

**THE FABLES OF AESOP, AS FIRST PRINTED  
BY WILLIAM CAXTON IN 1484, WITH  
THOSE OF AVIAN, ALFONSO AND  
POGGIO, NOW AGAIN EDITED AND  
INDUCED BY JOSEPH JACOBS. I.  
HISTORY OF THE AESOPIC FABLE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649580415

The Fables of Aesop, as First Printed by William Caxton in 1484, with Those of Avian, Alfonso and Poggio, Now Again Edited and Induced by Joseph Jacobs. I. History of the Aesopic Fable by Aesop & Joseph Jacobs

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Cover @ 2017

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**AESOP & JOSEPH JACOBS**

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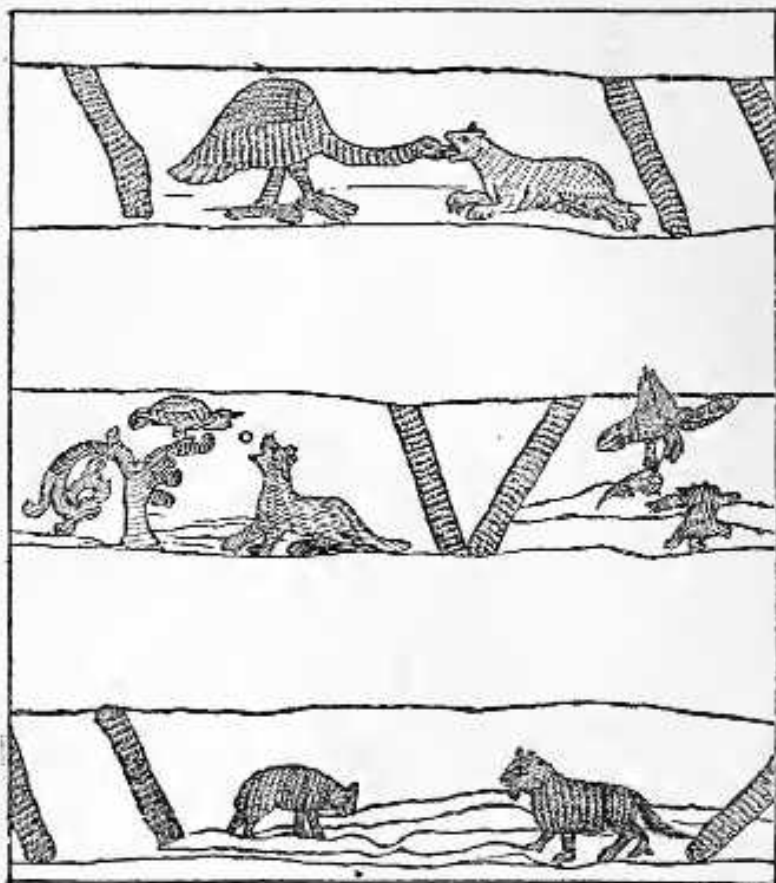


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The Fables of Aesop.

I.



*From the Bayeux Tapestry.*

# The Fables of Æsop

*as first printed by WILLIAM CAXTON in 1484*

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*now again edited and induced*

*by Joseph Jacobs.*

I.

HISTORY OF THE ÆSOPIC FABLE.

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LONDON. PUBLISHED BY DAVID NUTT IN  
THE STRAND. M.D.CCCLXXXIX.



TO

*MY BROTHERS*

*SYDNEY, EDWIN, LOUIS*

TO WHOM I OWE

ALL



## Æsop.

HE sat among the woods, he heard  
The sylvan merriment ; he saw  
The pranks of butterfly and bird,  
The humours of the ape, the daw.

And in the lion or the frog—  
In all the life of moor and fen,  
In ass and peacock, stork and log,  
He read similitudes of men.

“ Of these, from those,” he cried, “ we come,  
Our hearts, our brains descend from these.”  
And lo ! the Beasts no more were dumb,  
But answered out of brakes and trees ;

“ Not ours,” they cried ; “ Degenerate,  
If ours at all,” they cried again,  
“ Ye fools, who war with God and Fate,  
Who strive and toil : strange race of men,