

A Journey to Lilliput

Chapter 1 I arrive to Lilliput

My father had some land in the north of England, but it was not very much; besides, I was the youngest of five brothers. I left school when I was seventeen years old, because my father could not afford it any longer. I then went on the ship *Antelope*, which was sailing under Captain Pritchard for the South Seas. We set out from Bristol in May, 1700. For the first part of journey, we had an easy time.

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I will not put down everything that happened to us while on water. Suffice it to say that, on our way to the East Indies, a great wind carried us the wrong way so that we came to the north of Van Diemen's Land. Twelve of our men had died from the hard work and bad food, and of the rest none was very strong. One morning, it was raining so heavily that we could not see well, yet one of the men saw a rock very close to the ship. The wind was so strong that we were driven on it, and a great hole was made in the bottom of the ship. Six of us got a boat into the sea. But we were not strong enough, so the wind soon turned it over.

I do not know what happened to the others, but I believe that they were all lost. I myself was carried by the wind and water. I do not know which way I went – or how far.