LAND OF CONTRASTS

Call him Un villain; nevertheless he may be so dressed as to make him very good meat; as, namely, if he be a large chub, then dress him  
thus: First, scale him, and then wash him clean, and then take out his guts; and to that end make the hole as little, and near to his gills, as  
you may conveniently, and especially make clean his throat from the grass and weeds that are usually in it; for if that be not very  
clean, it will make him to taste very sour. Having so done, put some sweet herbs into his belly; and then tie him with two or three  
splinters to a spit, and roast him, basted often with vinegar, or rather verjuice and butter, with good store of salt mixed with it. Being  
thus dressed, you will find him a much better dish of meat than you, or most folk, even than anglers themselves, do imagine: for this  
dries up the fluid watery humour with which all Chubs do abound. But take this rule with you, That a Chub newly taken and newly  
dressed is so much better than a Chub of a day’s keeping after he is dead, that can compare him to nothing so fitly as to cherries newly  
gathered from a tree, and others that have been bruised and lain a day or two in water. But the Chub being thus used, and dressed  
presently; and not washed after he is gutted, for note, that lying long in water, and washing the blood out of any fish after they be  
gutted, abates much of their sweetness; you will find the Chub being dressed in the blood, and quickly, to be such meat as will  
recompense your labour, and disabuse your opinion. Or you may dress the Chavender or Chub thus: When you have scaled him, and  
cut off his tail and fins, and washed him very clean, then Chine or slit him through the middle, as a salt fish is usually cut; then give him  
three or four cuts or scotches on the back with your knife, and broil him on charcoal, or mood coal, that are free from smoke; and all the  
time he is a broiling, baste him with the best sweet butter, and good store of salt mixed with it. And, to this, add a little thyme cut  
exceedingly small, or bruised into the butter. The Cheven thus dressed hath the watery taste taken away, for which so many except  
against him. Thus was the Cheven dressed that you now liked so well, and commended so much But note again, that if this Chub that  
you eat of had been kept till to morrow, he had not been worth a rush. And remember, that his throat be washed very clean, I say very  
clean, and his body not washed after he is gutted, as indeed no fish should be. Well, scholar, you see what pains I have taken to recover  
the lost credit of the poor despised Chub. And now I will give you some rules how to catch him: and I am glad to enter you into the art of  
fishing by catching a Chub, for there is no fish better to enter a young Angler, he is so easily caught, but then it must be this particular   
way: Go to the same hole in which I caught my Chub, where, in most hot days, you will find a dozen or twenty Chevens floating near  
the top of the water. Get two or three grasshoppers, as you go over the meadow: and get secretly behind the tree, and stand as free from  
motion as is possible. Then put a grasshopper on your hook, and let your hook hang a quarter of yard short of the water, to which end  
you must rest your rod on some bough of the tree. But it is likely the Chubs will sink down towards the bottom of the water, at the first  
shadow of your rod (for Chub is the fearfullest of fishes), and will do so if but a bird flies over him and makes the least shadow on the  
water; but they will presently rise up to the top again, and there lie soaring till some shadow affrights them again. I say, when they lie  
upon the top of the water, look out the best Chub, which you, setting yourself in a fit place, way very easily see, and move your rod, as  
softly as a snail moves, to that Chub you intend to catch; let your bait fall gently upon the water three or four inches before him, and he  
will infallibly take the bait. And you will be as sure to catch him; for he is one of the leather mouthed fishes, of which a book does scare  
ever lose its hold; and therefore, give him play enough before you offer to take him out of the water. Go your way presently; take my  
rod, and do as I bid you; and I will sit down and mend my tacking till you return back. Venator. Truly, my loving master, you have  
offered me as fair as I could wish. I’ll go and observe your directions. Look you, master, what I have done, that which joys my heart,  
caught just such another Chub as yours was. Piscator. Marry, and I am glad of it: I am like to have a towardly scholar of you. I now  
see, that with advice and practice, you will make an Angler in a short time. Have but a love to it; and I’ll warrant you. Venator. But,  
master what if I could not have found a grasshopper Piscator. Then I may tell you, that a black snail, with his belly slit, to show his  
white, or a piece of soft cheese, will usually do as well. Nay, sometimes a worm, or any kind of fly, as the ant fly, the flesh fly, or wall  
fly; or the dor or beetle which you may find under cow dung; or a bob which you will find in the same place, and in time will be a beetle;  
it is a short white worm, like to and bigger than a gentle; or a cod worm; or a case worm; any of these will do very well to fish in such a  
manner. And after this manner you may catch a Trout in a hot evening: when, as you walk by a brook, and shall see or hear him leap  
at flies, then, if you get a grasshopper, put it on your hook, with your line about two yards long; standing behind a bush or tree where his  
hole is: and make your bait stir up and down on the top of the water. You may, if you stand close, be sure of a bite, but not sure to catch  
him, for he is not a leather mouthed fish. And after this manner you may fish for him almost any kind of live fly, but especially  
with a grasshopper. Venator. But before you go further, I pray, good master, what mean you by a leather mouthed fish Piscator. By a  
leather mouthed fish, I mean such as have their teeth in their throat, as the Chub or Cheven: and so, the Barbel, the Gudgeon, and Carp,  
and divers others have. And the hook being stuck into the leather, or skin, of the mouth of such fish, does very seldom or never lose its  
hold: but on the contrary, a pike, a perch, or Trout, and so some other fish, which have not their teeth in their throats, but in their  
mouths, which you shall observe to be very full of bones, and the skin very thin, and little of it. I say, of these fish the hook takes

CHAPTER 3144