

**KOREAN FOLK
TALES: IMPS,
GHOSTS AND FAIRIES**

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Korean folk tales: imps, ghosts and fairies by James S. Gale

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JAMES S. GALE

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KOREAN FOLK TALES

IMPS, GHOSTS AND FAIRIES

TRANSLATED FROM THE KOREAN

OF IM BANG AND YI RYUK

BY JAMES S. GALE



LONDON: J. M. DENT & SONS, LTD.
NEW YORK: E. P. DUTTON & CO. 1913

BLH

TO
MY LITTLE SON
GEORGE JAMES MORLEY
THE DAYS OF WHOSE YEARS
ARE
TWO EASTERN SPRINGS AND AUTUMNS

PREFACE

To any one who would like to look somewhat into the inner soul of the Oriental, and see the peculiar spiritual existences among which he lives, the following stories will serve as true interpreters, born as they are of the three great religions of the Far East, Taoism, Buddhism and Confucianism.

An old manuscript copy of Im Bang's stories came into the hands of the translator a year ago, and he gives them now to the Western world that they may serve as introductory essays to the mysteries, and, what many call, absurdities of Asia. Very gruesome indeed, and unlovely, some of them are, but they picture faithfully the conditions under which Im Bang himself, and many past generations of Koreans, have lived.

The thirteen short stories by Yi Ryuk are taken from a reprint of old Korean writings issued last year (1911), by a Japanese publishing company. Three anonymous stories are also added, "The Geomancer," to show how Mother Earth has given anxiety to her chicks of children; "Im, the

Hunter," to tell of the actualities that exist in the upper air; and "The Man who lost his Legs," as a sample of Korea's Sinbad.

The biographical notes that accompany the stories are taken very largely from the *Kuk-cho In-mul-chi*, "Korea's Record of Famous Men."

J. S. GALE.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
I CHARAN	1
II THE STORY OF CHANG TO-RYONG	18
III A STORY OF THE FOX	26
IV CHEUNG PUK-CHANG, THE SEER	29
V YUN SE-PYONG, THE WIZARD	36
VI THE WILD-CAT WOMAN	41
VII THE ILL-FATED PRIEST	44
VIII THE VISION OF THE HOLY MAN	47
IX THE VISIT OF THE MAN OF GOD.	52
X THE LITERARY MAN OF IMSIL	54
XI THE SOLDIER OF KANG-WHA	58
XII CURSED BY THE SNAKE	60
XIII THE MAN ON THE ROAD	63
XIV THE OLD MAN WHO BECAME A FISH	66
XV THE GEOMANCER	69
XVI THE MAN WHO BECAME A PIG	73
XVII THE OLD WOMAN WHO BECAME A GOBLIN	78
XVIII THE GRATEFUL GHOST	80
XIX THE PLUCKY MAIDEN	83
XX THE RESOURCEFUL WIFE	90
XXI THE BOXED-UP GOVERNOR	92
XXII THE MAN WHO LOST HIS LEGS	100
XXIII TEN THOUSAND DEVILS	104
XXIV THE HOME OF THE FAIRIES	111
XXV THE HONEST WITCH	125

	PAGE
XXVI WHOM THE KING HONOURS	130
XXVII THE FORTUNES OF YOO	133
XXVIII AN ENCOUNTER WITH A HOBGOBLIN	141
XXIX THE SNAKE'S REVENGE	146
XXX THE BRAVE MAGISTRATE	150
XXXI THE TEMPLE TO THE GOD OF WAR	153
XXXII A VISIT FROM THE SHADES	157
XXXIII THE FEARLESS CAPTAIN	162
XXXIV THE KING OF YOM-NA (HELL)	165
XXXV HONG'S EXPERIENCES IN HADES	171
XXXVI HAUNTED HOUSES	177
XXXVII IM, THE HUNTER	182
XXXVIII THE MAGIC INVASION OF SEOUL	188
XXXIX THE AWFUL LITTLE GOBLIN	191
XL GOD'S WAY	194
XLI THE OLD MAN IN THE DREAM	196
XLII THE PERFECT PRIEST	198
XLIII THE PROPITIOUS MAGPIE	200
XLIV THE 'OLD BUDDHA'	202
XLV A WONDERFUL MEDICINE	204
XLVI FAITHFUL MO	205
XLVII THE RENOWNED MAING	208
XLVIII THE SENSES	210
XLIX WHO DECIDES, GOD OR THE KING?	211
L THREE THINGS MASTERED	213
LI STRANGELY STRICKEN DEAD	215
LII THE MYSTERIOUS HOI TREE	217
LIII TA-HONG	219