

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

## PART II.

---

WHEREIN ARE CONTAINED THE DEALINGS OF THE GREAT AFONSO  
DALBOQUERQUE WITH THE VICEROY : AND WHAT HE DID  
AFTER BEING INVESTED WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF  
INDIA, UNTIL THE FIRST TAKING OF GOA.

---

### CHAPTER I.

How he arrived at Cananor at the beginning of December, in the year fifteen hundred and eight : and required the Viceroy to deliver up to him the government of India, as the king D. Manuel ordered in his instructions, and what took place thereupon.

THE great Afonso Dalboquerque, on his arrival at Cananor, as I have mentioned, found the Viceroy there making his fleet ready to go and seek the *Rumes*, who were at Diu ; and as the Viceroy had already learned by Fernão Soares and Ruy da Cunha, captains in the fleet of Jorge de Aguiar (who had arrived but a few days before), that the King D. Manuel had ordered him to return that year to Portugal, leaving Afonso Dalboquerque as Governor of India, he was not much pleased with his arrival, nor was the other, either, pleased at seeing how good a treatment the captains who had deserted him at Ormuz had experienced at the hands of the Viceroy ; and thenceforward great dissensions began to grow up between them.

After the lapse of some days, Afonso Dalboquerque went to see the Viceroy, and told him, in the presence of Fernão Soarez and Ruy da Cunha, that since the King D. Manuel had ordered him to proceed to Portugal, and all the letters

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

and official documents came directed to himself, as Governor of India, he desired that he would hand the office over to him, according to the King's instructions, for they were already at the beginning of December, which was the proper time to start, and he had the ship *Betlem*, wherein he could make the voyage with great comfort, and six other ships to convoy her. The Viceroy replied that the period of his government would terminate in January next, and that when it was so terminated then he would deliver it over to him. When Afonso Dalboquerque perceived that this was the intention of the Viceroy, he would not have any more words with him, but returned to his own house and sent Antonio de Sintra, who acted as his secretary (Gaspar Pereira having remained behind, sick, at Cochim), to show him the powers and diplomas he held from the King D. Manuel, fastened up and sealed just as they had been brought. These Antonio de Sintra opened at the desire of Afonso Dalboquerque, for the superscriptions stated that they were to be opened whenever he wished; and being thus opened, he carried them before the Viceroy, who, after having read them, told Antonio de Sintra he had done very wrong in opening these provisions without first of all informing him, and Afonso Dalboquerque had greatly erred in the request he had preferred in the presence of Fernão Soarez and Ruy da Cunha; he must therefore inform him the best thing he could do would be to fasten them up again, and so keep them in secret until his return from Diu.

Antonio de Sintra delivered this message, and told his master that if it were necessary to fasten up all those documents again, he would do so in such a manner that they would seem as though they had never been opened. Afonso Dalboquerque said to him:—"If this is so, then, Antonio de Sintra, it is not the first time you have done such a thing; I am not the kind of man to fasten up again the powers and diplomas of the King, whereby he orders me to

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

govern India, after they have been opened. Tell the Viceroy that since the disposition of the fleet rests with me, as I am Governor of India, he must deliver it over to me, that I may go in search of the *Rumes*." The Viceroy sent word to him, saying that he himself was already prepared and determined to prosecute that expedition, but he (Afonso) was to remain where he was in Cananor, or go to Cochim and rest awhile from his past labours; but as soon as he returned he would deliver the office up to him, according to the King's instructions. Afonso Dalboquerque replied that he would not have time to go and return within the year, so as to be able to go back to Portugal; but that if he was determined to stay in India he might govern the country, so long as he handed over to him the fleet, that he might have charge of it.

The Viceroy, being weary of these constant messages, said to Antonio de Sintra: "That will do very well for the present," and gave him no other reply. On the following day, in the morning, Lourenço de Brito, Captain of the Fortress of Cananor, paid a visit to Afonso Dalboquerque, having been instructed by the Viceroy, and in course of conversation began telling him not to trouble himself with requisitions, nor even to talk about such things, for the men were very desirous that the Viceroy should retain the command; if he pushed the matter very hardly, and put it to the vote of the captains, all would incline to this opinion; and this he told him, as he said, out of a desire to serve him and be his friend, for he desired there should be no differences between him and the Viceroy. Afonso Dalboquerque replied that as he had not asked him for any advice, he might keep it to himself, for he had taken plenty of counsel with the powers and diplomas of the King, D. Manuel, which he had with him; his own advice to the Viceroy was to conform to these documents, and not make use of go-betweens.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

When this had taken place, and Afonso Dalboquerque perceived that the Viceroy would not deliver India to him, but that the captains who fled away and left him in the war with Ormuz did many discourteous acts towards him, being encouraged to them by the Viceroy; in order to avoid these and similar unpleasantnesses, he proceeded to embark in the ship *Cirne*, which had brought him from Ormuz, and sailed away for Cochim. And in consequence of the leaky condition of the ship, he was almost cast away on the voyage, but reached the place on the fourteenth of December, and remained on board for five days, waiting until some houses for his occupation could be found. On his arrival, Gaspar Pereira, Rui de Araujo, and the other officers of the factory, came to see him, and after giving them an account of what had passed with the Viceroy in Cananor, he exhibited to them the powers and diplomas he held from the King D. Manuel, to be Captain-General of India, telling them he did not show these deeds of the King to force obedience from them, but to let them feel quite sure that he had demanded of the Viceroy that he should yield up the command and government of India and hand it over to him, according to the orders of the King D. Manuel, for he did not wish to be the cause of any faction: for already some people had come to him in Cananor and advised him to call himself Captain-General of India, but he would not do so, to avoid party differences; but he would swear to them that he had experienced such treatment at Cananor that he feared to encounter dishonourable outrage, or even death, at their hands.

When Afonso Dalboquerque departed, the Viceroy, fearing lest he should send complaints to the King by the ships which would make the voyage to Portugal that year, wrote to the Prior do Crato, his brother, to unite with the Baron and with the Governor D. Alvaro de Castro, and all three speak to the King, and tell him that his stay in India was

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

caused by all the captains and noblemen requesting him not to leave, for if Afonso Dalboquerque remained as governor there, the Moors would immediately revolt against us, and therefore he had not delivered over to him the command until his Highness should be informed of what was going on, and forthwith arrange what should be most advantageous to his interest; as for the evil that Dalboquerque had done in the kingdom of Ormuz, Afonso Lopez da Costa (who was sent specially for this purpose) could give him a true account, as could also Gaspar Rodriguez, the interpreter, who would state that Ormuz was lost to them by reason of his fault and bad government. The Viceroy sent Manuel Fragoso with these letters to Cochim in the *fusta*, which had brought Nuno Vaz from Ormuz; and wrote to Gaspar Pereira that he earnestly desired he would take care to let no differences arise between Afonso Dalboquerque and Jorge Barreto, for he did not know whether they were friendly; and that, to avoid scandal, he would not give him quarters in the fortress, but let him have the best houses in the town to occupy (provided they were not in the possession of João da Nova), and he would proceed to send him some notice of the faults laid to the charge of Afonso Dalboquerque, to show him them; and he was to endeavour to persuade him to appropriate everything he could get possession of in the way of pay and goods, when he was Chief Captain of India, for he had desired to offer him this course of action, only he had not dared to do so when he saw how proudly he carried himself, though he had no cause for it. Afonso Dalboquerque, also, for his part and in his own manner, wrote to the King, sending him the affidavits he had ordered to be made out concerning the flight of the captains, and begged him to punish them. The King D. Manuel was so angry at this desertion of the captains that, on the arrival of Afonso Lopez da Costa, he ordered him immediately to be imprisoned in his castle, and would have

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

had him executed for it, if he had not got off through the powerful influence of his friends.

---

## CHAPTER II.

How Gaspar Pereira carried the appointments, which the Viceroy gave him, to the great Afonso Dalboquerque, and of the reply he received.

When the days had elapsed which Afonso Dalboquerque spent in the flagship, waiting while they emptied the houses of Gonçalo Fernandez, wherein he was to lodge, he went on shore; and Gaspar Pereira went immediately to see him, and told him that the Viceroy, previous to his departure from Cananor to Diu, had sent him some drafts of charges made against him, which he would show him, and if he would give him permission to lay them before him, or serve them upon him, he would do so; but if not, they could remain where they were until the arrival of the Viceroy, for he himself had nothing to do in the matter except as a messenger. Afonso Dalboquerque bade him give them to him, for he had come from Cananor so tired of his dealings with the Viceroy that unless they contained anything to alarm him he would prepare to answer them.

The first charge was that he had delayed sending to him to give up his power which the King had given him, through Antonio de Sintra, in Cananor, and making the request to him which he had made in the presence of Fernão Soarez and Ruy da Cunha, Captains of the King. Afonso Dalboquerque replied that he did not comprehend why he should be so alarmed at the request, when he so often told him that the King had written to him to return to Portugal and deliver over the government of India to himself; what was much more astonishing to him was that he should come to Cananor and find him determined not to deliver it over to him, as he had done.

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

The second charge was that he had quitted Çocotora without the King's order, and made his way to India, though he had written to him, through Tristão da Cunha, that his Highness ordered him to take great care of the place, and for this reason he had omitted to send any necessary supplies thither. Afonso Dalboquerque answered that on arriving at Cananor he had stated that the reason of his coming was because the weather did not permit any other voyage, for in the months of November and December one could not run from Ormuz to the Island of Çocotora, as the winds were south-east and the weather very rough: another thing, also, which forced him to come to India was the quantity of water which the *Rey Grande* and the *Cirne* made, lest they should be lost; and, moreover, the time was now come wherein the King had ordered him to receive the government of India. And since he demanded so strict an account of what he had done, he first ought to have taken an account from the captains who had deserted their posts in the war, and from Manuel Telez, who had carried off the supplies entrusted to him for carriage to the Fortress of Çocotora in his ship; but these captains he retained in favour before his eyes. And though he desired very often to give an account of himself in Cananor, yet the Viceroy would never listen to him or look at his instructions, because in them the King commanded him that if no clause in them bore upon a particular state of affairs, in that case he was to do as would be most advantageous to his interest; and if he was not pleased with his coming to India without the King's orders, how could he, on his part, be pleased with the Viceroy's stay in India and unwillingness to deliver up to him the government of it, not caring to follow his orders and instructions? As for the letter he had forwarded to him through Tristão da Cunha, it was to hand, as well as another, wherein he gave him an account of the flight of his captains, begging him to send back ships and men and other captains; wherein,

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

also, he gave him an account of the state in which he then was; to this one never yet had he seen any reply, nor had he assisted him, as he was obliged to do by virtue of his position as Captain-General of the Indies; but, on the contrary, he had seen his (the Viceroy's) letters to the King and Cogear, making use of very dishonourable expressions respecting his own person, holding his labours as of little value, extolling the actions of the captains, and stating his good reception of them.

The third charge made against Afonso Dalboquerque was that he had blockaded Ormuz and prohibited all communications during the period protected by the safeguard which he had himself agreed upon, and Cogear had sent the document to demonstrate this fact to him, but he would not return it to him again. To this Afonso Dalboquerque replied that it was true that during this protected period he had surrounded the Island of Ormuz, and not permitted any one to enter or leave the place, for he was obliged to do so for the safety of his own men and his fleet, and to remain there waiting for the succour and aid of the King D. Manuel, for in the letters which he had found in Ormuz, on his return from Çocotora, directed to Cogear, he had indeed perceived how much help he was likely to give him. Gaspar Rodriguez, the interpreter, was a true witness to a letter which Cogear had shown him, sealed with the arms of the King of Portugal, which was of no other import than to destroy all his labours, and spoke of himself as if he were a corsair, banished from the kingdom. When Cogear perceived how little value was set upon him, like a cunning man, he understood how matters lay, and knew how to take advantage of the opportunity; and it was not a thing likely to terrify him that some members of his company were telling him that he had done imprudently to humour him, since the captains who had deserted him with the complaint that they were not satisfied with the way the



Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

war was carried on, and that he had ordered them to fill up their freights, had come to be well treated by him; and those who had protected him and accompanied him in all his troubles and fortunes, like very true and faithful cavaliers, had found their prospects unimproved and their cargoes not laden. And if Cogeatar wished to reap the advantage of this armistice which he (Albuquerque) offered him, he, on his part, as was reasonable to expect, would be insured by Cogeatar; but he would desire that Cogeatar would keep to the arrangement, and he desired him to stop the discharge of arrows, for he was Chief Captain of the King of Portugal, in whose name the armistice had been entered into.

The fourth charge was that Cogeatar had sent, desiring of him a mutual order and assignation for an interview, and that he would not grant it. Afonso replied that he did not remember whether he had sent it him or not, and even if it were so, it was not right that it should have been given, for the order was for himself, concerning his proper duty according to circumstances, and that he had to give account to the King D. Manuel of what he had done, because he acted under his directions. And above all, he had given him a translation, signed and sealed, and an account of the manner in which his order had been received. Because, if perchance the ships and men sent thither by the King D. Manuel to help him had gone to seek him according to the orders promulgated when he first left Portugal, they would have known, on arriving at Ormuz, of the events that had taken place there.

The fifth charge was that he had taken a slave away from a Moorish merchant of Ormuz against his will. Afonso Dalboquerque replied that this was not so, but that a caravan of merchants had come from Persia to Ormuz, and a Moor brought in company with him a Christian youth from Ruxia, who, on seeing our ships, fled, and managed to reach them, and the Moor had demanded the surrender of the youth, but

Cambridge University Press

978-1-108-01145-7 - The Commentaries of the Great Afonso Dalboquerque, Second Viceroy of India: Translated from the Portuguese Edition of 1774, Volume 2

Afonso Albuquerque

Excerpt

[More information](#)

he was unwilling to give him up, because he was a Christian and he would not return with him, but for all that he had not remained in slavery, and it was not likely that such a man as he (Afonso Dalboquerque) was, would enslave a youth who had put himself under his protection under the name of a Christian.

And because Gaspar Pereira, besides these statements, told Afonso Dalboquerque other things which the Viceroy had ordered him to say by word of mouth—one of which was that he was to pay him all due to him for the time he was in India—Afonso Dalboquerque replied that he should make answer to the Viceroy that at the Court of the King of Portugal, whither both of them were proceeding, there was no place for tricks and artifices to entice him to sell his honour and personal dignity, but that he trusted, with God's help, to perform such services in those parts for the King, our Lord, whereby he might merit the favours of other titles more noble than that of Viceroy.

After Afonso Dalboquerque had replied to all those points above described, he ordered Gaspar Pereira to be called, and, in the presence of Ruy de Araujo and André Diaz and the other officers of the Factory at Cochim, who were with him, he gave him the answers, telling him that he was very much alarmed for him, since he had gathered, from the letters which the King had written to him, in his capacity of Secretary of India, wherein he ordered the Viceroy to return to Portugal, and him (Afonso) to remain as Governor, that he had so much dread that he was unwilling to perform the commands contained in the letters of his Highness, and that since the Viceroy would not deliver the government of India over to him, it was not for him to take it by the sword, but conformably to the orders of the King, his lord. Gaspar Pereira informed him that he had no doubt that the Viceroy would yield up the government on his arrival at Diu, for he had often expressed his intentions of doing so before the