

When these animals prepare to change from their reptile to their flying state, they then move out of the water to a dry place; into grass for example, pieces of wood, stone, or any thing else they meet with. There they firmly fix their acute claws; and, for a short time, continue quite immoveable. It is then observed, that the skin first opens on the head and back; and out of this opening they exhibit their real head and eyes, and at length their six legs; whilst, in the mean time, the hollow and empty skin, or slough of their legs, remains firmly fixed in its place. After this, the creature creeps forward by degrees; and by this means draws first its wings and then its body out of the skin; and proceeding a little farther, sits at rest for some time, as if immoveable. During this time the wings, which were moist and folded, begin by degrees to expand themselves, and to make smooth and even all those plaits which were laid against each other, like a closed fan. The body is likewise insensibly extended, until all the limbs have obtained their proper size and dimensions. It cannot at first make use of its new wings, and is therefore obliged to stay in the same place until its limbs are dried by the circumambient air; that being effected it takes wing, and
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