

"There Were Giants in Those Days."

The Bible mentions several races of giants, as the Rephaim, the Anakim, the Enims, the Zonim, and others. Frohne history also mentions giants; they gave seven feet of height to Hercules, their first hero, and in our days we have seen men eight feet high. The giant tomb of the Hays family, in 1785, measured eight feet some inches. The Emperor Maximilian was of that size; Skenius and Plinius, physicians of the last century, saw several of that stature; and Goporus saw a girl who was ten feet high.

The body of Orestes, according to the Greeks, was eleven feet and a half; the giant Gaius, brought from Arabia to Rome, under Claudius Caesar, was near ten feet; and the bones of second-century Pitho, keepers of the garden of Salust, were six inches shorter.

Funnam, a Scotman, who lived in the time of Eugene the second, King of Scotland, measured eleven feet and a half; and Jacob de Meis, in his voyage to the Straits of Malacca, reports that on the 17th of December, 1615, they found at Point Desre several graves covered with stones; and having the curiosity to remove the stones, they discovered human skeletons often and eleven feet long.

The Chevalier Secoy, in his voyage to the Peak of Teneriff, says that they found, in one of the sepulchral caverns of that mountain, the head of a Gauche, which had eight teeth, and the body was not less than four feet long.

The giant Ferragus, slain by Orlando, nephew of Charlemagne, was eighteen feet high.

Rinland, a celebrated anatomist, who wrote in 1814, says that some years before, there was to be seen in the suburbs of St. Germain the tomb of the giant Isoret, who was twenty feet high.

In 1808, in digging in the ditches near the Dominicans, they found a stone tomb, containing a skeleton whose skull held a bushel of corn, and whose shin bone reached up to the girdle of the tallest man there, being about four feet long, and consequently the body must have been seventeen or eighteen feet high. Upon the tomb was a plate of copper, whereon was engraved: "In this tomb lies the noble and puissant Lord, the Chevalier Ricon de Vallemont, and his bones." Plinius, a famous physician, declares that he saw at Lencorne the true human bones of a subject which must have been at least nineteen feet high.

Valence, in the 17th century, boasted of possessing the bones of the giant Bucart, tyrant of the Vivarais, who was slain by an arrow by the Count de Cabillon, his vassal. The Dominicans had a pair of the shin bones, with the articulation of knee, and his figure painted in fresco, with an inscription showing that this giant was a pair of the shin bones, half foot high, and that his bones were found in 1705, near the banks of the Morder, a little river at the foot of the mountains of Crusol, upon which, tradition says, the giant dwelt.

January 11, 1615, some masons digging near the ruins of a castle in Dauphine, in a field which by tradition, had long been called the Giant's Field, at the depth of eighteen feet discovered a brick tomb, thirty feet long, twelve feet wide, and eight feet high, on which was a gray stone, with the words "Theobaldus Rex" cut thereon. When the tomb was opened, they found a human skeleton entire, twenty-five and a half feet long, ten feet across the shoulders, and five feet deep from the breast to the back. His legs were nearly the size of an ox's hoof, and his shin-bone measured four feet.

Near Mesarino, in Sicily, in 1616, was found a giant, whose height was his head was the size of a hog's head, and each of his teeth weighed five ounces.

Near Palermo, in the valley of Maiana, in Sicily, a skeleton of a giant, thirty feet long, was found in the year 1648; and another of thirty-three feet high, in 1650; and many curious traditions are preserved of several of these gigantic bones.

The Athenians found near their city, two famous skeletons, one of thirty-four, and the other of thirty-six feet.

At Totu, in Bohemia, in 1738, was found a skeleton, the head of which could scarce be encompassed by the arms of two men together, and whose legs, which they still keep in the castle of that city, were 20 feet long.

The skull of the giant found in Macedonia, September, 1861, held 810 pounds of corn.

The celebrated Sir Hans Sloane, who treated this matter very learnedly, does not doubt that he thinks the bones were those of elephants, whales, or other enormous animals.

Elephants' bones may be shown for those of giants, but they can never impose on connoisseurs.

Whales, which by their immense bulk are more proper to be subjected for the largest giants, have neither arms nor legs, and the head of that animal has not the least resemblance to that of a man. If it be true, therefore, that a number of the gigantic bones which we have mentioned have been seen by anatomists, and have been reported as human bones, the existence of giants is proved, &c.

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