

ÁLVARES TERMS / PEOPLE / PLACES

abima (Ge'ez *abuna*, "our father") – title of Coptic Orthodox bishop administering Ethiopian church
Dom Jorge **d'Abreu** – second to de Lima, in frequent conflict with him
Abyssinia (Ḥabaśá) – territory corresponding to modern Ethiopia
Aduwa – visited by Álvares, site of defining battle that checked Italian imperialism (1896)
Axum – historical kingdom with monumental stelae (or obelisks), capital of "Candace"
Lopo Soares **de Albergaria** - viceroy of India, 1515-18, with failed first embassy
Afonso **de Albuquerque** - viceroy of India (1510-1515); captured Ormuz (1507), then Goa (1510)
barnagais (*bahr nagash*, "ruler of the sea") – Abyssinian vassal, resident in Debarwa
betudete (*behtwadam*, "great lord") – chief Abyssinian advisors: one to the left, one to the right
cabeata (*ḥāqābē saḥāt*, "secretary") – advisor in charge of the Abyssinian emperor's schedule
Calicut – center of cotton ("calico") and pepper production; lost by Portugal (1526)
Candace (Mer. *kandake* "queen mother") – traditional convert-queen who Christianized Axum
Christmas – major Winter holiday in Christian calendar, birth of Jesus Christ
Pêro **da Covilhã** – met by Álvares, Portuguese explorer under house arrest in Abyssinia; fluent in Arabic; took route by land to Aden, by sea to Goa, then Hormuz, Cairo, Mecca, and the "Prester John"
Dawit II (David), *negus* Lebna Dengel (*nəgūša nagašt* "king of kings," 1507-40), the "Prester John"; great grandson of Eleni, mobile capital in region of Shewa (near mod. Addis Ababa)
Easter – major Spring holiday in Christian calendar; death and resurrection of Jesus Christ
Eleni (Helena) – regent for Dawit (1507-16, d.1522)
Duarte **Galvão** – first Portuguese ambassador sent to Abyssinia, died in Kamaran (1517)
Vasco **da Gama** – Portuguese explorer, rounded Africa by sea-route to India (1498)
Ge'ez- ancient Semitic liturgical language of Abyssinia, ancestor of Tigrinya and Amharic
Goa- administrative capital for Viceroyalty of India; residence of Captain-Major
Lalibela – visited by Álvares; rock-cut churches (UNESCO World Heritage site)
Lent – forty days preceding the Easter holiday, abstention from meat eating
Dom Rodrigo **de Lima** – second Portuguese ambassador sent to Abyssinia (1520-26)
Massawa – Red Sea port, Portuguese occupied
Manuel I – king of Portugal (1495-1521)
Matheus (Matthew the Armenian) – ambassador from Eleni to the Portuguese (1514)
joins first embassy on return to Abyssinia (1517), died with second embassy at Bizan (1520)
Nubia – Nile valley beyond Upper Egypt (cf. al-Sudan)
prester (*presbyter*) – church elder
Diogo Lopes **de Sequeira** - viceroy of India, 1518-22
tigremahom (*tigray mekonnen*, "Lord of Tigray") – provincial Abyssinian governor
Tigray – Tigrinya speaking region, area of mod. Ethiopia and Eritrea, both Orthodox and Islamic (Tigre)
Zanj ("rust") – Zanzibar Coast or Swahili Coast of East Africa