

They say, that in the House of *Wisdom* at *Constantinople*, there is a Marble Stone, that by the very natural Veins of the Stone, hath the Picture of *St John the Baptist*, with his cloathing of Camels Skin expressed to the Life, excepting one of his Feet, which is imperfect.

It is a sign that Nature hath not wrought by Chance, but by particular Study, and to some mysterious End, when in the same Species of Stones are found the same Marks and Figures, like those in the Fields of *Verona*, which *Leon Baptista* reports to have seen; and that they have painted upon them the Image of the Chair of *Solomon*. And another black Stone, which being broken at one End, hath painted in it exactly, and to the Life the Picture of a Serpent; and that it hath the Virtue to draw Serpents unto it. *Albertus Magnus* affirms to have seen 500 Serpents gotten upon a Stone of that kind, which was presented unto him.

When we meet with Stones that represent Animals, or the Limbs of them, or Plants, or other Things not by superficial Draught or Colouring, but in Bulk and Substance. I believe it may arise from some petrifying Liquor, which that Matter has suck'd into it's Pores, and thereby is become all Stone, and so thinks *Avicenna*: But although sometimes this may be the Cause thereof yet methinks it cannot reasonably be supposed to be so always.

At the Foot of the Mountains *Misnenses*, near unto the Lake of *Alsatia*, Stones are very commonly found that have emboss'd upon