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A Voyage To The Pacific Ocean

Undertaken, By The Command Of His Majesty, For Making Discoveries in the Northern Hemisphere. To Determine The Position and Extent of the West Side of North America; its Distance from Asia; and the Practicability of a Northern Passage to Europe. Performed Under The Direction Of Captians Cook, ...

Cook, James

London, 1784

Chap. I.

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A
V O Y A G E
TO THE
P A C I F I C O C E A N.

B O O K I I.

From leaving New Zealand, to our Arrival at
Otaheite, or the Society Islands.

C H A P. I.

Prosecution of the Voyage.—Behaviour of the Two New Zealanders on board.—Unfavourable Winds.—An Island called Mangeea discovered.—The Coast of it examined.—Transactions with the Natives.—An Account of their Persons, Dress, and Canoe.—Description of the Island.—A Specimen of the Language.—Disposition of the Inhabitants.

O N the 25th, at ten o'clock in the morning, a light breeze springing up at North West by West, we weighed, stood out of the Sound, and made sail through the strait, with the Discovery in company. We had hardly got the length of Cape Tierawhitte, when the wind took us aback at South East. It continued in this quarter till

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Tuesday 25.

two



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two o'clock the next morning, when we had a few hours calm. After which we had a breeze at North; but here it fixed not long, before it veered to the East, and after that to the South. At length, on the 27th, at eight o'clock in the morning, we took our departure from Cape Palliser, which, at this time, bore West, seven or eight leagues distant. We had a fine gale, and I steered East by North.

We had no sooner lost sight of the land than our two New Zealand adventurers, the sea sickness they now experienced giving a turn to their reflections, repented heartily of the step they had taken. All the soothing encouragement we could think of, availed but little. They wept, both in public and in private; and made their lamentations in a kind of song, which, as far as we could comprehend the meaning of the words, was expressive of their praises of their country and people, from which they were to be separated for ever. Thus they continued for many days, till their sea sickness wore off, and the tumult of their minds began to subside. Then these fits of lamentation became less and less frequent, and at length entirely ceased. Their native country and their friends were, by degrees, forgot, and they appeared to be as firmly attached to us, as if they had been born amongst us.

Friday 28.

The wind had not remained many hours at South, before it veered to South East and East; and, with this, we stood to the North, till the 28th at noon. Being then in the latitude of $41^{\circ} 17'$, and in the longitude of $177^{\circ} 17'$ East, we tacked and stood to the South East, with a gentle breeze at East North East. It afterward freshened, and came about to North East; in which quarter it continued two days, and sometimes blew a fresh gale with squalls, accompanied with showers of rain.

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On



On the 2d of March at noon, being in the latitude of $42^{\circ} 35' 30''$, longitude $180^{\circ} 8'$ East, the wind shifted to North West; afterward to South West; and between this point and North it continued to blow, sometimes a strong gale with hard squalls, and at other times very moderate. With this wind we steered North East by East and East, under all the sail we could carry, till the 11th at noon, at which time we were in the latitude of $39^{\circ} 29'$, longitude $196^{\circ} 4'$ East.

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Sunday 2.

Tuesday 11.

The wind now veered to North East and South East, and I stood to the North, and to the North East, as the wind would admit, till one o'clock in the morning on the 16th, when having a more favourable gale from the North, I tacked and stood to the East; the latitude being $33^{\circ} 40'$, and the longitude $198^{\circ} 50'$ East. We had light airs and calms by turns, till noon the next day, when the wind began to freshen at East South East, and I again stood to the North East. But as the wind often veered to East and East North East, we frequently made no better than a northerly course; nay sometimes to the Westward of North. But the hopes of the wind coming more Southerly, or of meeting with it from the Westward, a little without the Tropic, as I had experienced in my former visits to this ocean, encouraged me to continue this course. Indeed it was necessary that I should run all risks, as my proceeding to the North this year, in prosecution of the principal object of the voyage, depended entirely on my making a quick passage to Otaheite, or the Society Islands.

Sunday 16.

Monday 17.

The wind continued invariably fixed at East South East, or seldom shifting above two points on either side. It also blew very faint, so that it was the 27th before we crossed the Tropic, and then we were only in the longitude of $201^{\circ} 23'$ East, which was nine degrees to the Westward of

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our intended port. In all this run we saw nothing, except now and then a Tropic bird, that could induce us to think we had sailed near any land. In the latitude of $34^{\circ} 20'$, longitude 199° , we passed the trunk of a large tree, which was covered with barnacles; a sign that it had been long at sea.

Saturday 29.

On the 29th, at ten in the morning, as we were standing to the North East, the Discovery made the signal of seeing land. We saw it from the mast-head almost the same moment, bearing North East by East by compass. We soon discovered it to be an island of no great extent, and stood for it till sunset, when it bore North North East, distant about two or three leagues.

Sunday 30.

The night was spent in standing off and on, and at day-break the next morning, I bore up for the lee or West side of the island, as neither anchorage nor landing appeared to be practicable on the South side, on account of a great surf*, which broke every where with violence against the shore, or against the reef that surrounded it.

We presently found that the island was inhabited, and saw several people, on a point of the land we had passed, wading to the reef, where, as they found the ship leaving them quickly, they remained. But others, who soon appeared in different parts, followed her course; and sometimes several of them collected into small bodies, who made a shouting noise all together, nearly after the manner of the inhabitants of New Zealand.

Between seven and eight o'clock, we were at the West North West part of the island, and, being near the shore, we

* A very ingenious and satisfactory account of the cause of the surf, is to be met with in Marsden's History of Sumatra, p. 29. 32.

could.

could perceive with our glasses, that several of the natives, who appeared upon a sandy beach, were all armed with long spears and clubs, which they brandished in the air with signs of threatening, or, as some on board interpreted their attitudes, with invitations to land. Most of them appeared naked, except having a sort of girdle, which, being brought up between the thighs, covered that part of the body. But some of them had pieces of cloth of different colours, white, striped, or chequered, which they wore as a garment, thrown about their shoulders. And almost all of them had a white wrapper about their heads, not much unlike a turban; or, in some instances, like a high conical cap. We could also perceive that they were of a tawny colour, and in general of a middling stature, but robust, and inclining to corpulence.

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At this time, a small canoe was launched in a great hurry from the further end of the beach, and a man getting into it, put off, as with a view to reach the ship. On perceiving this, I brought to, that we might receive the visit; but the man's resolution failing, he soon returned toward the beach, where, after some time, another man joined him in the canoe; and then they both paddled toward us. They stopt short, however, as if afraid to approach, until Omai, who addressed them in the Otaheite language, in some measure quieted their apprehensions. They then came near enough to take some beads and nails, which were tied to a piece of wood, and thrown into the canoe. They seemed afraid to touch these things, and put the piece of wood aside without untying them. This, however, might arise from superstition; for Omai told us, that when they saw us offering them presents, they asked something for their *Eatooa*, or god. He also, perhaps improperly,



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perly, put the question to them, Whether they ever eat human flesh? which they answered in the negative, with a mixture of indignation and abhorrence. One of them, whose name was Mourooa, being asked how he came by a scar on his forehead, told us that it was the consequence of a wound he had got in fighting with the people of an island, which lies to the North Eastward, who sometimes came to invade them. They afterward took hold of a rope. Still, however, they would not venture on board; but told Omai, who understood them pretty well, that their countrymen on shore had given them this caution, at the same time directing them to inquire, from whence our ship came, and to learn the name of the Captain. On our part, we inquired the name of the island, which they called *Mangya* or *Mangeea*; and sometimes added to it *Nooe, nai, nairwa*. The name of their Chief, they said, was Orooaeeeka.

Mourooa was lusty and well made, but not very tall. His features were agreeable, and his disposition seemingly no less so; for he made several droll gesticulations, which indicated both good-nature and a share of humour. He also made others which seemed of a serious kind, and repeated some words with a devout air, before he ventured to lay hold of the rope at the ship's stern; which was probably to recommend himself to the protection of some Divinity. His colour was nearly of the same cast with that common to the most southern Europeans. The other man was not so handsome. Both of them had strong, straight hair, of a jet colour, tied together on the crown of the head with a bit of cloth. They wore such girdles as we had perceived about those on shore, and we found they were a substance made from the *Morus papyrifera*, in the same manner as at the other islands of this ocean. It was glazed

glazed like the sort used by the natives of the Friendly Islands; but the cloth on their heads was white, like that which is found at Otaheite. They had on, a kind of sandals, made of a grassy substance interwoven, which we also observed were worn by those who stood upon the beach; and, as we supposed, intended to defend their feet against the rough coral rock. Their beards were long; and the inside of their arms, from the shoulder to the elbow, and some other parts, were punctured or *tatoed*, after the manner of the inhabitants of almost all the other islands in the South Sea. The lobe of their ears was pierced, or rather slit, and to such a length, that one of them stuck there a knife and some beads, which he had received from us; and the same person had two polished pearl-shells, and a bunch of human hair, loosely twisted, hanging about his neck, which was the only ornament we observed. The canoe they came in (which was the only one we saw), was not above ten feet long, and very narrow; but both strong and neatly made. The forepart had a flat board fastened over it, and projecting out, to prevent the sea getting in on plunging, like the small *Evaas* at Otaheite; but it had an upright stern, about five feet high, like some in New Zealand; and the upper end of this stern-post was forked. The lower part of the canoe was of white wood; but the upper was black, and their paddles, made of wood of the same colour, not above three feet long, broad at one end, and blunted. They paddled either end of the canoe forward indifferently; and only turned about their faces to paddle the contrary way.

We now stood off and on; and as soon as the ships were in a proper station, about ten o'clock I ordered two boats, one of them from the *Discovery*, to sound the coast, and to endeavour

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endeavour to find a landing-place. With this view, I went in one of them myself, taking with me such articles to give the natives, as I thought might serve to gain their good-will. I had no sooner put off from the ship, than the canoe, with the two men, which had left us not long before, paddled towards my boat; and, having come alongside, Mourooa stepped into her, without being asked, and without a moment's hesitation.

Omai, who was with me, was ordered to inquire of him, where we could land; and he directed us to two different places. But I saw, with regret, that the attempt could not be made at either place, unless at the risk of having our boats filled with water, or even staved to pieces. Nor were we more fortunate in our search for anchorage; for we could find no bottom, till within a cable's length of the breakers. There we met with from forty to twenty fathoms depth, over sharp coral rocks; so that anchoring would have been attended with much more danger than landing.

While we were thus employed in reconnoitring the shore, great numbers of the natives thronged down upon the reef, all armed as above mentioned. Mourooa, who was now in my boat, probably thinking that this warlike appearance hindered us from landing, ordered them to retire back. As many of them complied, I judged he must be a person of some consequence among them. Indeed, if we understood him right, he was the king's brother. So great was the curiosity of several of them, that they took to the water, and, swimming off to the boats, came on board them without reserve. Nay, we found it difficult to keep them out; and still more difficult to prevent their carrying off every thing they could lay their hands upon.



upon. At length, when they perceived that we were returning to the ships, they all left us, except our original visiter Mourooa. He, though not without evident signs of fear, kept his place in my boat, and accompanied me on board the ship.

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The cattle and other new objects, that presented themselves to him there, did not strike him with so much surprise as one might have expected. Perhaps his mind was too much taken up about his own safety, to allow him to attend to other things. It is certain, that he seemed very uneasy; and the ship, on our getting on board, happening to be standing off shore, this circumstance made him the more so. I could get but little new information from him; and therefore, after he had made a short stay, I ordered a boat to carry him in toward the land. As soon as he got out of the cabin, he happened to stumble over one of the goats. His curiosity now overcoming his fear, he stopped, looked at it, and asked Omai, what bird this was? and not receiving an immediate answer from him, he repeated the question to some of the people upon deck. The boat having conveyed him pretty near to the surf, he leaped into the sea, and swam ashore. He had no sooner landed, than the multitude of his countrymen gathered round him, as if with an eager curiosity to learn from him what he had seen; and in this situation they remained, when we lost sight of them. As soon as the boat returned, we hoisted her in, and made sail from the land to the Northward.

Thus were we obliged to leave, unvisited, this fine island, which seemed capable of supplying all our wants. It lies in the latitude of $21^{\circ} 57'$ South; and in the longitude of $201^{\circ} 53'$ East. Such parts of the coast, as fell under our



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observation, are guarded by a reef of coral rock, on the outside of which the sea is of an unfathomable depth. It is full five leagues in circuit, and of a moderate and pretty equal height; though, in clear weather, it may be certainly seen at the distance of ten leagues; for we had not lost sight of it at night, when we had run above seven leagues, and the weather was cloudy. In the middle, it rises into little hills, from whence there is a gentle descent to the shore, which, at the South West part, is steep, though not above ten or twelve feet high; and has several excavations made by the beating of the waves against a brownish sand-stone of which it is composed. The descent here is covered with trees of a deep green colour, very thick, but not high, which seem all of one sort, unless nearest the shore, where there are great numbers of that species of *dracena* found in the woods of New Zealand, which are also scattered in some other places. On the North West part, the shore, as we mentioned above, ends in a sandy beach; beyond which the land is broken down into small chasms or gullies, and has a broad border of trees resembling tall willows; which, from its regularity, might be supposed a work of art, did not its extent forbid us to think so. Farther up on the ascent, the trees were of the deep green mentioned before. Some of us supposed these to be the *rima*, intermixed with low cocoa palms; and a few of some other sorts. They seemed not so thick as on the South West part, and higher; which appearance might be owing to our nearer approach to the shore. On the little hills, were some trees of a taller sort, thinly scattered; but the other parts of them were either bare, and of a reddish colour, or covered with something like fern. Upon the whole, the island has a pretty aspect, and might be made a beautiful spot by cultivation.



As the inhabitants seemed to be both numerous and well fed, such articles of provision as the island produces must be in great plenty. It might, however, be a matter of curiosity to know, particularly, their method of subsistence; for our friend Mourooa told us, that they had no animals, as hogs and dogs, both which, however, they had heard of; but acknowledged they had plantains, bread-fruit, and taro. The only birds we saw, were some white egg-birds, terns, and noddies; and one white heron, on the shore.

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The language of the inhabitants of Mangeea is a dialect of that spoken at Otaheite; though their pronunciation, as that of the New Zealanders, be more guttural. Some of their words, of which two or three are perhaps peculiar to this island, are here subjoined, as taken, by Mr. Anderson, from Omai, who had learnt them in his conversations with Mourooa. The Otaheite words, where there is any resemblance, are placed opposite.

English.	Mangeea.	Otaheite.
<i>A cocoa nut,</i>	Eakkaree,	Aree.
<i>Bread-fruit,</i>	Kooroo,	Ooroo.
<i>A canoe,</i>	Ewakka,	Evaa.
<i>Friend,</i>	Nao, mou.	
<i>A man,</i>	Taata, or Tangata,	Taata.
<i>Cloth, or cloth plant,</i>	Taia, taia aoutee,	Eoute.
<i>Good,</i>	Mata,	Myty.
<i>A club,</i>	Pooroohee.	
<i>Yes,</i>	Aee,	Ai.
<i>No,</i>	Aoure,	Aoure.
<i>A spear,</i>	Heyhey.	
<i>A fight, or battle,</i>	Etamagee,	Tamace.
<i>A woman,</i>	Waheine,	Waheine.



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English.	Mangeea.	Otaheite.
<i>A daughter,</i>	Maheine,	Maheine.
<i>The sun,</i>	Heetaia matooa.	
<i>I,</i>	Ou,	Wou.
<i>The shore,</i>	Euta,	Euta.
<i>What is that?</i>	Ehataieee?	Owytaiiecoa?
<i>There,</i>	Oo.	
<i>A chief,</i>	Ereekec,	Eree.
<i>Great, or powerful,</i>	Manna (<i>an adjunct</i> <i>to the last</i>).	
<i>To kiss,</i>	Ooma.	

The natives of Mangeea seem to resemble those of Otaheite and the Marquesas in the beauty of their persons, more than any other nation I have seen in these seas; having a smooth skin, and not being muscular. Their general disposition also corresponds, as far as we had opportunities of judging, with that which distinguishes the first mentioned people. For they are not only cheerful, but, as Mourooa shewed us, are acquainted with all the lascivious gesticulations which the Otaheiteans practise in their dances. It may also be supposed, that their method of living is similar. For, though the nature of the country prevented our seeing many of their habitations, we observed one house near the beach, which much resembled, in its mode of construction, those of Otaheite. It was pleasantly situated in a grove of trees, and appeared to be about thirty feet long, and seven or eight high, with an open end, which represented an ellipse divided transversely. Before it, was spread something white on a few bushes; which we conjectured to be a fishing net, and, to appearance, of a very delicate texture.

They salute strangers much after the manner of the New Zealanders, by joining noses; adding, however, the additional ceremony of taking the hand of the person to whom they are paying civilities, and rubbing it with a degree of force upon their nose and mouth*.

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* The inhabitants of the Palaos, New Philippine, or rather Caroline Islands, at the distance of almost fifteen hundred leagues from Mangeea, have the same mode of salutation. "Leur civilité, & la marque de leur respect, consiste à prendre la main ou le pied de celui à qui ils veulent faire honneur, & s'en frotter doucement tout le visage." *Lettres Edifiantes & Curieuses*, Tom. xv. p. 208. Edit. 1781.

