Marginalized by the religious, cultural and gender constructions of early modern Iberia, some individuals like García de Orta, Cristóbal Acosta and Oliva Sabuco de Nantes Barrera turned to nonhuman animals like elephants and monkeys to establish a sense of normative behavior. Animals became a mirror of the standards of human behavior, good and bad. As noted by Claude Lévi-Strauss in the twentieth century, animals were good to think.