

**ELEMENTARY CLASSICS.
SELECT FABLES OF
PHAEDRUS. EDITED
FOR THE USE OF SCHOOLS**

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Elementary Classics. Select Fables of Phaedrus. Edited for the Use of Schools by A. S. Walpole

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A. S. WALPOLE

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FABLES OF PHAEDRUS.

Edited for the Use of Schools.

BY

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WITH NOTES, EXERCISES, AND VOCABULARIES.

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INTRODUCTION.

PHAEDRUS was a native of Pieria, a district of Macedonia on the north-west shores of the Aegæan Sea (the *Archipelago*). He was brought as a slave to Rome in his youth, and was freed by Augustus, the first Roman emperor, about the beginning of the Christian era. There are in his fables (of which he wrote nearly 100) some probable, other possible, allusions to persecutions at the hand of Sejanus (the powerful favourite of the emperor Tiberius, the successor of Augustus), who may well have looked upon many of these fables as pointed against him.* But we find from an allusion that he lived on into the reign of Claudius (emperor A.D. 41-54).

The style of Phaedrus, foreigner as he was, is neat, concise, and usually clear. The iambic line he makes an apt means of expression. Most of his variations from Latin prose idiom, which are pointed out in the notes, are to be found in other poets.†

* See also last note of fable ii.

† See *e.g.*, iii. 2; v. 7; vi. 11; viii. 6; x. 6 and 8; xi. 1; xvi. 13, etc.

But, on the other hand, his style often lacks life, and the moralist is often too obtrusive.* He professes to be a follower of the Greek Aesop (a contemporary of the Athenian Solon, and of the Lydian Croesus, about B.C. 570), but only about one-third of his fables are derived from the Greek, these being better than the rest. He is indeed, as Lessing and others have pointed out, inferior both to Aesop and to the French poet La Fontaine, one of whose fables, No. vii. in the present edition, is quoted in full.

Le Corbeau et le Renard.

Maître corbeau, sur un arbre perché,
 Tenait en son bec un fromage.
 Maître renard, par l'odeur alléché,
 Lui tint à peu près ce langage :
 ' Hé ! bonjour, monsieur du Corbeau,
 Que vous êtes joli ! que vous me semblez beau !
 Sans mentir, si votre ramage
 Se rapporte à votre plumage,
 Vous êtes le phénix des hôtes de ces bois.'
 A ces mots le corbeau ne se sent pas de joie ;
 Et pour montrer sa belle voix,
 Il ouvre un large bec, laisse tomber sa proie,
 Le renard s'en saisit, et dit : ' Mon bon monsieur,
 Apprenez que tout flatteur

* See notes on e.g., i. 6 ; ii. (first note) ; ii. 16 ; iv. (first note).

Vit aux dépens de celui qui l'écoute :
 Cette leçon vaut bien un fromage, sans doute.
 Le corbeau, honteux et confus,
 Jura, mais un peu tard, qu'on ne l'y prendrait plus.

These twenty-nine fables are those contained in Siebelis' *Tirocinium Poeticum* (Leipzig: Teubner, 13th edition, 1881). The text is almost a reprint of that of Professor Lucian Mueller.

HINTS FOR TRANSLATING LATIN.

1. Do not begin by taking the first word you may happen to see, but at once find the chief verb of the sentence, and especially note its number and person.

This verb will be :

- (a) Usually in the indicative mood ;
- (b) NOT in a RELATIVE clause, i.e., a clause introduced by *qui, quae, quod* ;
- (c) NOR in an ADVERBIAL clause, i.e., a clause introduced by such conjunctions as *ut*, 'that' ; *si*, 'if' ; *cum*, 'when,' 'since,' 'although.'

2. Next find this verb's subject, which will usually be a substantive, adjective, or pronoun in the nominative case, and of the same number and person as its verb.

- (a) The subject may be also (1) an infinitive mood, (2) a clause, as *QUOD TU SCRIBIS me tristem facit*, what you write makes me sad, or (3) contained in the verb ending, as *dixit*, 'said he.'

- (b) When the subject is made up of two or more substantives denoting different persons or things, but regarded as in connection with each other, the verb is put in the PLURAL.

N.B.—In connecting a verb with its subject you may usually PASS OVER TWO COMMAS, NOT OVER ONE.

3. If the verb is transitive look for the direct object, usually a word in the accusative.

4. If the verb is intransitive look for indirect object, usually a word in the dative. Also see if the verb is qualified by

- (a) An adverb;
- (b) An adverbial clause;
- (c) An ablative;
- (d) A preposition with its case.

5. Return to the subject and see in like manner if it is qualified by

- (a) An adjective (or participle) agreeing with it in GENDER, NUMBER, AND CASE;
- (b) An adjectival (i.e., relative) clause;
- (c) A noun in apposition, which will be in the same CASE.
- (d) A genitive case.

[The OBJECT may also be qualified in any of these ways.]