

A Harvest of World
Folk Tales

Edited by MILTON RUGOFF
Illustrated by JOSEPH LOW



EARLY 200 TALES • NEARLY 4,000 YEARS • 19 WORLD AREAS



A Harvest of
World Folk Tales

EDITED BY MILTON RUGOFF



WITH ILLUSTRATIONS & DECORATIONS BY JOSEPH LOW

NEW YORK • *The Viking Press* • MCMXLIX

COPYRIGHT 1949 BY THE VIKING PRESS, INC.

PUBLISHED IN OCTOBER 1949

PUBLISHED ON THE SAME DAY IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA
BY THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA LIMITED

Many of the stories in this book are included by special arrangement with the holders of copyright and publication rights and may not be reproduced without their consent. The editor's thanks are due to those listed below and on the two pages following, for permissions granted:

Harper & Brothers: "The Khevsouri and the Eshmahkie" from *Yes and No Stories* by George and Helen Papashvily, copyright 1946 by George and Helen Papashvily.

Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.: "The Rabbit Huntress" and "The Hermit Mitsina" from *Zuñi Folk Tales* by Frank Hamilton Cushing, copyright 1901 by Emily T. Cushing, 1931 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; "The Adventures of Renard" from *Three and the Moon* by Jacques Dorey, copyright 1929 by Alfred A. Knopf, Inc.; "The Yara" by Affonso Arinhos de Melo Franco, "The Incubus" by Ricardo Rojas, "Brer Rabbit, Businessman" by Carmen Lyra, from *The Golden Land*, translated by Harriet de Onis, copyright 1948 by Harriet de Onis.

Little, Brown & Co.: "Lesson for Lesson," from *Tongues of the Monte* by J. Frank Dobie, copyright 1935, 1947 by J. Frank Dobie.



PRINTED IN U.S.A. BY AMERICAN BOOK-STRATFORD PRESS



CONTENTS

Foreword	xi	The Raven Brings Light	100
A Note on Folk Tales	xiii	The Discontented Grass Plant	103
AFRICAN		The Shining Lodge	108
The Old Woman	4	The Hermit Mítsina	111
Takise	25	The Rabbit Huntress	119
Marandenboni	29	The Deceived Blind Men	127
The Legend of the Elephant	33	ARABIAN AND TURKISH	
The Isinyandende	38	The First Kalandar's Tale	134
Talk	39	The Barber's Tale of His Sixth Brother	140
AMERICAN		Tale of the Devout Israelite	144
Jack and the Varmints	47	Khusrau and the Fisherman	146
Jack's Hunting Trips	53	The Ruined Man Who Became Rich Again through a Dream	147
Old Gally Mander	56	The Fifth Voyage of Sindbad the Seaman	148
The Tar Baby	60	The King and His Wazir's Wife	157
Dacey and Orpus	64	The Woman of the Well	159
The Man and His Boots	65	The Lady and the Unjust Judge	165
Big John the Conqueror	67	Chapkin the Scamp	167
Why Women Always Take Advantage of Men	71	What Happened to Hadji	171
Davy Crockett: Sunrise in His Pocket	74	Nasr-ed-Din Hodja in the Pulpit	173
Paul Bunyan's Big Griddle	79	The Hodja and the Caldron	175
Paul's Cornstalk	81	The Hodja and the Burglar	176
John Henry and the Machine in West Virginia	85	The Hodja Visits Halil	176
AMERICAN INDIAN		CHINESE	
The Creation of Man	96	Planting a Pear Tree	182
The Pleiades	99	A Taoist Priest	183
		The Thunder God	186

Retribution	189	Devil-May-Care	321
The Sorcerer of the White Lotus Lodge	191	The Men Who Wouldn't Stay Dead	331
The Cinnamon Tree in the Moon	193	Our Lady's Tumbler	333
Women	195	Cinderilla	337
EGYPTIAN		GERMAN	
Anpu and Bata	200	The Frog-King, or Iron Henry	346
The Shipwrecked Sailor	208	The Valiant Little Tailor	350
The Doomed Prince	212	The Fox and the Geese	358
The Treasures of Rhampsinitus	215	Old Hildebrand	358
ENGLISH		Knoist and His Three Sons	362
The Hedley Kow	224	Death's Messengers	363
Coat o' Clay	227	Hansel and Grethel	364
The King o' the Cats	231	Peter Klaus	371
The Master and His Pupil	233	The Schildbürger Build a Council House	374
Dick Whittington	236	Tyll Ulenspiegel	375
Jack and the Beanstalk	242	The Tale of a Merry Dance	375
Robin Hood and the Butcher	247	Tyll Proves to Fools How Great Is Their Folly	377
Robin Hood and the Beggar	249	Word, Wit, and Merry Game	379
The Giants of Castle Treen	251	Tyll's Last Prank	380
The Piskeys on Selena Moor	256	GREEK	
The Bailie's Daughter	262	Nobody and Polyphemus	386
The Widow and Her Daughters	267	Tantalus	392
Get Up and Bar the Door	270	Medea	394
Our Goodman	272	Narcissus	397
FINNISH		Orpheus and Eurydice	398
The Kalevala	280	Diana and Actaeon	401
The Destruction of the Sampo	280	Daedalus, Icarus, and the Wings	403
The Last Adventure	286	Cupid and Psyche	405
The Pig-Headed Wife	292	Hercules: The Eleventh Task	411
Lippo and Tapio	295	Fables	415
FRENCH		The Wolf and the Crane	415
The Adventures of Renard	304	The Man and the Satyr	415
The Theft of a Smell	314	The House Dog and the Wolf	416
The Shroud of Mari-Yvonne	316	The Old Woman and the Wine Jar	417
		The Farthing Rushlight	417

The Travelers and the Bear	417	The Merchant	525
The Old Woman and the Physician	418	Pinto Smalto	535
The Ass Carrying Salt	419	Bastianelo	540
The Old Man and Death	419	The Thoughtless Abbot	543
The Lion and Ass Go Hunting	420	Scissors They Were	545
The Bald Knight	420	JEWISH	
The Fox and the Crow	420	Abraham and the Idols	550
The Ass's Shadow	421	The Lord Helpeth Man and Beast	551
INDIAN		The Princess and Rabbi Joshua	553
Holding the Truth	426	The Wife's One Wish	554
The Robbers and the Treasure	431	The Thoughtful Father	555
The Golden Goose	435	Rabbi Eliezer Enjoys an Exception	557
The Greedy Jackal Caught	436	Know Before You Criticize	558
The Judas Tree	438	The Wise Rogue	559
Rāma and Sitā	439	The Helm Goat Mystery	560
Mouse-Maid Made Mouse	443	Higher Mathematics in Helm	565
The Lion Makers	447	Pinya of Helm	565
The Loyal Mongoose	448	King Solomon and the Queen of Shebā	569
The Brahman and the Pot of Rice	450	The Buried Money	574
The Mice That Ate Iron	451	Alone with God	575
Devabhuti and the Foolish Magistrate	452	Joseph and Potiphar's Wife	576
The Three Fastidious Men	453	Father Bird and Fledglings	582
The King Who Was Fried	455	Song of the Kid	584
IRISH		LATIN AMERICAN	
Deirdre	464	Lesson for Lesson	590
The Field of Boliauns	475	The Incubus	592
Cuchullin and Fardia	478	The Coyote and Juan's Maguey	595
A Legend of Knockmany	483	Repaying Good with Evil	598
Hudden and Dudden and Donald O'Neary	494	A Time for Everything	601
Teig O'Kane and the Corpse	499	Wine and the Devil	603
ITALIAN		Ayaymama	603
The Untamed Shrew	516	Brer Rabbit, Businessman	607
The Cunning Cat	520	The Yara	612
		The Legend of Agustín Lorenzo	615

RUSSIAN

The Golden Cock	622
The Soldier and the Demons	630
The Seven Simeons	639
The Wondrous Wonder	645
The Earth Will Have Its Own	647
The Serpent and the Peasant	650
A Witty Answer	652
The Khevsouri and the Eshmahkie	653

SCANDINAVIAN

Odin's Search for Wisdom	658
The Making of the Hammer	662
How Thor Found His Hammer	666
The Archer and the King	671
Why the Sea Is Salt	672

The Master Thief	676
Bjarni Sveinssen and His Sister Salvör	689
Now I Should Laugh if I Were Not Dead	694
The Princess on the Pea	696
The Tinderbox	697

SPANISH

I Ate the Loaf	708
The Invisible Cloth	709
What Happened to a Young Man on His Wedding Day	712
Don Demonio's Mother-in-Law	716
Pedro the Trickster	722
Bibliographical Note	731
Index of Sources, Editors, and Translators	732

African



The Old Woman



THE STORIES that African tribesmen tell outside the kraal after nightfall—for that, traditionally, is the only propitious time for tale-telling—are usually of more interest to the anthropologist than to the general reader. But Africa is vast and has so many stories to tell that the exceptions to such a generalization afford us a handful of tales of impressive quality by any standards. "The Old Woman," for example, is so remarkable a narrative that it must be said to fall into the folk tale category only because those who created it preferred oral to written composition and no one man called it his own. Those who tell this story, the Hausas, are hardly a primitive jungle tribe. They are farmsteading people who live in Upper Nigeria, but, as traders, have ranged far and wide across the Sudan. Some of them were long ago converted to Mohammedanism, and this may account not only for the pious Moslem allusions in "The Old Woman," but also for the fact that its subject, the mischief-making of an old vixen, is fairly common in the lore of the Mediterranean world. But no matter where the theme comes from, the Hausa storytellers have used dramatic scenes, suspense, and a mounting intensity to build it into a narrative that approaches classic tragedy.

It is possible to find other European influences or parallels in these stories: particularly in the fantastic transformation in "Takise," the cumulative pattern in "Talk," and the last ruse in "Marandenboni" which resembles the Donald O'Neary prank described on page 494. As for "Talk," it is plainly a "talking dog" story, and one clever enough, despite its origin on the Dark Continent, to compete with similar jests that are still, and will always be, current in smart cosmopolitan periodicals. Many of Africa's animal tales are virtually international, cousin to stories told of Reynard in Europe and Coyote in the American Southwest. But such family ties scarcely prevent a folk tale from establishing its independent identity. These stories are distinctly African, abounding in settings, characters, and moods peculiar to the people who tell them.