

Chapter 10

Iudith excellently adorned, and very beautiful goeth with her handmaide towards the campe, 11. is taken by the watch, 16. and brought to Holofernes.

And it came to passe, when she had ceased to crie to our Lord, she rose from the place, wherein she lay prostrate to our Lord. ² And she called her ^a)abra, and going downe into her house she tooke from her the hearecloth, and put of the garmentes of her widowhood, ³ and washed her bodie, and anoynted her self with ointement, and plaited the heare of her head, and put a crowne vpon her head, and clothed her self with the garmentes of her ioyfulness, and put pantofles on her feete, and tooke braceletes, and Lilies, and eareletes, and ringes, and with al her ornamentes she adorned her self. ⁴ To whom also ^b)our Lord gaue beautie: because al this trimming did not depend of sensuality, but of vertue: & therefore our Lord amplified this beautie on her, that she might appeare to al mens eyes of incomparable comelines. ⁵ She therefore layd vpon her abra ^c)a

Sandalia.

Stiped barley.

^a See *ch. 8. v. 32.*

^b God by this testified her holie intention in adorning herselfe.

^c Not only certaine meates were forbid by the law *Leuit. 11.* but in maner al the meates of the Gentiles were vnlawful being offered to idoles, for which cause Daniel and the three children would not eate of the kings meates in Babylon. *Dan. 1.*

be it. ¹⁰ But Iudith praying our Lord, paffed through the gate she and her Abra. ¹¹ And it came to paffe, when she went downe the hil, about breake of day the watchmen of the Affyrians mette her, and held her, faying: Whence comest thou? or whither goest thou? ¹² Who answered: I am a daughter of the Hebrews, therefore am I fled from their face, ^a)because I knew it should come to paffe, that they should be geuen you vnto spoyle, because that contemning you, they would not of their owne accord yeld themfelues, that they might find mercie in your fight. ¹³ For this cause I thought with my self, faying: I wil goe to the prefence of the prince Holofernes, that I may tel him their secretes, and shew him by what entrance he may winne them, fo that there shal not fal one man of his armie. ¹⁴ And when thofe men had heard her wordes, they confidered her face, and she was a wonder in their eies, for they marueiled at her beautie exceedingly. ¹⁵ And they faid to her: Thou haft faued thy life, in that thou haft found fuch counfel, that thou wouldest come downe to our lord. ¹⁶ And this know thou, that when thou shalt ftand in his fight, he wil deale wel with thee, and thou shalt be moft gracious in his hart. And they brought her to the tabernacle of Holofernes, telling him of her. ¹⁷ And when she was entered before his face, forthwith Holofernes was caught in his eies. ¹⁸ And his guard faid to him: Who can contemne the people of the Hebrewes, which haue ^b)fo beautiful wemē, that we should not worthely fight againft them for thefe? ¹⁹ Iudith therefore feeing Holofernes fitting in a canopie, which was wouen of purple, and gold, and emerauld, and pretious ftones: ²⁰ and when she had looked in his face, she adored him, falling prostrate vpon the ground. And the feruantes of Holofernes lifted her vp, their lord commanding it.

^a She told manie things evidently true, other things conditionally, as it was like to come to paffe, if God fent not better meanes.

^b S. Fulgentius probably iudgeth that Iudith was now about fourtie yeares old. *Epift. 2. cap. 6.*