

I should bee reputed very Negligent in my dutie, to my vtter disgrace and ruine in my Masters fauour, who would not lay the fault on any other nor beeleeue any excuse, having receiued such assurance of loue from the Great Mogull by his last lettres ; and that I had a Pickture of a frend of myne that I esteemed very much, and was for Curiositye rare, which I would giue his Maiestie as a present, seeing hee so much affected that art ;¹ assuring myselfe he neuer saw any equall to it, neyther was any thing more esteemed of mee. He answered it was not good to Moue yt publicly, it might bring forth opposition and dispute : but that I should relye on him : hee would see them sealed speedely : that the kings consent was already passd by reference to him : but for the Picture he desird I would send for yt presently, that hee might see it, and present it to the king (so nothing in this kynd once named is lett slipd, and I was engaged to my guift). I sent for yt and astonishd him, hee seeming to take extreame content, eauen to admiration ; assuring mee it would bee the most welcome guift I euer presented. Suddenly hee rose (the king beeing come out) and desiered me to staye there : that hee would goe to the king and send for mee, leauing mee musique and Company. Within halfe an hower two of the kings seruants came for mee ; and after some speech with Master Hewes, wherein hee was Satisfied, Asaph chan asked mee for my little Picture and presented it to the King. He tooke extreame Content, showeing it to euerie man neare him ; at last sent

for his Cheefe Paynter, demanding his opinion. The foole answered he could make as good. Wherat the king turned to mee, saying : my man sayth he can do the like and as well as this: what say yow? I replied: I knew the Contrarie. But if hee doe, said he, what will you say? I answered: I would giue 10,000 *rupies* for such a Coppy of his hand, for I knowe non in Europe but the same master can performe it.¹ Nay, said the king, I will call 4 Paynters, my Cheefe woorke men, and what will you giue mee if they make one so like, that you shall not knowe your owne? I replied : I had nothing of valewe to giue his Maiestie, but at the arriuall of the shipes I would giue the best rarity I could procure. He answered : that was long : but what wager would I lay in the meantyme? I replied: I knew not what to offer in wager to so great a Prince, nor became it me to name it ; but if his Maiestie were pleasd I would lay any in my Power to pay. Why, said hee, if yow will not lay with mee, lay with the Paynter. I answered : no, Sir, as I am vnfitt with your Maiestie, so your Paynter is no equall match for mee : but I will wager with Asaph chan or Abdalazan or any of your lordes. So he Commanded Asaph chan, who offered 5,000 *rupies*. I replied I was Content, but mony was no honourable bett, especially among frendes : but I would lay a good horse. Soe the match was agreed on ; but Asaph chan recanted in Priuat.²