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**A Voyage To New Guinea, And The Moluccas, From  
Balambangan: Including An Account of Magindano,  
Sooloo, and other Islands; And Illustrated With Thirty  
Copperplates, Performed In The Tartar Galley, ...**

**Forrest, Thomas**

**London, 1779**

Chapter VI. Account of Subudan Watamama - His Sickness and Death -  
Arrival of a Spanish Envoy from Semboangan - Particular Account of a  
Mangaio Prow - Dattoo Utu parts with his Wife Fatima - Rajah ...

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## C H A P T E R VI.

*Account of Subudan Watamama—His Sickness and Death—Arrival of a Spanish Envoy from Semboangan—Particular Account of a Mangaio Prow—Dattoo Utu parts with his Wife Fatima—Rajah Moodo visits the Sultan—Description of his Palace—Interview with Dattoo Topang.*

SEID MOFFAT, beside Fakymolano, and Paharadine the present Sultan, had a natural son named Palty. Palty was dead; but had left a son, named Subadan, on whom was conferred, by Rajah Moodo's party, the title of Watamama.

1775.  
June.

Subadan was not legally declared Watamama; nay, I have heard that Chartow and Topang treated with contempt his assuming that title, and spoke of him accordingly. He had married Faky Molano's daughter, his first cousin, by whom he had a daughter, Fatima, who was married to Utu, a youth of fifteen, Rajah Moodo's son, and her own second cousin.

Considering the connexion Rajah Moodo had with Subadan Watamama, it was expected that, when the former came to be Sultan, the latter, waving his own right, would allow his son-in-law Utu to take the title of Rajah Moodo.

On



1775.  
July.

On the 7th of July, Subadan Watamama fell sick. His disorder was an imposthume. Making him a visit, I found him in the great hall, on a large bed, which seemed dressed up for show, and had a number of silk bolsters, embroidered with gold at the ends, some of which supported the patient. The hall was full of visitors, dispersed on the floor in companies of three and four together, each company sitting round a brass salver, covered with saucers of sweet cakes and cups of chocolate. I observed that many of this various company had their feet washed at the bottom of the steps, by a person pouring water on them, whilst they rubbed one foot against the other. This struck me a little; so I pulled off my shoes at the door. I then picked my way among the several companies, and went stooping with my right hand almost to the ground, as is their custom, to avoid treading on their clothes. I sat down cross legged near the foot of the bed on a clean mat, and asked the patient how he did. He seemed to be very low and feverish. Fakymolano sat close by me, and asked me to prescribe for the invalid. I told him a purgative would be of service; at the same time, I saw a Chinese shred some green leaves, and then mix them up in a basin, with common coco nut oil.

The Chinese approaching with his mixture the bed of the sick, the curtain was dropt; of which hang two rows, sometimes three, in the houses of persons of rank, their beds being remarkably large.

In the same hall, not far from me, sat an elderly woman, employed in cutting slices off a large cake of wax, with an instrument heated at a charcoal fire, as one would slice a loaf of bread. These thin pieces of wax were handed to another person, who immediately wrapt up  
in

in each slice a strip of white calico, about a foot in length. This rolled between two boards, became a very small wax candle to supply the company. Having drank chocolate, I took my leave, accompanied by Molano.

1775.  
July.

Next morning I went to visit Watamama, with whom I found Molano. I carried with me a little medicine, mixed up in a basin, and found his wife and his daughter Fatima attending him. The former would by no means allow him to taste the medicine; notwithstanding her father urged it. At last Fakymolano was pleased to say, Let you and me, Captain, drink this physic; I am certain it is good. So saying, he poured one half into another cup, and drank it off: I drank the remainder. Afternoon, when I saw Fakymolano, he smiling, took me by the hand, and said, Captain, your physic is very good.

July the 27th, Watamama died. I was at work upon my little vessel, when I heard the dismal yell set up by the females of the house, whilst I saw a number of messengers from it, no doubt, to carry abroad the news. At the same time, I heard the carpenters in his court yard redouble the strokes of their axes, in making his coffin of thick planks strongly dovetailed. They had indeed begun it two days before his death; but the strokes then were neither so loud nor so frequent; though, I am certain, the sick man must have heard them.

I had visited him often, beside the time mentioned above; and I cannot help saying, he died in state.



1775.  
July.

Early next morning, the coffin was carried empty to the grave in a burial place not two hundred yards from his house. About noon, the coarfe, covered with a white sheet, was born out on the bedstead on which he died; part of the slender wooden wall of the house being taken down to let it pass. The bedstead was then, by bamboos under it, and about twelve umbrellas over the body, transported mostly by young men, his near relations, to the grave. The coarfe was then put into the grave, about five inches deep in the earth; the stout coffin, without a bottom, was laid over it, and the earth thrown in, to about three foot above the upper part of the coffin. Then over all was poured water, from china decanters, their mouths being bound over with clean white calico, through which the water strained.

A great company attended the funeral; but no women. In the company was Chartow, who eyed me stedfastly. Neither Topang, nor his brother Uku, was there.

From the time of Watamama's death till his funeral, were fired many guns; but not regularly. During the funeral, with Rajah Moodo's permission, I fired half minute swivels.

Next day a kind of shed was built over the grave; and, a temporary floor of boards being laid, the widow of the deceased lived there about a week\*; during which time, his more distant relations made very merry at the house; feasting upon bullocks, which they kill but

\* I once visited her under the shed. She received me kindly, and sent home after me a piece of beef, about four pound weight.

on



on certain occasions. They also by book sang dirges in honour of the defunct, and for the repose of his soul.

1775.  
July.

All this while I was employed in decking the Tartar Galley, and repairing her bottom, into which the worm had got pretty deep in some places. On the 9th, I finished the calking, and fixed to her a catwater. On the 12th, I heard at Rajah Moodo's, that an English ship had been at Sooloo, and that her bottom was covered with copper. This circumstance evinced the truth of the report. On the 20th, I finished the vessel's stern port, and got a mainmast ready. We have had fresh westerly winds in the day, with a good deal of rain; and generally land winds in the night, for the most part of this month. On the 25th, came in a prow from the Spanish settlement of Samboangan, with an Envoy on board, who brought letters from the governor there to Rajah Moodo. This Sinior Huluan was a native of the Philippine Islands, and in rank an ensign. During his stay, a serjeant he brought with him, daily exercised Rajah Moodo's guards, in the use of the musket and bayonet. These guards were captives from the Philippine Islands, called Bisayan, and were in number thirty. The envoy, with his serjeant and six Manila soldiers, lodged without the fort.

From this time to the end of the month, the weather grew fairer, with moderate westerly winds. On the the 29th, my cook Panjang died of a flux. Great was my loss of a faithful servant, and much was he lamented by his shipmates, considerably decreased since my discharging Tuan Hadjee's vassals, in whose place Rajah Moodo lent me people occasionally. I buried Panjang on the opposite side of the

G g 2

river,



1775.  
July.

river, and consoled myself with reflecting that he was the only person I had lost.

On the 31st, came in a large prow belonging to Dattoo Malfalla, Rajah Moodo's brother in law, from a cruise on the coast of Celebes. She had engaged a Dutch sloop, and was about to board her, when the Dutch set fire to their vessel, and took to their boat. Notwithstanding the fire, the attackers boarded her, and saved two brass swivel guns, which I saw, and even some wearing apparel. The vessel being hauled up, I had the curiosity to measure her. She was from stem to tafferel 91 foot 6 inches, in breadth 26 foot, and in depth 8 foot 3 inches. Her stern and bow overhung very much what may be called her keel. She steered with two commoodies or rudders; had ninety men, and could row with forty oars, or upwards of a side, on two banks. The manner was this: The twenty upper beams, that went from gunnel to gunnel, projected at least five foot on each side. On those projecting beams were laid pieces of split cane, which formed a gallery on each side the vessel for her whole length; and her two ranks of rowers sat on each side, equally near the surface of the water, the two men abreast having full room for their oars, which are far from lying horizontally, but incline much downwards. This vessel brought to Mindano about seventy slaves.

*Tuesday*, the 1st of *August*, we had a very fresh gale at S. W. which almost entirely blew off the attop roof that covered the vessel. The 3d, nailed on the irons to hang the rudder by, laying aside the commoodies. The 6th, I sent the boat up the river, to buy rice; this article passing current in the market for common expences. On the 7th, I saw  
brought

brought to Coto Intang a handsome young man, a Spaniard, as a slave to be sold. His name was Bohilda. I purchased him for six peculs of iron, from an Illano man; which was reckoned a great price.

1775:  
August.

About this time I learnt that Tuan Hadjee had been at Tukoran, and married Rajah Moodo's wife's sister, daughter to the Sultan there. Before he left Mindano, and before the coolness arose between him and Rajah Moodo, he had, it seems, promised to return to Selangar by the beginning of the N. E. monsoon, and proceed in some vessel of Rajah Moodo's, against the Dutch in the Molucca islands. For, since the Dutch had some years before committed hostilities on Mindano, a kind of piratical war was carried on.

During Watamama's illness, I observed his daughter Fatima, a beautiful young lady, about nineteen; her husband Datoo Utu, Rajah Moodo's son, a youth not above fifteen years of age. Whatever might be the disproportion in their years, I never heard that they had lived unhappily together, till during the sickness of Watamama. Fatima, in perhaps a peevish humour, had said something harsh to her young husband; who took it so much to heart, that he went home to his father and mother, telling them he would never live with her more. This I learnt sometime afterwards, being prompted to enquire by Rajah Moodo's hinting to me one day, with apparent concern, that his son had quarrelled with his wife Fatima; to which my natural answer was, that little misunderstandings would now and then happen between young married people, but that this, I hoped, would soon be made up.

On





1775.  
August.

On the 7th of *August*, I waited on Rajah Moodo, and told him, I was going over the water to visit the Sultan. Sir, said he, the Sultan is very ill, and has just sent for Fakymolano and myself, desiring to see us. Then replied I, Sir, I defer my visit, not offering to accompany the Rajah; neither did he ask it.

Fakymolano, and Rajah Moodo, were on this occasion attended by the Spanish Envoy, his serjeant, and some of the new disciplined guards.

Rajah Moodo returned about ten, in seeming high spirits; and told me he had been very happy in embracing many of his near relations, whom he had not seen for a long time. He gave me also to understand by distant hints, that this was a device of the Sultan's to make up matters.

Next day, his thirty Bifayan guards were dressed in compleat uniforms of blue broad cloth, turned up with red, and trimmed with white buttons of tin. They had all grenadier caps, with this motto; *To el Rey: I the king.*

About four in the afternoon, it was signified to me, that Rajah Moodo desired my company to visit the Sultan. We crossed the Melampy in two large canoes, strongly joined, though somewhat separated, by transverse planks. This floating stage carried over above forty persons.

The



The Sultan's palace is a tenement about one hundred and twenty foot long, and fifty broad. The first floor rises fourteen from the ground. Thirty-two strong wooden pillars support the house in four rows, eight in a row. The intercolumniation, or filling up between the two outer rows, is excessively slight; being of sticks so put together, that both light and air intervene. Through some windows cut low, are pieces of iron cannon pointed outward. Above six foot, which height the slender sticks do not surpass, the tenement is well matted all round. In the lower part nothing was kept, but boats under cover, with their furniture.

1775.  
August.

The first row of pillars inward, is about ten foot within those which support the outside, and covered with scarlet broad cloth to the top; where at the height of about twenty foot from the first floor, they sustain the beams and rafters, on which rests a substantial, though light roof, made of the sago tree leaves. From the tops of the inside pillars, palempores with broad white borders extending them, were smoothly expanded, and made a noble cieling.

A movable slight partition divided the whole into two unequal parts. The first part being about one third of the whole, was well floored with planks on strong beams: here were six pieces of cannon mounted. The inner apartment was not floored, but covered with split aneebong, a kind of palm tree, in pieces going the whole length of it, about five inches broad, and placed half an inch, or an inch asunder. This contrivance of floor for the inner apartment, seemed preferred to the solid floor of the outer, as admitting the fresh air from below; and covered, except in the passage, with matting, and a few carpets, it rendered the palace remarkably cool.

Between



1775.  
August.

## A J A V O Y A G E O T

Between the two farthest pillars of the farther apartment stood the bed, on a stage of plank, a foot high, which projected about two foot beyond the bedstead: this was covered with mats, and proved a convenient seat all round, except on the back part.

From the roof depended the tester, to which were fixed three rows of curtains; the inmost of white calico, the next of blue, the outermost combining breadths of silk, of the most contrasted colours.

Towards the head of the bed were arranged yellow pillows or bolsters; some as large as an ordinary bale of English broad cloth, some smaller, and all filled, with the plantain dry leaves, which made them light. Their ends of scarlet cloth were embroidered with gold. Of the pillows, some were shaped like prisms, and lay necessarily on a side. I imagine those large pillows are sometimes used to lean against, though no such use was made of them at that time; they lying then all near the head of the bed, which was about eight foot square.

That side of the inner apartment, which was opposite the bed, had much the appearance of a china shop. Below stood a range of about thirty china jars, each capacious of, at least, twenty gallons; above them, a shelf supported another row of smaller jars; the next shelf exhibited a row of black earthen water pots, with brass covers, in which the water contracted a coolness for the refreshment of guests. A fourth shelf, attainable only by a ladder, held salvers and cuspadores. Towards the farther end ran a cross row of shelves, containing similar furniture, the largest jars being always the lowest: behind, were the retired apartments. Opposite the row of shelves, that went partly along

along the hall, stood two rows of red coloured china chests, one upon another, the lower row the larger; but each containing chests of equal size. A ramp of masonry was the ascent, but only to one door of this vast apartment. A palifade of strong posts surrounded three sides of it, the river washed the fourth.

1775.  
August.

Rajah Moodo was accompanied by one of his natural brothers; there was also Muttufinwood, an officer of polity, called sometimes *Gogo*, as in the Molucca islands: Dattoo Woodine, an officer who superintended the prows and vessels belonging to Rajah Moodo; with some *Manteries*\* and *Amba Rajabs*. †

In the outer hall were drawn up about twenty of the Bisayan guards, with the Spanish serjeant at their head.

The Sultan sat on the ground, in the inner hall, filling the center of a square, well spread with mats. Rajah Moodo was seated about eight foot from him, towards the door. The company was ranged before the Sultan and Rajah Moodo, and on the latter's right hand, making two sides of the square above mentioned. The third side, being open, displayed afar the Sultana Myong, and some ladies sitting by the foot of the bed. Near the fourth side, a curtain of party coloured silk was dropt, the Sultan's back being towards it. I had the honour of being seated on Rajah Moodo's right hand, and next to me sat the Spanish Envoy.

\* *Mantery*, a kind of justice of peace.

† *Amba Rajah*, protector of the people's privileges.



1775.  
August.

One of the company was Marajah Pagaly,\* the Sultan's natural brother. Topang, and his brother Uku, presently came in; the former gaily drest, in new silver brocade: nobody there was so fine.

After the Sultan had spoke something, with a low voice, in the Magindano tongue to this assembly, consisting of about twenty persons, seated on mats, spread upon the floor, he said to me, in Malay, somewhat louder, Captain, you brought good fortune, when you arrived; there was darkness, now there is light. I perfectly understood his expression; and answered, Sir, I rejoice to hear such news.

Out of respect to this assembly, I left my shoes at the door; † as did the Spanish envoy. I had lately been accustomed to do so at Rajah Moodo's; but it was never required of me. They, who walk with slippers, always leave them without, when they are to sit down.

At this visit, whenever the Sultan, or any other spoke to Kybad Zachariel, they named him Rajah Moodo, rather loud, and with a pause. This circumstance sufficiently acknowledged his title.

\* Pagaly Mama, signifies brother; Pagaly Babye, sister.

† Among the Romans, it was usual for each guest to leave his slippers or sandals, with a slave, when he went in to supper. One merry instance may suffice, translated by the hand to which we have before been indebted. Mart. Ep. XII. 88.

Bis Cotta soleas perdidisse se questus,  
Dum negligentem ducit ad pedes vernam,  
Qui solus inopi præstat, et facit turbam:  
Excogitavit homo sagax, et astutus,  
Ne facere posset tale sæpius damnum;  
Excalceatus ire cepit ad cœnam.

That his sandals he lost twice poor Cotta complain'd,  
While a negligent slave at his feet he retain'd;  
Who, remis as he was, made up Cotta's whole train:  
So he shrewdly bethought, nor bethought him in vain.  
That he might no more suffer a damage so odd,  
He resolv'd to proceed to his supper unshod.

Eight



Eight or ten large yellow wax candles being lighted, and put into brass candlesticks, before each person was placed a large brass salver, a black earthen pot of water, and a brass cuspadore.

1775.  
August.

The salver was loaded with saucers, presenting sweet cakes of different kinds, round a large china cup of chocolate. My chocolate and the Spanish envoy's, appeared in glass tumblers; and our water pots were red. The same distinction was observed at Rajah Moodo's, to us Christians.

About ten o'clock, as several had retired, and Rajah Moodo was talking with the Sultan, in the Magindano tongue, I got up also to go away. Leave is taken with a small ceremony; a lifting the right hand to the head, with a small inclination of the latter.

At the foot of the ramp, I found Topang and the Spanish envoy in conversation. Topang squeezed me hard by the hand, and so forcibly conducted me with the Spaniard to his mansion, that I could not resist. Being sat down, after a little pause, he said; How comes it, Captain, you have been so long at Magindano, and I have not seen you at my house? Recollecting immediately the figurative speech the Sultan had that evening made to me, I answered: Dattoo Topang, since my coming to Magindano, it has been so dark, that I could not find my way. He made no reply. After a short pause, I expostulated in my turn: Dattoo Topang, how came it, that your brother Dattoo Uku durst take an English vessel? Alluding to Mr. Cole's schooner, which he had taken. He replied: *Bugitu adat defni barankalli*: "such is here the custom sometimes."

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I was



1775.  
August.

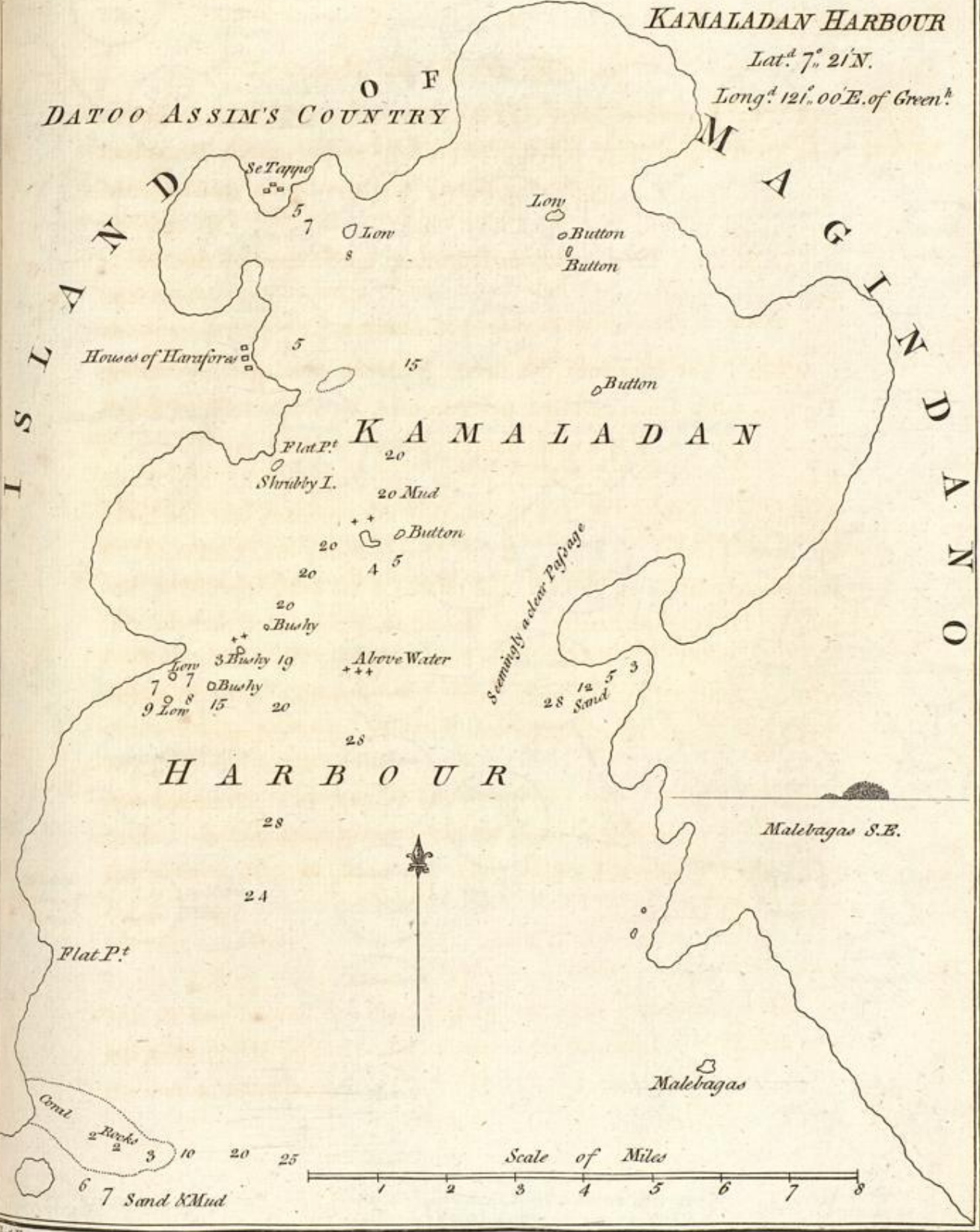
I was in a manner forced upon the visit; however, I staid chocolate, which I saw preparing, and then decently took my leave. Of at least forty persons present, none were seated, but the Dattoo, his lady, the envoy, and myself, who filled four chairs, at a table. His consort was Galaludine, the daughter of Bantillan, once Sultan of Sooloo: a very pretty woman.

When I got back into the street, it struck me, that my visiting Topang, a step I was resolved never to take, would be told to Rajah Moodo next day, with circumstances perhaps little to my advantage. I was then close by the Sultan's palace, going home with only three attendants. Judging by the lights, that the company was not broke up there, I scaled the ramp. Rajah Moodo seeing me, beckoned. I immediately sat down by him, and related what had happened at Topang's. He laughed heartily, and seemed fully convinced that the visit was unintended on my side. The Sultan, hearing the substance of my relation, appeared no less entertained. I had reason to be thankful, that I had so opportunely prevented Rajah Moodo's jealousy.

Next day Topang sent me, by an old woman, in a private manner, a present of about half a pound of sweet scented tobacco, and desired to see me. I returned a few cloves, (an esteemed present here) but declined the invitation.

C H A P-





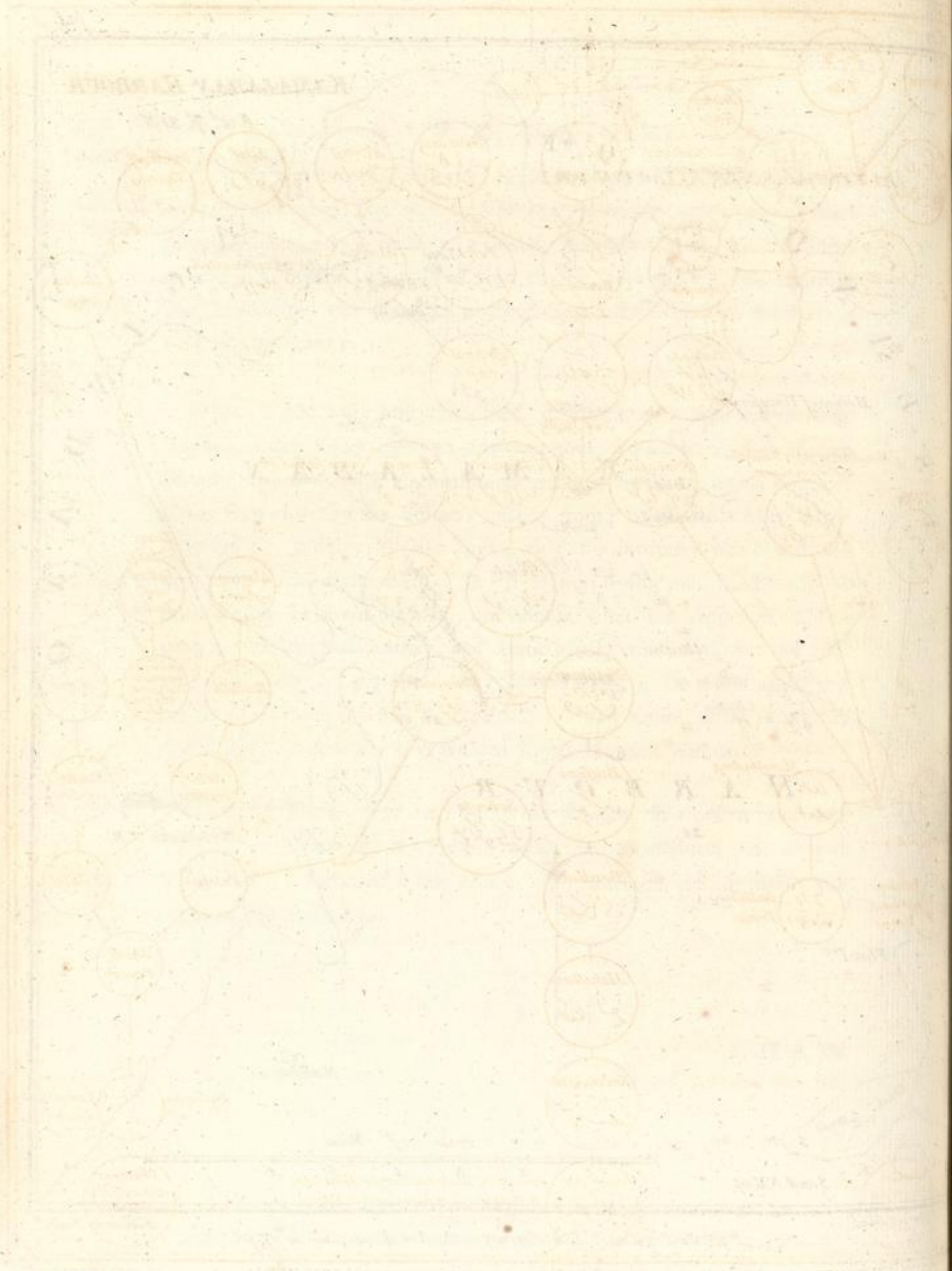
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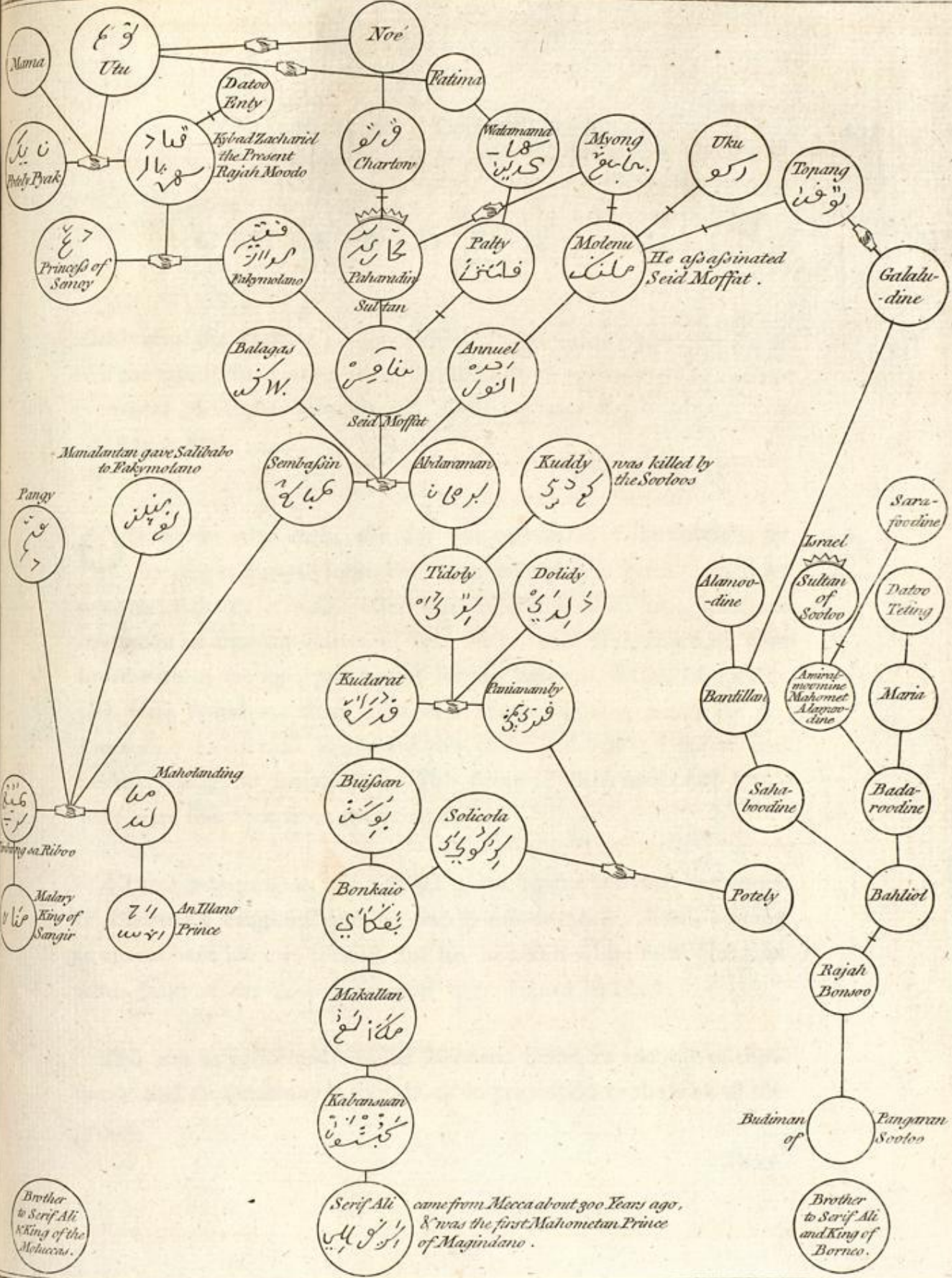
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F. Vivares Sculp.









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