



De Bestiarum Naturis 648 – The Flying Antelope



*There are forms of fantasy which,
to the eye of a wise man,
appear harmful and mediocre.
One of these is the kind that
jumps immediately to conclusions,
postponing to some other moment
the expression of a fantasy
that is instead meditative and conscious,
not far, in certain respects,
from a scientific way of thinking
that is elaborating explanatory hypotheses
or predictions of evolving forms.
Such a "jump to conclusions," moreover,
certainly does not lead to original conclusions,
since it follows the most obvious and instinctive paths,
those well-known cognitive biases that shorten our effort
but often narrow our horizon.
And so it was for this antelope which,
simply endowed with excellent sensors
to detect the arrival of predators,
is named Flying,
only because it resembles something called Dumbo.*

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drawing

India ink on paper

cm 22.8 × 15.8

2025