

**TRAVELS TO DISCOVER THE  
SOURCE OF THE NILE: IN THE  
YEARS 1768, 1769, 1770,  
1771, 1772, & 1773. VOL. VIII**

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Travels to Discover the Source of the Nile: In the Years 1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, & 1773. Vol. VIII by James Bruce

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**JAMES BRUCE**

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YEARS 1768, 1769, 1770,  
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# TRAVELS

TO DISCOVER

## THE SOURCE OF THE NILE,

IN THE YEARS

1768, 1769, 1770, 1771, 1772, & 1773.

• BY

JAMES BRUCE OF KINNAIRD, Esq.  
F. R. S.

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*THE THIRD EDITION,*  
CORRECTED AND ENLARGED.

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TO WHICH IS PREFIXED

A LIFE OF THE AUTHOR.

VOL. VIII.

CONTAINING THE PLATES AND MAPS.

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#### EXPLANATIONS OF PARTICULAR PLATES.

Plates 2. and 3. The portraits of Ozoro Esther, Tecla Mariam, Keffa Yasous, Woodage Asahel, &c. are engraved from drawings made for Mr Bruce at Gondar by L. Balugani. Mr Bruce had a volume of finished drawings of the natives of the different countries in which he travelled; but this was unfortunately lost some time after his return to Scotland, and nothing remains but a few of the original sketches. The engravings are made from these; but as the sketches are not coloured, it is uncertain whether the tint of the Abyssinian complexion is accurately represented. The features of the greater part of the Abyssinians and Arabs are as elegant as those of Europeans; but the colour varies exceedingly, on account of their intermarriages with negroes. Some are nearly black; others, as the Agows and Galla, are red or copper-coloured, which is most prevalent; and not a few, particularly those of high rank, are not of so dark a colour

as the nations in the south of Europe. Mr Bruce describes the complexion of the king, Vol. IV. p. 193, as fairer than that of a Neapolitan, or Portuguese. Many of the Abyssinian and Arab women would be reckoned beautiful in Europe; but the ideas entertained in the East respecting beauty are very different from ours. The Abyssinian ladies dress at times in the Turkish or Mahometan style, which has of late been introduced into our own country. Keffa Yasous and Woodage Asahel wear the horn described in Vol. IV. p. 411.

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PLATE XV.

*Explanation of the Plan of the first Battle of Serbraros,  
Fought 16th May, 1771.*

1. King's palace, and high walls surrounding it.
2. Ashoa, public place where the troops assemble, and gunpowder is sold, and where public executions are made.
3. Hamar Noh, Noah's ark, a church.
4. A close quarter over a precipice on the west, to which the merchants carry their effects, upon sudden revolutions, especially those that have flour and provisions.
5. Abbo, where the Romish priests were stoned, and lie unburied.
6. Debra Berhan, a famous church upon the highest part of the hill over the Angrab.
7. Riggobee Ber, or Pigeons' Pass, a rocky part of the town, fortified in time of troubles.
8. Abbo, a great street, called from the church and saint of that name.
9. Mahometan town on the river Kaha.
10. King's palace on the river Kaha.
11. Brook of St Raphael.
12. The river Angrab\*.

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\* From the plan and description given here, and several passages in the work, the reader may form a tolerable idea of the situation and principal parts of Gondar. The church of Debra Berhan, on the precipice over the Angrab, was founded by king Zera Jacob long before the city was built. The level plain on the top of the hill was chosen by Facilidas

- A, The centre commanded by the king and Guebra Christos, encamped on the south of the hill Serbraxos.
- B, Ras Michael, who leads the van, encamped upon the south-east, and highest part of the hill.
- C, Kefla Yasous, who commands the rear, encamped upon the north-west.
- D, Ras Michael, marching from his camp at Serbraxos, is stopt at the mouth of the valley, and engages Powussen and the troops of Begemder at E.
- E, The rebel troops of Begemder, engaging Ras Michael.
- F, Ayo Engedan, with a thousand men, marches from the king's camp to reinforce Michael at the mouth of the valley.
- G, Powussen's camp at Correva.
- H, A reinforcement marches from Powussen's camp, and joins the rebels engaged with Michael at E.
- I, Ras Michael, beat back into the valley, retires under cover of his musketry at K and L., which stops the rebels advancing.
- M, Kefla Yasous joins the king, marches to the head of the valley, wheels to the right, and faces to the westward.
- N, The king's horse upon the ford of the Mariam, facing westward.
- OO, Two bodies of the king's musketry, placed to defend the ford of the Mariam.
- P, Ayabdar's army encamped.
- QQ, Ayabdar's army marches from the camp, and halts a small distance from the king's horse at NN, but retreats to SS without attacking them. All but the Edjow Galla, who remain at T, and are all cut to pieces by the king's horse, and the musketry on the hill.

and Hanneb for the site of a palace, having a large space of ground about it, in imitation of the royal manner of encamping. The market-place in front is conformable to the practice mentioned Vol. III. p. 32. The precipices on different sides of the hill are occupied as posts of defence in time of war. The houses are mostly built with clay. The streets are generally large; but no care seems to be taken to preserve the cleanliness of the city. The executions in the Ashosh, otherways called Adebabye, or public square, and the quantities of human flesh exposed there at the end of every campaign, are proofs of this inattention, and of the barbarous state of Abyssinian society. After Debra Berhan, the principal churches of Gondar are that of Ledeta, or the Nativity, situated on the Kaha; that of Tecla baimanont, on a hill without the town; the church of Hamar Nob, or Nosh's Ark; the church of Kedus Abba, and Keous Raphael. A plain, in the way from the Kaha to the palace called Aylo Meidan, is the usual place of exercise for the troops. The Abusa's house is at Kedus Raphael, in the north-east quarter of the city. Debra Berhan is on the south-east, and Kr-us Raphael on the north-east of the town. At Adebabye (gr. Dippabye) is a large daroo tree, on which they hang the heads and skeletons of traitors and criminals.