

# The BABOON, properly so called\*.

IN man, the physiognomy is deceitful, and the figure of his body gives no indication of the qualities of his mind. But, in the brute creation, we may judge of the disposition by the aspect; for every internal quality appears externally. For example, in looking at the apes and baboons, it is easy to perceive, that the latter ought to be the most savage and mischievous. Their manners differ as much as their figures. The orang-outang has the greatest resemblance to man; and he is the most grave, docile, and intelligent of the whole race. The Barbary ape, which begins to recede from the human figure, and approaches to that of the brutes by his muzzle and canine teeth, is brisk, disobedient, and nasty. The baboons, who resemble man in the hands only, and who have a tail, sharp nails, a large muzzle, &c. have the air of ferocious beasts, which they

\* In Latin, *papio*; in English, *baboon*; in German, *parayon*; at the Cape of Good Hope, *cleur-lanua*; in French, *le papion*, or *babouin*.

*Papio*; *Gesner. Icon. Quad.* p. 76. *Belfon. Regn. Anim.* p. 192. *Simia sphinx, semicaudata, ore vibratilo, unguibus acuminiatis, naribus calvis*; *Lin. Syst. Nat.* p. 35. *Nota*, *Linnaeus* erred in making whiskers a distinctive character of this animal; for the real baboon has no whiskers. See our figure, which was drawn from the life.

really

really are. The baboon, of which a figure is here given, I saw alive. He was not perfectly hideous; and yet he excited a degree of horror. Perpetually grinding his teeth, fretting and chafing with rage, his owner was obliged to keep him confined in an iron cage, the bars of which he moved so powerfully with his hands, that he inspired the spectators with terror. He is a squat animal, whose compact body and nervous members indicate strength and agility. He is covered with long close hair, which gives him the appearance of being larger than he is in reality. His strength, however, is so great, that he would easily overcome one or several men, if not provided with arms\*. Besides, he is continually agitated by that passion which renders the gentlest animals ferocious. He is insolently salacious, affects to show himself in this situation, and seems to gratify his desires, *per manum suam*, before the whole world. This detestable action recalls the idea of vice, and renders disgusting the aspect of an animal, which Nature seems to have particularly devoted to such an uncommon species of impudence; for, in all

\* It is to this species that the animal called *trié, trié, trié, trié*, at Madagascar, ought to be referred. It is as large, says Fa-court, as a calf of two years old. It has a round head, and the face of a man. The fore and hind feet are like those of the ape. The hair is crisped, the tail short, and the ears resemble those of man. It is similar to the *renach* described by Ambroise Paré. It is a solitary animal, and much dreaded by the natives; *Voyage à Madagascar*, p. 151.

other

other animals, and even in man, she has covered these parts with a veil. In the baboon, on the contrary, they are perpetually naked, and the more conspicuous, because the rest of the body is covered with long hair. The buttocks are likewise naked, and of a blood red colour; the testicles are pendulous; the anus is uncovered, and the tail always elevated. He seems to be proud of all those nudities; for he presents his hind parts more frequently than his front, especially when he sees women, before whom he displays an effrontery so matchless, that it can originate from nothing but the most inordinate desire\*. The magot, and some others, have the same inclinations; but, as they are smaller and not so petulant, they are taught modesty by the whip. The baboon, however, is perfectly incorrigible, and nothing can tame him.

Notwithstanding the violence of their passion, these animals produce not in temperate climates.

\* *Papio*, animal ad libidinem pronum, cum mulieres videt alicuiusmodi suam ostendit.—*Papio* quem vidi vivum, ad nutum hand fecus, acque caput reliqua animalia, anum vertebat frequentius populo ostentans; *Géogr. Icon. Quod.* p. 77.—In the Philippine islands, the baboons are so salacious, that the women dare not go far from their own houses; *Voyage de Gennelli Carreri, tom. v. p. 209*.—The baboons have no hair on their buttocks, which are so full of cicatrices and scratches, that they seem to be even deprived of skin. These animals are inexcessively lascivious; *Descript. du Cap de Bonne-esperance, par Kallé, tom. III. p. 59*.—\* *Papio*, animal libidinofum mulieribus facile vim infer ens, ro-bustum et feroci; *Lin. Syst. Nat. p. 35*.

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The female generally brings forth but one young at a time, which she carries between her arms, in a manner fixed to her pap. Like women, she is subject to a periodical evacuation, which is common to her with the other female apes who have naked buttocks. These baboons, though mischievous and fierce, are not carnivorous. They live chiefly on fruits, roots, and feeds\*. They assemble in troops for the purpose of robbing gardens: They throw the fruit from hand to hand, and over the walls; and they make great havock in all the cultivated lands.

*Distinctive*

\* The baboons are passionately fond of raisins, apples, and, in general, of all fruits which grow in gardens. . . . Their teeth and paws render them formidable to dogs, who overcome them with difficulty, unless when excess of eating has made them heavy and inactive. — I remarked that they neither eat fish nor flesh, except when boiled or scalded, and then they devour both with avidity. — In their expeditions to rob orchards, gardens, or rice-yards, they generally go in troops. Some of them enter the inclosure, while others remain on the wall as sentinels, to give notice of any approaching danger. The rest of the troop are stationed without the garden, at convenient distances from each other, and thus form a line which extends from the place of pillage to that of their rendezvous. Matters being disposed in this manner, the baboons begin the operation; and throw to those on the wall, melons, pears, apples, pears, &c. Those on the wall throw these fruits to their neighbours below; and thus the spoils are handed along the whole line, which generally terminates on some mountain. They are so dexterous, and quick-sighted, that they seldom allow the fruit to fall in throwing it from one to another. All this is performed with profound silence and great dispatch. When the sentinels perceive any person, they cry;

PLATE CCLXIII.



*A. B. Schlegel.*

LARGE BABOON.



*Alfred Gould*

SMALL BABOON.

*Distinctive Characters of this Species.*

The baboon has cheek-pouches and large callosities on his buttocks, which are naked, and of a blood colour. His tail is arched, and about seven or eight inches long. The canine teeth are proportionally much longer and larger than those of man. The muzzle is very thick and long; the ears are naked; the body is massy and contracted; the members are thick and short; the organs of generation are naked and flesh-coloured. The hair is long, bushy, of a reddish brown, and pretty uniform over the whole body. He walks oftener on four than on two feet. When erect, he is three or four feet high. In this species, there seem to be races still larger, and others much smaller. We have given figures both of the large and small kinds, in which we can perceive no other difference than that of magnitude. This difference, however, proceeds not from age; for the small baboon appeared to be an adult as well as the large. The females are subject to the menstrual discharge\*.

and, at this signal, the whole troop fly off with astonishing rapidity; *Descript. du Cap de Bonne-esperance, par Kallér, tom. iii. p. 57.*

\* In August 1779, a male baboon, remarkable for its magnitude, strength, and beautiful colours, was exhibited at Edinburgh. It was generally thought to be a variety of the mandrill described by Gesner, Buffon, Ray, Linnaeus, and Brisson. But, as it differed from the mandrill of these authors in a num-

a number of characters, the Translator caused a drawing of it to be made. [See the plate.] The mandrill is said not to exceed two feet in length. But this baboon, when erect, was near five feet high. The mandrill is represented as a good-natured, though not a sportive, animal. This baboon, on the contrary, was exceedingly fierce, presented uniformly to the spectators the most threatening aspect, and attempted to seize every person who came within reach of his chain. On such occasions, he made a deep grunting noise, and tuffed up his head almost perpetually. The baboon described by Buffon 'presented his hind parts more frequently than his front, especially when he saw women.' But this baboon uniformly presented his face, and allowed no person to approach him behind. The Count de Buffon remarks, that the mandrill is an animal of the most disgusting deformity, and that he perpetually licks a foot which runs from his nose. But the baboon under consideration, was an animal of great beauty, and had no visible distillation from his nostrils.

Since writing the above, Mr. Pennant obligingly communicated to the Translator the proof sheets of a new and elegant edition of his excellent Synopsis of Quadrupeds, in which is contained the following accurate description of this animal, under the appellation of the *Great Baboon*.

## GREAT BABOON.

Papio; *Cyprer. Quad. p. 560.* Simia sphyx; *Lion. Syst. Nat. p. 35.* Le Choras. Simia mormon; *Africarum Schæfer. p. 92. tab. 8. Mus. LEV.*

'Baboon with hazel irides; ears small and naked; face canine, and very thick; middle of the face and forehead naked, and of a bright vermilion colour; tip of the nose of the same; is ended truncated like that of a hog: Sides of the nose broadly ribbed, and of a fine violet blue; the opening of the mouth small; cheeks, throat, and goat-like beard, yellow: Hair on the forehead is very long, turns back, is black, and forms a kind of pointed crest. Head, arms, and legs, covered with short hair, yellow and black intermixed; the breast with long, whitish, yellow hairs; the shoulders with long brown hair.

'Nails flat; feet and hands black: Tail four inches long, and very hairy: Buttocks bare, red, and fleshy; but the space about them is of a most elegant purple colour, which reaches to the inside of the upper part of the thighs.

'This was described from a stuffed specimen in Sir Ashton Lever's museum. In October 1779, a live animal of this species was shown at Chester, which differed a little in colour from the above, being in general much darker. Eyes much sunk in the head, and small. On the lateral side of each ear was a white line, pointing upwards. The hair on the forehead turned up, like a toupee. Feet black; in other respects resembled the former.

'In this I had an opportunity of examining the teeth. The cutting teeth were like those of the rest of the genus; but, in the upper and lower jaw, were two canines, or rather tusks, near three inches long, and exceedingly sharp and pointed.

'This animal was five feet high, of a most tremendous strength in all its parts; was exceedingly fierce, libidinous, and strong.

'Mr. Schreber says, that this species lives on succulent fruits, and on nuts; is very fond of eggs, and will put eight at once into its pouches, and, taking them out one by one, break them at the end, and swallow the yolk and white: Rejects all sediment, unless it be dressed: Would drink quantities of wine or brandy: Was less agile than other baboons: Very cleanly; for it would immediately sing its excrements out of its hut.

'That which was shown at Chester was particularly fond of cheese. Its voice was a kind of roar, not unlike that of a lion, but low and somewhat inward. It went upon all fours, and never stood on its hind legs, unless forced by the keeper; but would frequently sit on its rump in a crouching manner, and drop its arms before the belly.

'Inhabits the hotter parts of Africa; Pennant's *Synops. of Quad. edit. 2. in 4to. p. 173.*

To this description very little can be added. In the individual shown at Edinburgh, which was probably the same that Mr. Pennant afterwards saw at Chester, the colours of the face were distinct and unmixed. The ribbed cheeks were of a sky-blue colour. A vermilion line began a little above the eyes, and running down between them, and on each side of the



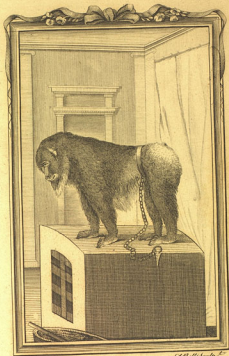
the nose, spread over the snout. The inside of the ears was blue, which, softening from purple, terminated in vermillion. The beard, at the roots, was of the same dark brown colour with that on the upper part of the body; but it soon changed into a deep orange, and ended in yellow. The hairs on the belly were of an ash-colour, and speckled like the sides of a partridge. The rump was of a vermillion colour; and the beautiful colours on the hips were only gradations from red to blue. If it had any callosities on the buttocks, they were not apparent. The penis was nearly of the same red colour with the rump; that of the testicles was more fiery, and softened into a light blue, which likewise spread over the inside of the thighs.—It was very fond of the ears of wheat, the grains of which it dexterously picked out, one by one, with its teeth.

Plate CCLXV.


*Ad. Hall & Co. del.*

MANDRILL.

Plate CCLXVI.



MANDRILL.