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## Introductory Discourse.

**I**T is certain, that to judge well of parts, the whole ought first to be consider'd.

According to this maxim, and in order to give a just Idea of the parts of *Africa* I am to describe in this volume, I will present the reader with a general view of that quarter of the universe, that he may the better judge of their relation to each other.

For this purpose, I shall consider the whole terrestrial globe, as divided into three principal parts, viz. the old, the new, and the unknown world. The first, which is our continent, lies in the superior hemisphere in respect to us, and comprehends *Europe*, *Asia*, and *Africa*. The second, which is *America*, is in the inferior hemisphere. And the third, which comprehends the *Arctic* and the *Antarctic* world, is in both the one and the other hemisphere.

Besides these main parts of the terrestrial globe, there are several *Islands*, which are commonly assign'd to the nearest continent.

After the flood, the earth was divided into three parts, according to the number of the children of *Noah*; *Asia*, according to \**Josephus*, fell to the share of *Sem*; *Africa* to that of *Cbam*; and *Europe* to that of *Japhet*.

To confine ourselves to *Africa* only, it may be consider'd as the largest peninsula in the world, and as the second part of our continent in largeness. The *Ocean*, the *Mediterranean*, and the *Red-Sea* encompass it almost all round; for it holds to the continent of *Asia* only by the *Isthmus* of *Suez*, which lies betwixt the two latter of those seas, being not above eighty *English* miles broad.

The situation of *Africa*, is betwixt 2 and 85 degrees of longitude from the meridian of *Ferro*; and between 34 of north, and 35 degrees of south latitude: so that the *Equator* cuts it into two almost equal Sections. Its length and breadth are generally determined by the four capes, or promontories it has towards the four regions of the universe; cape *Bona* on the north, the cape of *Good-Hope* on the south, cape *Guardafuy* on the east, and cape *Verde* on the west.

The two last capes determine its length of about 1550, and the two former its breadth

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of near 1400 leagues. Thus it is smaller than *Asia*, which lies east of it; and much larger than *Europe*, which is on the north; and much more thinly peopled than either of them.

As it lies in the *Torrid Zone*, the heat is excessive, which is the reason it has so few inhabitants, and so many monsters and fierce animals.

Authors differ very much about the etymology of its name: the *Greeks* call'd it *Lybia*, *Olympia*, *Coriphea*, *Hesperia*, *Ogygia*, *Ammonites*, *Ethiopia*, *Cyrene*, *Cephenia*, *Eria*, and *Ophiusa*: but these were rather names of parts than of the whole. The *Latins* call it only *Lybia* and *Africa*. The *Moors*, *Alkebulan*; the *Indians*, *Bezecaib*; and the *Arabs*, *Ifriquia*; from which, strangers changing the *I* into *A*, call it *Africa*, as do the *Latins*, *Italians*, *Spaniards*, *French*, *Dutch*, and others. *Josephus* says, it receiv'd the name from *Ophres* grandson of *Abraham*,

who is named in *Genesis*, *Hepher*; and *Clodometes*, cited by *Josephus*, calls him *Japhram*, *Ch. 25.*

and that he fought jointly with his two Brothers, sons of *Abraham* by *Ketura*, i. e. *Apbram* and *Sur*, in *Lybia*, against *Encaus*, under the conduct of *Herules*. Some also derive the name of *Africa* from the Hebrew word *Apbar*, i. e. *Dust*; but *Bochartus* in his *Canaan* takes the truest etymology from the *Punick* word *Pberik*, an ear of corn, because of the great plenty of corn produced in *Egypt*, *Barbary*, and many other countries of *Africa*.

*Africa* is of a pyramidal or triangular form, the basis whereof extends along the *Mediterranean*, from the mouths of the *Nile*, to the streights of *Gibraltar*: the other two sides are water'd on the east by the *Red* and *Indian* seas, and on the west by the *Atlantick* ocean.

When the sons of *Noah* divided the world among themselves, the lot of *Cbam*, as *Josephus* relates, contain'd all the countries from the mountains *Amanus* and *Libanus* to the western ocean, and his children gave them their own names; some of which are now entirely lost, and others so much corrupted, that they are scarce to be known. Only the *Ethiopians*, descended from *Cbus*, *Cbam's* eldest son, have retain'd their name,

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