



Aesop's Fables

EDITED AND ILLUSTRATED
WITH WOOD ENGRAVINGS BY
BORIS ARTZYBASHEFF

New York

THE VIKING PRESS,

1947

SECOND PRINTING OCTOBER 1938
THIRD PRINTING NOVEMBER 1942
FOURTH PRINTING JUNE 1945
FIFTH PRINTING MARCH 1947

PUBLISHED BY THE VIKING PRESS
COPYRIGHT 1933 BY BORIS ARTZYBASHEFF
PRINTED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
BY THE HADDON CRAFTSMEN
DISTRIBUTED IN CANADA BY
THE MACMILLAN COMPANY OF CANADA, LTD.

Introduction

Nothing historically definite is known about Aesop, but whether he was an actual or a mythical figure, there are certain definite traits and characteristics attributed to him which are quite generally agreed upon. In his person he was extremely deformed, with a hunched back, a long misshapen head, a flat nose; and with a complexion so swarthy that his very name was derived from it. He was supposedly a Greek slave who had been bought and sold several times, and it was in the course of his travels, the various predicaments in which he found himself and his reactions to them, that he gained the reputation for having great wisdom and a mighty wit. It is supposed that like Socrates, he suffered for his wisdom by being murdered and in his death attained immortality. Such is the legend of Aesop.

The fables contained in this book were selected from the Croxall edition of 1722 and the James edition of 1848. In editing them an attempt has been made to combine these two translations. For instance, Croxall's translation contains a dry humor sometimes quite lacking in the James translation; and again, the other way around depending upon the fable. Then there are times when James is more descriptive and shows a much livelier imagination; and then too, quite the other way around. These differences appear in almost every fable, so that in combining the imagination and humor of both men in each fable we may have given them a livelier and gayer interpretation. However, perhaps "too much cunning overreaches itself"!

NEW YORK CITY, JULY 27, 1933 BORIS ARTZYBASHEFF

Contents

THE COCK AND THE JEWEL	3
THE PEACOCK AND THE MAGPIE	4
THE FALCONER AND THE PARTRIDGE	5
THE BELLY AND THE MEMBERS	6
THE LEOPARD AND THE FOX	7
THE HUSBANDMAN AND THE STORK	8
THE DOG AND THE WOLF	9
THE MISCHIEVOUS DOG	10
THE YOUNG MAN AND THE SWALLOW	11
THE ASS EATING THISTLES	12
THE FOX AND THE GRAPES	12
THE OLD WOMAN AND HER MAIDS	14
CAPONS FAT AND LEAN	14
A FLY UPON A WHEEL	15
THE WOLF AND THE LAMB	15
THE HARES AND THE FROGS	16
THE WIND AND THE SUN	17
THE ARAB AND THE CAMEL	18
THE FOX AND THE WOODMAN	18
THE CROW AND THE PITCHER	19
THE ANT AND THE GRASSHOPPER	20
THE DOG IN THE MANGER	20

THE MILLER, HIS SON, AND THEIR ASS	21
THE WOLF AND THE CRANE	22
THE LION AND THE MOUSE	23
THE FATAL MARRIAGE	24
THE SWALLOW AND OTHER BIRDS	25
THE WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING	26
THE GOOSE AND THE GOLDEN EGGS	27
THE FROG AND THE OX	28
THE OLD MAN AND DEATH	28
THE ASS, THE COCK, AND THE LION	29
THE LION AND THE GOAT	30
THE HARE AND THE TORTOISE	30
THE PARTRIDGE AND THE COCKS	32
THE KITE AND THE PIGEONS	32
AN OLD CRAB AND A YOUNG ONE	33
THE TIGER AND THE BULLS	34
THE HORSE AND THE WILD BOAR	36
THE OAK AND THE REED	36
THE COUNTRY MOUSE AND THE CITY MOUSE	37
THE LARK AND HER YOUNG ONES	39
THE ASS IN THE LION'S SKIN	40
THE GNAT AND THE BULL	42
THE MAN AND THE SATYR	42
THE CAT AND THE FOX	43

THE FOX AND THE LION	44
THE BIRDS, THE BEASTS, AND THE BAT	45
THE DOG AND THE SHADOW	46
THE MOON AND HER MOTHER	47
THE PEACOCK'S COMPLAINT	47
THE LION IN LOVE	48
THE HORSE AND THE LION	49
JUPITER AND THE CAMEL	50
THE CAT AND THE MICE	51
THE FOX IN THE WELL	52
THE FOX AND THE GOAT	53
THE FAWN AND HER MOTHER	54
THE LION AND THE ASS HUNTING	54
THE PORCUPINE AND THE SNAKES	55
THE ASS AND THE LITTLE DOG	56
THE MONKEY AND THE CAMEL	58
THE FROGS DESIRED A KING	58
THE FOX AND THE CROW	59
THE HORSE AND THE ASS	60
THE LION, THE ASS, AND FOX HUNTING	62
THE OLD MAN AND HIS SONS	62
THE COUNTRY MAID AND HER MILK CAN	63
JUPITER AND THE MONKEY	64
THE MAN AND THE LION	66

THE MULE	66
THE HORSE AND THE GROOM	67
THE MARRIAGE OF THE SUN	67
THE SICK LION	67
THE DOG INVITED TO SUPPER	68
THE TRUMPETER TAKEN PRISONER	70
THE TRAVELERS AND THE BEAR	71
JUPITER AND THE HORSE	71
HERCULES AND THE WAGONER	73
THE HEN AND THE CAT	73
THE SHEPHERD BOY AND THE WOLF	74
THE FOX AND THE STORK	74
THE FOX WITHOUT A TAIL	75
THE PEACOCK AND THE CRANE	76
THE BEAR AND THE BEEHIVES	78
THE MAN AND HIS TWO WIVES	78
THE DOVE AND THE ANT	79
THE LION, THE TIGER, AND THE FOX	80
THE LION AND OTHER BEASTS	82
THE STAG LOOKING INTO THE WATER	83