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is gradus pro dispositione corporis cometici. Ex quibus tandem & Ceratice speciem, quo ex genere ille anni 77 fuisse videtur, non inepte extruxeris, non quòd radii solis contra lucis naturam curuentur in arcum, sed quòd ex alijs atque alijs cometici corporis partibus pro inaequali earum dispositione, hinc longiores, inde breuiores radii exeant, qui vniuersi iuxta inuicem ordinati speciem vnius caudæ curuata exhibeant.

Posit eadem & declinationis origo esse. Etenim quia diximus, vulgari optica ratione fieri, vt radii solis transmissi per densum Cometae corpus, primum cogantur ad vnum quasi punctũ, ibique sectione factã rursus dilatentur: extremitates itaque caudæ laterales vtrinque declinabunt à diametro Solis. Concede iam vt alterum capitũ latius seu figura seu densitatis ratione radios Solis non transmittat, igitur illa cauda pars præcedetur, reliqua in latius alterum declinans, sola cauda totius, ideoque & declinantis speciem exhibebit. Quin etiam mutata corporis cometici dispositione vel situ ad Solem, inclinatio hæc mutari poterit; vt anno 1596. cauda primum ad dextram declinabat, inde in ipsam diametrum Solis competebat, denique transibat ad sinistram. Idem & de specie mutabili credi potest; ratioque patebit, qua sub Macedonicis armis quondam Hirci effigies Plinio referente in hastam est mutata. Solere namque figuram capitũ mutari, exemplo eorundem temporum constat, cum terribilis sax quasi flammea nubes in duas partes discedere, & in diuersum abire visa est.

Quid si verò misceamus Aristotelicam de cauda sententiam recentiori, vt verè experiet aliqua lucida materia ex capite, & in plagam quidem eam, in quam à Solis radiis quasi expellitur? Tunc si cauda terram contingat, nil mirum aerem veneno insici.

Ludicrum hoc non te celabo lector, vt scias Cometae effigiem representare. In cameram cap. 2. pr. 7 descriptam ingrediatur Solis radius, ei ex dimidiã parte obice globum aqueum: sic vt radius Solis partim in vitrum, partim in parietem impingat. Cometae in pariete videbũ.

C A P V T VII.

De Umbra Terræ.

AD materiam astronomicam de Eclipsibus subinde propiùs accedimus: quamuis ita arctè inter se connexæ sunt disputationes de illuminatione, & de obtenebratione Lunæ, vt supra cap. 6. iam de penumbra dixerimus, de illustratione verò multa huc differenda fuerint, nec planè decisa sit sententia, vtrum Luna proprio lumine planè careat.

1. De Figura Umbrae.

Umbrae itaque terræ Conum seu metæ figurâ esse, propter-