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*** START OF THE PROJECT GUTENBERG EBOOK RELAÇÃO DO FORMIDAVEL, E LASTIMOSO TERREMOTO SUCCEDIDO NO REINO DE VALENÇA ***

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Relação do formidavel, e lastimoso Terremoto succedido no Reino de Valença

No dia 23 de Março deste presente anno de 1748 pelas 6. horas, e tres quartos da manhã,

E dos horrorosos estragos, e lamentaveis ruinas, que tem padecido a Cidade de Valença, Capital daquelle Reino, e mais Lugares circumvisinhos, conforme as noticias communicadas até o dia 27 do mesmo mez ao Capitaõ General, Arcebispo, e Intendente, e as que successivamente vaõ chegando á Corte de Madrid, de donde se communicaraõ a esta de Lisboa.

LISBOA.

Na Officina de Francisco Luiz Ameno Impressor da Congregaçao Cameraria da S. Igreja de Lisboa.

Anno M. DCC. XLVIII *Com as licenças necessarias.*

Hum dos mais espantosos, e formidaveis instrumentos, de que a indignação divina usa para castigar aos homens, saõ os terremotos. He este fatal Meteóro hum ingrato filho da terra, que devendo a esta a sua origem, e nascimento, tirannamente se lhe conspira, abrindo-a em horrorosas cavernas, e patenteando-lhe os seus profundos interiores: he hum tiranno, inseparável companheiro da morte, que precipita nas dilatadas sepulturas, que abre, innumeraveis vidas: hum violentissimo instrumento, que iguala os montes à terra, e a terra ao Abysmo; e finalmente he huma invisivel furia, que fórmá da terra bocas para tragar os viventes, e darlhes a sepultura primeiro que a morte. Diversas forão as opinioens filosoficas sobre a geraçao deste fatal Meteóro. Seneca no primeiro livro das suas questoens naturaes, Melezetrio, e Anaximenes com outros antigos Filosofos disserão que os terremotos se originavaõ, quando nas concavidades da terra entrando alguma porçao grande de ar, que se augmente, sucede fecharse a caverna por onde entrou, e porque naõ acha sahida, ficando violento, faz tremor. Thales Milesio, o qual affirmou, que a terra nadava nas aguas subterraneas, disse que o terremoto procedia das tempestades, que se originavaõ nas mesmas aguas. Democrito seguiu diversa opiniao, porque affirmou, que o terremoto nascia da grande violencia, com que a agua pluvial se despenha para as

concavidades da terra. Os Filosofos, que seguirão a opinião de ser o mundo animado, ensinaram que este horroroso movimento não era mais que a desigual pulsação das arterias, e obturação dos meatus vitaes da terra. Outros escreverão, que nas entradas da terra cahem pedaços disformes de montes por concavidades, talvez carcomidas das aguas, e que estes fazendo estremecer a superficie, são a causa do tremor. Outros se persuadirão, que a abundancia das exhalações, e humidos vapores, que se geraão na terra, quando são em tal abundancia, que parece já não cabem, buscaõ desafogo; e ou arrebenta, ou treme, ou se move a terra para os lançar fóra do ventre. Outros finalmente seguirão diversas opinioens, que por brevidade omittimos; porém os Filosofos modernos, que com melhores luzes tem penetrado os occultos segredos da natureza, explicão melhor a geraçao deste Meteóro. Dizem que se origina do fogo subterraneo, o qual comunicandose por occultos caminhos a algumas cavernas cheyas de enxofre, salitre, carvão, e sal amoniaco as inflama, de que nasce promptissimamente hum fogo impetuoso, que converte em hum instante as materias salitrosas em vento; e como este não possa soffrer prizaõ alguma, busca com violencia a porta, que a natureza lhe negou. Daqui nasce impellir com furia os fundam[~e]tos dos montes, e abrindo brechas pelas partes, que menos lhe resistem, vencer tudo o que se lhe oppoem, até conseguir a natural liberdade, de que se origina o tremor da terra, que em taes casos se sente com tanto perigo de muitos, e horror de todos. Evidentemente se prova esta opiniao, com o que se experimenta nas minas, que voaõ pela violencia da polvora. Inflamase esta na occulta parte, que fabricou o Artifice no fundamento de huma torre, e appetecendo pela oppressão, que padece maior lugar, disbarata tudo o que encontra, e fazendo tremer a terra visinha, leva pelos ares os edificios, que lhe embarçaçavaõ a liberdade. Toda esta violencia tem a polvora pelo salitre misturado com enxofre, e carvão, de que se compoem: logo achandose nas concavidades da terra estes, e outros materiaes mais poderosos, que duvida pôde haver, para que encendidos pelo fogo subterraneo hajaõ de fazer estes, e maiores estragos; manifestando deste modo a natureza a sua indignação, quando se vê privada da sua natural liberdade? Não movem os terremotos, como a experiençia nos ensina, todo o globo da terra, mas sim algumas particulares Regioens, o que horrorosamente testificaõ todos os seculos passados. Em o anno de 346. tendo o Imperio Constantino Arriano, padeceo Rhodes hum tão formidavel terremoto, que quasi se vio toda reduzida a ruinas.[1] S[~e]tio tambem Roma este mesmo tremor por espaço de tres dias, e doze Cidades da Italia de hum só impeto se sumergiraõ. No anno de 364. morrendo o Imperador Constancio Arriano se desfez com hum horrivel terremoto grande parte de Constantinopla:[2] Honorio affirma, que do mesmo tremor se viraõ arruinadas muitas Cidades do Oriente. Vindo Carlos Magno no primeiro anno do seu Imperio à Cidade de Espoleto, houve hum terremoto tão violento, que cahiraõ por terra innumeraveis edificios, e entre elles o tecto da Basilica de São Paulo juntamente com as traves.[3] Tendo o Imperador Theodosio o dominio do Imperio Romano, se vio em grande consternação a Cidade de Constantinopla por causa de hum espantoso tremor de terra, que durou quatro mezes continuos.[4] Possuindo o mesmo Imperio Tiberio Cesar, se submergiraõ em huma noite na Asia doze Cidades pela violencia deste Meteóro.[5] No infasto dia de 7 de Setembro de 1590. experimentou Vienna de Austria os crueis effeitos deste inimigo do mundo, abrindo-a em horribles bocas, e prostrando em terra a torre de Santo Estevão, outra fundada na Ponte da Cidade, o Templo da Abadia Escotense, e outros muitos edificios.[6] He a Italia a parte da Europa mais sujeita ás furias dos terremotos, como são testemunhas as muitas reliquias das Cidades arruinadas. Perseguido os Colonnas ao Papa Bonifacio VIII. levantou-se por muitos dias em Italia hum tão grande tremor de terra, que excede o de todos, que vivem nas tradiçoes, e nos escritos.[7] Em o anno de 1456. em que descansava a Tiara Pontificia na cabeça de Callisto III. accometteo a Italia outro terremoto tão excessivo, que Napoles, Capua, Apulha, com Toscana, e Veneza eraõ humas continuas ruinas.[8] No anno de 1116. sentio Italia o mesmo mal por espaço de 40. dias com tanta violencia, que mudou huma Villa para outro Lugar pouco distante.[9] No anno de 1117. se subverteo por hum horrendo terremoto a Cidade de Calina em Sicilia, servindo de sepultura a muitas mil pessoas infelizes.[10] Muitos exemplos de Cidades submergidas á violencia de terremotos podera narrar, se o discurso, que pede huma breve Relação o permitisse. Discorrera sobre as ruinas da Cidade de Sisinoe,[11] da Ilha de Peloponeso,[12] da Cidade de Lisimachia,[13] de Antiochia,[14] em cujas ruinas morreraõ 15U homens; de muitas Cidades do Oriente destruidas no quarto anno do Imperio de Constancio; de muitos Lugares, e Villas de Finicia[15]; do tremendissimo terremoto, que padeceo a Syria,[16] em cujo estrago perderão miseravelmente a vida muitas mil pessoas, como refere Eutropio; da lastimosa consternação, em que se viraõ os moradores da Cidade de Liorne do dominio do Graõ Duque de Toscana, no grande tremor que sentio aquella Cidade aos 17 de Janeiro de 1742; e finalmente da grande ruina que experimentou a Cidade de Lima no Reino do Peru, no anno de 1747. a quem hum grande tremor sepultou huma grande parte. Porém deixo estes, e outros exemplos, que pela sua antiguidade ou são desprezados, ou não são cridos; por que este presente anno nos offerece hum destes estragos tão lamentavel, que ao mesmo tempo nos faz lembrar, e esquecer os antigos. Este he o que experimentou o Reino de Valença, na sua Capital (*Valenç*a) e outros povos circumvisinhos no dia 23 de Março deste presente anno de 1748 pelas 6 horas, e 3 quartos da manhã, segundo as noticias communicadas até o dia 27 do mesmo mez ao Capitão General, Arcebisco, e Intendente, e as que successivamente vão chegando á Corte de Madrid, de donde se communicaraõ a esta de Lisboa. Referem estas, que no mesmo dia, e hora a cima dita treméraõ todos os edificios daquella Capital por espaço pouco mais de hum minuto. Que a torre grande

da Igreja Metropolitana da mesma Cidade chamada o *Micalete* sem embargo da grande fortaleza da sua fabrica tremeo nove vezes, dando outros tantos golpes o badallo do sino mayor, cuja novidade consternou, e poz em grande perturbaçao a todo o povo. Que na antiga Cidade de *Xativa*, chamada hoje *S. Philippe*, que dista nove legoas da Capital, se experimentou igual tremor ao mesmo tempo, e ainda com mayor violencia, porque se arruinou parte do seu antigo Castello, ficou mui abalada, e maltratada a sumptuosa fabrica da sua Igreja Collegiada, em que se trabalhava havia mais de cem annos, ameaçando ruina a mayor parte das casas, e edificios daquelle povo. Que no Convento dos Mercenarios se despegou a meya laranja, e se sobertero o seu claustro, e a escada. Que o dos Franciscanos Descalços ficou inhabitavel. Que as Religiosas de S. Clara temendo a ruina total do seu Convento largaraõ a clausura havendo executado o mesmo os moradores daquella Cidade procurando, e tomando asylo nas casas mais pobres, e barracas dos seus quintaes, aonde formaraõ tendas de campanha para sua habitaçao. Que na *Costera de S. Philippe*, que consta de muitos povos, se submergiraõ inteiramente os dous chamados *Selent*, e *Forrente de Boil*, sem que ategora se possa saber certamente o numero das pessoas, que morreraõ nelles, ficando muito maltratados os mais circumvisinhos. Que na Villa de *Montesa* distante duas leguas de *S. Philippe*, situada na falda de huma montanha, em cuja eminencia havia hum Castello forte, aonde estava a Real Casa, e sagrado Convento de N. S. de Montesa, e S. Jorge de Alfama, se experimentou o mayor estrago, arruinando-se o Castello, e sepultando tres pessoas, que se achavaõ na principal torre delle, e a Igreja, a tempo que o Prior dava a Communhaõ aos noviços, morreraõ todos em numero de 21 pessoas, e livraraõ sómente cinco, que estavaõ alguma cousa distantes. Alli ficou sepultado o Archivo com os seus importantes papeis, e documentos da Religiao; as preciosas Reliquias, ornamentos, e vasos sagrados da Igreja, sendo o mais lamentavel naõ se ter ainda descuberto entre as ruinas as sagradas fórmas, nem a Custodia, ou ambula, em que estava exposto o Senhor ao tempo desta ruina: e á sua proporçao padecio semelhante estrago o resto das mais officinas. Que nos Lugares de *Anna*, *Alcantara*, *Valada*, e outros povos distantes se sentio o mesmo estrago, destelhando-se algumas casas, e arruinando-se outras, porque apenas fica Templo, nem edificio seguro nelles. Que na Villa de *Enguera* se arruinou a Igreja sepultando ao Cura, e mais tres pessoas, que estavaõ nella. Aqui se deve advertir hum raro effeito da Providencia divina, e he que tendo sahido pouco tempo antes da dita Villa para restituirse a Valença, o Procurador do Convento do Soccorro da Ordem de S. Agostinho montado em hum cavallo, e acompanhado de hum moço de pé, em distancia de hum quarto de legua vio abrirse a terra, e sobvertere o criado, e immediatamente succedeo o mesmo ao dito Religioso, que achando-se meyo enterrado, o arrojou o furacaõ a huma azenha immediata, da qual sahio sem acordo, e maltratado, e tornando logo a buscar o moço, e o cavallo, já naõ achou sinal de nenhum delles, nem ainda vestigios do sitio em que os tinha perdido, por cuja causa voltou a *Enguera*, aonde entrou prégando penitencia, e contando o successo a todo o povo, que se achava em igual afflicçao. Que da Villa de *Carcagente* se sabe que a Igreja novamente fabricada se abrio, e tornou logo a unir, cahindo dentro nella a grimpa do campanario, e o seu Cura morreo de susto. Que de *Alcira* se sabe terem padecido muito os Conventos de S. Agostinho, e S. Bernardo, e a Igreja de S. Maria, arrancando a estatua de S. Bernardo Martyr, que era de pedra, de extraordinaria grandeza, que estava sobre a ponte, estendendo-se este damno ás mais Villas, e Lugares da ribeira de *Xùcar*. Que no lugar de *Chella* se abrio a Igreja de maneira, que entrou o Sol dentro nella, e tornando-se a unir, ficou (ao que parece) boa, ainda que alguma cousa arruinada; e que abrindo-se igualmente a terra pela parte do rio, que passa por este lugar, sorveo a agua, deixando-o seco. Que *Venisa*, *Xabea*, *Calpe*, *Denia*, e *Gandia*, que estaõ na costa do Mediterraneo, e Poente de Valença, sem embargo da sua grande distancia, as comprehendeo o mesmo infortunio. Que nas Villas de *Murviedro*, e *Castellon de la Plana*, que estaõ na mesma costa para a parte do Levante, se sentio o mesmo estrago: e a Igreja dos Dominicos se abrio de alto abaixo, e juntamente a escada do campanario, naõ sendo facil por agora averiguar, quãtas sejaõ as pessoas, que tem perecido, nem o que importará o grande damno daquelle afflictio Reino; mas sim que pelo seu Capitaõ General, e Arcebisco se tem dado toda a providencia para implorar a divina misericordia com preces publicas, expondo as imagens da sua devoçao, e patrocinio, concorrendo para o alivio dos necessitados com suas esmolas; porque todavia continuava o terremoto no dia 27 em alguns povos, especialmente em *S. Philippe*, e *Montesa*. Este he o horrendo castigo com que Deos N. S. punio os peccados destes povos; e queira o mesmo Senhor que os nossos naõ experimentem o mesmo castigo; porque a malicia dos homens faz justificada a sua vingança.

FIM.

Notas:

[1] *Sigon. lib. 5. Imper. Occid.*

[2] *Eutrop. lib. II.*

[3] *Bonvius, l. 6 cap. 15.*

[4] *Paul. Diac. liv. 14.*

[5] *Plin. I. 2.*

[6] *Descrip. Vienna. Tab. 21.*

[7] *Platina na vida deste Papa.*

[8] *Sab. I. 6. Enn. 10.*

[9] *Bonvis. lib. 6. cap. 15*

[10] *Robert. Ab. in Chron.*

[11] *Paus. in Cor.*

[12] *Diod. lib. 15.*

[13] *Sab. I. 8. En. 4.*

[14] *Sig. I. 17. Imper. Occid.*

[15] *Strab. lib. 11*

[16] *Eutr op. lib. 10.*

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