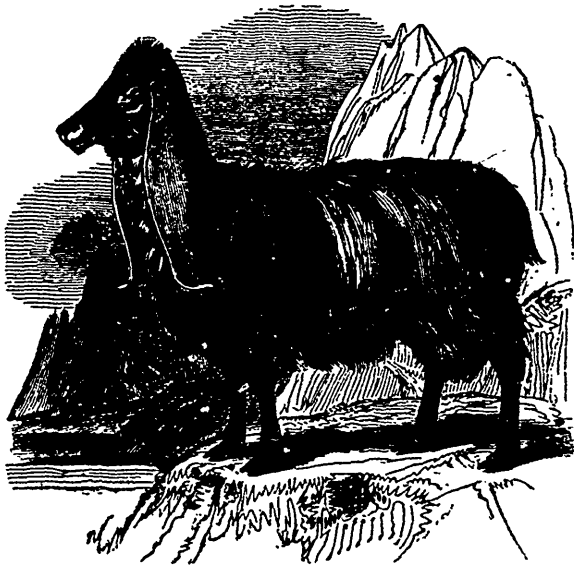


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GOATS.

Goats were among the chief possessions of the wealthy in the early ages of the world. Resembling the sheep in its general structure and appearance, it is covered with hair instead of wool, and is much more active, bold, and wandering in its habits. It feeds on bark and tender twigs, and its feet are formed for leaping and climbing among rocks and mountains. Its milk is valuable for food, the hair for manufactures of various kinds, the skin for vessels or bottles, and in modern times for leather, (*morocco*.) It was a clean animal by the Jewish law, and was much used in sacrifices. The peculiar qualities of goats occasion frequent figurative allusions to them. The boldness and strength of

the leaders of the flocks are alluded to, and they are made to represent oppressors and wicked men generally. Wild Goats, now called the *ibex*, or *mountain goat*, were of the same species; but being confined to the high and almost inaccessible summits of mountains, were seldom taken, and were of little domestic use. The mountain goat is still found in many parts of Syria, and the flesh is nearly of the flavor of venison. The Bedouins make bags or bottles of their skins, and rings of their horns. When they are found among the rocks, they usually elude the pursuit of the hunter, sometimes leaping twenty feet,—but in the plains they are often taken. Their habits are alluded to, 1 Sam. xxiv. 2. Job