

Africa, in latitude 5 deg. north, are found jet, black, tawny, olive, and white inhabitants, all speaking the same language, which is the Arabic. This particular part of Africa is called the Magdodo kingdom: the inhabitants are a stout, warlike nation, of the Mohometan religion. Here, it appears, is permanent evidence, that climate or food have no effect in materially changing the hues of the complexion, each retaining their own original tincture; even the white is found as stubborn in this torrid sky, as the black in the northern countries.

The whites found there, are the descendants of the ancient Romans, Carthagenians, Vandals, and Goths; who were, it is asserted by John Leo, the African, who wrote a description of Africa in Arabic, all anciently comprehended under the general name of *Mauri* or *Moors*, as well as the black Moors themselves. (Morse's Universal Geo. vol. ii. pp. 754. 781.)

Shem, according to the commonly received opinion, was the eldest son of Noah; and as the complexion of this child did not differ from that of other children born before the flood, all of whom are supposed to have been red, or of the copper hue, on the ground of Adam's complexion; Noah did not, therefore, name the child at first sight, from any extraordinary impulse, arising from any singular appearance in the complexion, but rather, as it was his *first* born son, he called him Shem, that is *renown*, which name agrees, in a surprising manner, with what we have hereafter to relate, respecting this character.

The impulse in the mind of Noah which moved him to call this *first* son of his *Shem*, or *renown*, may have been similar to that of the patriarch, Jacob, respecting his *first* born son. He says *Reuben*, thou art my *first* born, my might, and the beginning of my strength, the excellency of dignity, and the excellency of power. The ideas are similar, both leading to the same consequence; in one case, it is *renown*, in the other, the excellency of power, which is equivalent to *renown*, all of which, in both cases, arise from the mere circumstance of those children being the *first* born.

It is not unusual for parents to feel this sensation, on the birth of a *first* child, especially if it be a son; however it is not impossible that the prophetic spirit moved Noah so to name *this* son by the extraordinary appellation, *renown*, or *Shem*; and the chief trait of celebrity which was to attach itself to the character of *Shem* was to