

### New Instructions for the Fathers of the second caravan to Equatorial Africa (January 1879)

'I am giving a copy of Instructions to the Fathers who are about to leave this year 1879, which I gave to the Missionaries last year. These are Rules, which they will strive to understand and follow. I regret that the last caravan did not faithfully observe them: it would have prevented a lot of worry and real drawbacks to themselves, to the Mission and to Us.

I am adding some new advice to these rules that I quickly drafted last year in a general way, following on the experiences of our Fathers as well as various explorers. I will arrange them under various headings that will create corresponding chapters for greater clarity. For the same reason, I will compose each item of advice in a special paragraph that will be numbered, so as to enable the Fathers to draft a schema for their use.

The absence of adequate material precautions caused problems and even dangers to several travellers and particularly to our Fathers that could easily have been avoided. I am picking out a certain number of these precautions they stated in their journals.

1) One of these precautions is prudent self-defence at night. For this, reinforcing the enclosure or encampment in which one stays, according to local usage, is required. The enclosure, normally built of stakes and bushes, should be blocked at all points, to prevent wild beasts or thieves from gaining access. One must also take care to allow farm animals to enter, which otherwise would be killed by wild beasts or even by small carnivores such as hyena that always prowl around encampments.

2) If the encampment is near a river, beware of crocodiles. Livingstone writes about one of his Africans who slept outside the camp near the river and was seized and devoured by one of these beasts.

3) Theft is just as much to fear as wild beasts in terms of merchandise, employees and pack animals. To prevent this, it is recommended, as I have already said in the Instructions I gave to Fr. Guyot, to have a chain passing through a ring or a very stout handle for every package, so that all the parcels are linked together and cannot be easily pilfered during the night.

4) Another necessary precaution is to count the packages every evening and again every morning.

Someone thorough and attentive among the Fathers or the Europeans in the caravan must take charge of this matter; in case of illness, another should replace him.

5) During the advance of the caravans, the rear-guard must be supervised primarily because thieves gradually withdraw to the rear and easily run away when they are not being watched.

6) Particular caution is needed to avoid giving in to the initial demands of the local people, when in dialogue with them. They are enthusiastic about bargaining, and they always ask a payment far higher than the real payment they wish to reach, so as to have the pleasure of discussing it for days. Some caravans, and particularly those of our Fathers, have in this way spent two or three times more than others.

7) I read in Dr. Livingstone, that in Ugogo, a pin will buy ten eggs. I would advise every traveller to carry with them three or four boxes of pins; they are very cheap and easy to carry and can be useful on occasion, more than other cumbersome baggage.

8) Livingstone recommends to all travellers in Africa to limit their baggage to the strict minimum. I greatly regret that our caravans have begun in the opposite way and carry an alarming quantity of packages. It would be timely, after careful consideration, to try dealing with Arab merchants, who are established upcountry, particularly in the Usagara, at Msene, in Tanganyika, at Victoria. I think if we take exact account of what porters cost, of what is stolen or lost, we will find that it would cost less to apply to the traders upcountry, rather than load ourselves up with so much merchandise.

I would ask the Fathers to make a proper record of everything and send me the conclusions of their considerations for future caravans. This duty applies in the first place to Superiors or to those that they have authorised to do so.

