

**THE HERFORD
ÆSOP: FIFTY
FABLES IN VERSE**

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The Herford Æsop: fifty fables in verse by Oliver Herford

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OLIVER HERFORD

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Fifty Fables in Verse

BY

OLIVER HERFORD

ILLUSTRATIONS BY

THE AUTHOR



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MR. HERFORD asks me to write the preface for this book. Æsop was a wise man of old who wrote in Greek, which only a few of us read easily nowadays. Æsop wrote what we call fables, a fable being a good story which can't be true but which may teach a great truth. Æsop could do that sort of thing well, but I'm not sure Mr. Herford doesn't do it even better. Mr. Herford certainly has taken Mr. Æsop's old Greek fables and written them over into English which you and I have joy in reading. He has made pictures, too, for the fables, that give us a happy feeling of personal friendship with all the characters in the book.

You will like to read these fables, and before you know it you will find that you have taken very pleasantly a dose of good common sense, of which most of us need more than we ever get. The happy time you are going to have with this little book you owe at least as much to Mr. Herford as to Mr. Æsop. Shall we say, Thank you, Mr. Herford, for introducing us so delightfully to Mr. Æsop? At least, I do.

C. H. THURBER

P. S. Mr. Æsop wrote many more than fifty fables; perhaps you and I can persuade Mr. Herford to write more too.

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