

ashore. Having compleated this phenomenon, which was supposed to be a monster, they found it to be a human creature with respect to his formation and parts; but, though, spoken to in different languages, he answered not one word, for all his being exorcised, in case of his being possessed by an evil spirit, in the convent of St. Francis, to which he had been carried. Some days after, however, he pronounced the word *Lierganes*, which, being unknown to the generality of people, was explained by a lad of that country, who happened to be at service at Cadiz. He declared himself a native of the said village, situated in the manner we have already described. Don Domingo de la Cantolla, secretary of the holy inquisition, being of the same district, this was no sooner known than a person of his acquaintance wrote to him an account of this strange incident: and he imparted it to his relations of that neighbourhood, that they might enquire if any Thing had happened thereabouts, that seemed to tally with this strange incident at Cadiz. They gave him to know that nothing could be more pat to the purpose; that a son of Maria del Casar, the Widow of Francisco de la Vega, whose name, as well as his father's, was Francisco, had disappeared in the River of Vilboa, but for several years he had been supposed dead. This explanation Don Domingo communicated to his correspondent at Cadiz, who disclosed it in the convent of St. Francis, where the young man was maintained. At that time there was in the convent a monk of the same order, called friar John Rosfende, who had lately come from Jerusalem in order to beg through the kingdom of Spain charity for those wholy places. Having informed himself of that part of the country where *Lierganes* lay, and become familiar with the young man who had been caught at sea, that he might know whether he was a native of *Lierganes*, according to the narrative of Cantolla, he resolved to carry him along with him in his quest; accordingly, having finished it along the coast of St. Andero, he set out for *Lierganes* in the year 1680. When he arrived at the hill called *Dehesa*, a quarter of a league from the said village, he bade the young man lead the way, and he went straight to the house of his mother; who no sooner set eyes on him than she recognized his features, and eagerly embracing him, exclaimed, "This is my son Francisco, whom I lost at Vilboa."

Her example was followed by his brothers, the priest and the layman, who happened to be present, and received him with equal joy and surprise; but Francisco betrayed no emotion, nor any signs of recollection more than if he had been an inanimate trunk: Brother John Rosfende left him in his mother's house, where he remained about 9 years, in a state of insensibility, without being altered in the least, or speaking at all; except at some times he would pronounce the words *Tobaco, Pan, Vino*, but without any meaning. If they asked if he chose any of these articles, he made no reply; but what they gave him he took, and eat ravenously for some days, but afterwards he would pass several days without taking any sustenance. If any body desired him to carry a letter from one town to another, within the compass of his former knowledge, he would carry it with great punctuality, deliver it into the hands of him for whom it was directed, and carefully bring back such answer as he should receive; so that he seemed to understand what was said to him, though of himself he never spoke. At one time, among others, that a person of *Lierganes* sent him with a letter to *Santandero*, it being necessary to pass a river about a league broad, and, for that purpose, embark at *Pedrena*, not finding the boat, he plunged into the water, and swam over to the mole of *Santandero*, where he was seen by several personsopping wet. The letter which he had put in his pocket, he punctually delivered to the person for whom it was directed; who asking how it came to be so wet, he made no reply, but carried back the answer to *Lierganes*, with his usual exactness.

In stature he was six feet, very little more or less, muscular, and well shaped, with a red rough skin, and his nails worn, as if eaten down with saltpetre. He always went barefoot: If clothes were given him he put them on; if not he was as indifferent about apparel as about shoes. If they presented him with victuals, he took and eat them up; if not he never asked any: so that he seemed quite inanimated with respect to reason, insensible as to obedience, and quite mute in regard to speech, except the few words mentioned above, which he sometimes pronounced, though without meaning.

This I can certify, as I knew him. When a boy, he delighted in fishing, and being in the river that passed by *Lierganes*; he was then