

# **MORAL TALES**

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Moral tales by Anonymous

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**ANONYMOUS**

# **MORAL TALES**



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MORAL TALES;

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By A FATHER.

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## MORAL TALES.

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### FATAL EFFECTS OF FALSEHOOD.

AN honest tradesman, who had lived several years a widower in a sea-port town, earning with difficulty a scanty subsistence for himself and an only son, died in very indifferent circumstances, leaving this son almost destitute. His distress induced Mr. Stevens, a respectable merchant, who had known the father, to receive the orphan into his house. He gave young Williams,—this was the orphan's name—an excellent education, by which the boy benefited so much, that he gained the friendship of his benefactor, who took him into his counting-house, and gradually entrusted him with the entire management of his commercial affairs.

Williams had for several years rendered the

most essential services to Mr. Stevens, when the latter availed himself of an opportunity that offered to reward them. He was guardian to a young lady, the presumptive heiress of an uncle, whom fame reported to have amassed great wealth in the East Indies. Her hopes of a brilliant fortune had just begun to be a little less sanguine, on account of the length of time which had elapsed since she had last heard from her East-Indian relation, when she at length received a letter from Bengal, by which her uncle informed her, that, being in the decline of life, he wished for the company of his niece; but, if her youth and the delicacy of her sex disinclined her to the voyage, he requested a trustworthy person to be sent to him, that he might regulate with him every thing respecting the fortune, which he intended to leave her. Emily had scarcely attained her fifteenth year; Mr. Stevens thought her much too young to be exposed to the inconveniences and dangers of a long voyage; he preferred giving full powers, in her name, to a confidential person, and selected his clerk, Williams, for this office. The latter accepted the commission with pleasure. Independently of the great advantages held out by Emily's uncle, he was glad to visit the East Indies, the cradle of man-

kind, or, at least, of civilization. He remained two years at Calcutta, where he gained the friendship of Emily's old uncle to such a degree, that the latter would not suffer him to think of returning to England. But his death having happened some time after, Williams was very much surprised, when he found that the old man had assigned him a rather moderate sum for his expenses back to Europe, and commissioned him to take his sealed will and all his property, converted into bills of exchange, to his niece. Though seriously disappointed, Williams did not grumble at his fate. His prudent economy and the valuable presents which he had occasionally received of the rich East-Indian gentleman, had enabled him to amass a little property, with which he felt satisfied. He had no sooner settled all necessary business, than he embarked for England, where he arrived safely with his treasures. These he deposited in the hands of the guardian of Emily, whose accomplishments now equalled her beauty.

A few lines, written by the testator on the outside of the will, directed that it should be read in the presence of a magistrate and of Emily and her guardian, by Williams himself. The prescribed formalities having been attended to, Wil-