

*On the Cure of the Elephantiasis: By Afhar Ali-Kha'n of Delhi.*  
*Introductory Note.*—Among the afflicting maladies which punish the vices and try the virtues of mankind, there are few disorders of which the consequences are more dreadful or the remedy in general the more desperate than the *judham* of the Arabs or *khoruh* of the Indians; it is also called in Arabia *da Fasad*, a name corresponding with the *Leontiasis* of the Greeks, and supposed to have been given in allusion to the grim, distracted and lion-like countenances of the miserable persons who are affected with it. The more common name of the distemper is *Elephantiasis*, or, as Lucræcius calls it, *Elephas*, because it renders the skin like that of an Elephant, uneven and wrinkled, with many tubercles and furrows; but this complaint must not be confounded with the *dau'fil*, or 'swelled legs,' described by the Arabian physicians, and very common in India. It has no fixed name in English, though Hilliary, in his "Observations on the Diseases of Barbadoes," calls it the "Leprosy of the Joints" because it principally affects the extremities, which in the last stage of the malady are distorted, and at length drop off: but since it is in truth a distemper corrupting the whole mass of blood, and therefore considered by Paul of Ægineta as an "universal ulcer," it requires a more general appellation, and may properly be named the "Black Leprosy;" which term is in fact adopted by M. Boissieu de Sauvages and Gorrofus, in contradiction to the "White Leprosy," or the *Beres* of the Arabs and *Leuce* of the Greeks.

This disease, by whatever name we distinguish it, is peculiar to hot climates, and has rarely appeared in Europe: the philosophical Poet of Rome supposes it confined to the Banks of the Nile; and it has certainly been imported from Africa into the West India Islands by the black slaves, who carried with them their resentment and their revenge; but it has been long known in Hindustan, and the writer of the following Dissertation, whose father was Physician to Na'dirsha'h, and accompanied him from Persia to Delhi, declares that it rages with virulence among the native inhabitants of Calcutta. His observation, that it is frequently a consequence of the venereal infection, would lead us to believe, that it might be radically cured by mercury, which has, nevertheless, been found ineffectual, and even hurtful, as Hilliary reports, in the West Indies. The juice of hemlock, suggested by the learned Michaelis, and approved by his medical friend Roederer, might be very efficacious at the beginning of the disorder, or in the milder forms of it; but, in the case of a malignant and inveterate *judham*, we must either administer a remedy of the highest power, or, agreeably to the desponding opinion of Celsus, "leave the patient to his fate, instead of teasing him with fruit