

**THE HISTORY OF  
RASSELAS, PRINCE OF  
ABYSSINIA: A TALE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649605026

The History of Rasselas, Prince of Abyssinia: A Tale by Samuel Johnson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**SAMUEL JOHNSON**

**THE HISTORY OF  
RASSELAS, PRINCE OF  
ABYSSINIA: A TALE**



THE  
HISTORY OF RASSELAS,  
PRINCE OF ABYSSINIA.  
A TALE.

---

BY  
SAMUEL JOHNSON, LL.D.

---

LONDON :  
SOLD AT THE DEPOSITORY OF THE SOCIETY,  
GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS; AT 4, ROYAL EXCHANGE  
AND BY ALL BOOKSELLERS.

1846.



LONDON:

Printed by S. & J. BENTLEY, WILSON, and FLETCHER,  
Bangor House, Shoe Lane.

## CONTENTS.

---

CHAP.	PAGE
1 Description of a palace in a valley . . . . .	1
2 The discontent of Rasselas in the happy valley . . . . .	5
3 The wants of him that wants nothing . . . . .	9
4 The prince continues to grieve and muse . . . . .	11
5 The prince meditates his escape . . . . .	16
6 A dissertation on the art of flying . . . . .	18
7 The prince finds a man of learning . . . . .	23
8 The history of Imlac . . . . .	25
9 The history of Imlac continued . . . . .	30
10 Imlac's history continued. A dissertation upon poetry . . . . .	34
11 Imlac's narrative continued. A hint on pilgrimage . . . . .	38
12 The story of Imlac continued . . . . .	42
13 Rasselas discovers the means of escape . . . . .	48
14 Rasselas and Imlac receive an unexpected visit . . . . .	51
15 The prince and princess leave the valley, and see many wonders . . . . .	53
16 They enter Cairo, and find every man happy . . . . .	56
17 The prince associates with young men of spirit and gaiety. . . . .	60

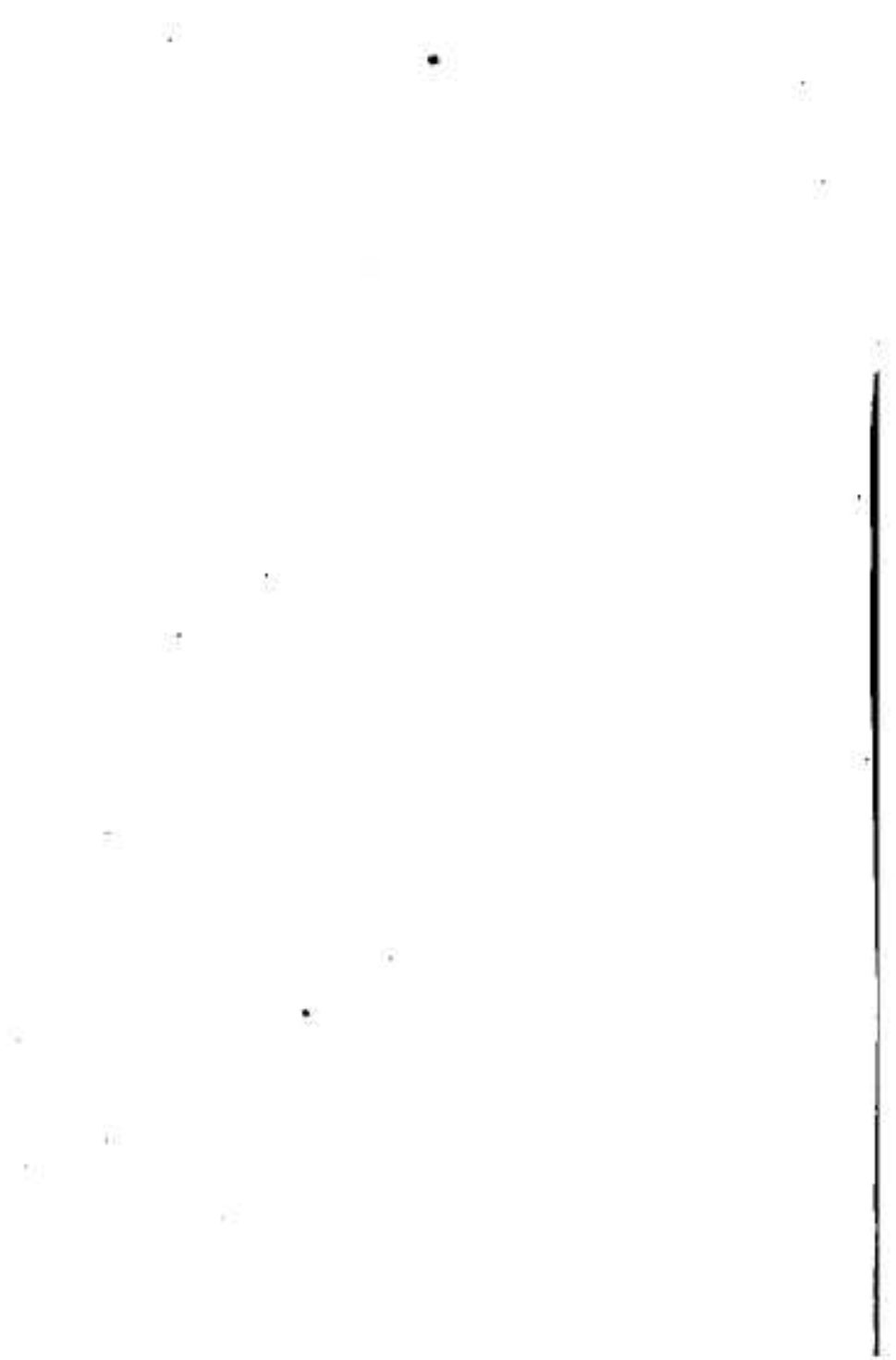
CHAP.	PAGE
18 The prince finds a wise and happy man . . . . .	62
19 A glimpse of pastoral life . . . . .	66
20 The danger of prosperity . . . . .	68
21 The happiness of solitude. The hermit's history . . . . .	70
22 The happiness of a life led according to nature . . . . .	74
23 The prince and his sister divide between them the work of observation . . . . .	77
24 The prince examines the happiness of high stations . . . . .	79
25 The princess pursues her inquiry with more diligence than success . . . . .	81
26 The princess continues her remarks upon private life . . . . .	84
27 Disquisition upon greatness . . . . .	86
28 Rasselas and Nekayah continue their conversation . . . . .	91
29 The debate of marriage continued . . . . .	95
30 Imlac enters, and changes the conversation . . . . .	100
31 They visit the pyramids . . . . .	104
32 They enter the pyramid . . . . .	107
33 The princess meets with an unexpected misfortune . . . . .	109
34 They return to Cairo without Pekuah . . . . .	110
35 The princess languishes for want of Pekuah . . . . .	114
36 Pekuah is still remembered. The progress of sorrow . . . . .	119
37 The princess hears news of Pekuah . . . . .	120
38 The adventures of the lady Pekuah . . . . .	123
39 The adventures of Pekuah continued . . . . .	128
40 The history of a man of learning . . . . .	135
41 The astronomer discovers the cause of his uncer- tainty . . . . .	138
42 The opinion of the astronomer is explained and justi- fied . . . . .	140
43 The astronomer leaves Imlac his directions . . . . .	142



## CONTENTS.

v

CHAP.	PAGE
44 The dangerous prevalence of imagination .	144
45 They discourse with an old man . . .	147
46 The princess and Pekuah visit the astronomer .	151
47 The prince enters, and brings a new topic .	159
48 Imlac discourses on the nature of the soul .	164
49 The conclusion, in which nothing is concluded .	169



THE  
HISTORY OF RASSELAS,  
PRINCE OF ABYSSINIA.

---

CHAPTER I.

DESCRIPTION OF A PALACE IN A VALLEY.

YE who listen with credulity to the whispers of fancy, and pursue with eagerness the phantoms of hope; who expect that age will perform the promises of youth, and that the deficiencies of the present day will be supplied by the morrow; attend to the history of Rasselas, prince of Abyssinia.

Rasselas was the fourth son of the mighty emperor, in whose dominions the Father of Waters begins his course; whose bounty pours down the streams of plenty, and scatters over half the world the harvests of Egypt.