

# AESOP'S FABLES



ILLUSTRATED BY GLEN ROUNDS

FROM THE TRANSLATIONS OF THOMAS

JAMES AND GEORGE TYLER TOWNSEND

# AESOP'S FABLES

INTRODUCTION BY ANGELO PATRI

ILLUSTRATED BY GLEN ROUNDS

J. B. LIPPINCOTT COMPANY, PHILADELPHIA

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**ONLY** one other book holds more truth, and love of people, than Aesop's Fables and that is the Bible. Long before the Bible was printed, the Fables were being passed from neighbor to neighbor, from parents to children, an unwritten code of behavior, a storehouse of wisdom garnered by generations.

A fable is a brief story—about animals or men or both—told with the purpose of pointing out a truth and that truth or moral is often stated quite frankly at the end of the story. Profound observations about human nature are thus presented in a nutshell in such fables as the story of the fox who said the grapes were sour because he could not reach them; the shepherd boy who at last cried, "Wolf! wolf!" in vain; the dog in the manger who would not allow the ass to eat the hay that he did not want himself. These tales have become household sayings, frequently quoted by all of us when the behavior of our friends or enemies calls them to mind.

Possibly many of the animal tales that later became fables had their origin in unwritten folklore but when they were written down in the form of fables—stories told with the purpose of pointing a moral—it was by philosophers and scholars who used them deliberately

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