

Werk

Titel: Geography made easy

Autor: Morse, Jedidiah

Verlag: Hall

Ort: Boston

Jahr: 1791

Kollektion: Itineraria; Nordamericana

Digitalisiert: Niedersächsische Staats- und Universitätsbibliothek Göttingen

Werk Id: PPN247653810

PURL: <http://resolver.sub.uni-goettingen.de/purl?PPN247653810>

OPAC: <http://opac.sub.uni-goettingen.de/DB=1/PPN?PPN=247653810>

LOG Id: LOG_0074

LOG Titel: Arabia

LOG Typ: chapter

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A R A B I A.

BOUNDED north, by Turkey; east, by the gulfs of Persia and Ormus; south, by the straits of Babelmandel and the Indian ocean; west, by the Red sea. Length 1300, breadth 1200.

In that part of Arabia called the Holy Land, the inhabitants enjoy a pure and healthful air, and a fertile soil. The middle, called Arabia Deserta, is overspread with barren mountains, rocks and sandy deserts. But the southern parts, deservedly called the Happy, although the air is hot and unwholesome, is blessed with an excellent, and very fertile soil, producing balm of Gilead, manna, myrrh, cassia, aloes, frankincense, spikenard and other valuable gums; cinnamon, pepper, oranges, lemons, &c. The Arabians, like most of the Asiatics, are of a middling stature, thin, and of a swarthy complexion, with black hair and black eyes. They are much addicted to thieving. In 1750, a body of 50,000 Arabians attacked a caravan of merchants and pilgrims, returning from Mecca, killed 60,000 persons, and plundered them of every thing valuable, though escorted by a Turkish army. The Arabians in general are Mahometans, though there are some Pagans. They have many Princes, some tributary to the Turks, others independent. The Arabs are descended from Ishmael, of whose posterity it was foretold, that they should be invincible, and *have their hands against every man, and every man's hands against them.* The famous impostor Mahomet was born at Mecca in the 6th century. He fled to Medina A. D. 622. This is called the Hegira or Flight, from whence the Mahometans compute their time. He died 629, having propagated his doctrines through Arabia, Syria, Egypt and Persia, leaving two branches of his race, both esteemed divine by their subjects.