

**THE KING OF THE  
GOLDEN RIVER OR  
THE BLACK BROTHERS**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649341993

The King of the Golden River or the black brothers by John Ruskin

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**JOHN RUSKIN**

**THE KING OF THE  
GOLDEN RIVER OR  
THE BLACK BROTHERS**





THE KING OF THE  
GOLDEN RIVER  
OR THE  
BLACK BROTHERS

A Legend of Stiria

BY

JOHN RUSKIN, M. A.

*ILLUSTRATED*

BOSTON  
L. C. PAGE & COMPANY  
1898



CHAPTER I.

	PAGE
HOW THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF THE BLACK BROTHERS WAS INTERFERED WITH BY SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQUIRE . . . . .	I

CHAPTER II.

OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE THREE BROTHERS AFTER THE VISIT OF SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQUIRE; AND HOW LITTLE GLUCK HAD AN INTERVIEW WITH THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER . . . . .	19
--	----

CHAPTER III.

HOW MR. HANS SET OFF ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE GOLDEN RIVER, AND HOW HE PROSPERED THEREIN	31
---	----

CHAPTER IV.

	PAGE
HOW MR. SCHWARTZ SET OFF ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE GOLDEN RIVER, AND HOW HE PROSPERED THEREIN . . . . .	42

CHAPTER V.

HOW LITTLE GLUCK SET OFF ON AN EXPEDITION TO THE GOLDEN RIVER, AND HOW HE PROSPERED THEREIN ; WITH OTHER MATTERS OF INTEREST . . . . .	47
--	----





	PAGE
SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQ., KNOCKING AT THE BLACK BROTHERS' DOOR . . . . .	Black Frontispiece
THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER . . . . .	Title
INITIAL LETTER, AND MOUNTAIN RANGE . . . . .	1
SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQ., SEATED ON THE HOB . . . . .	9
SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQ., BOWING TO THE BLACK BROTHERS . . . . .	12
STORM SCENE . . . . .	16
CARD OF SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQ. . . . .	18
INITIAL LETTER, AND COTTAGE IN THE TREASURE VALLEY . . . . .	19
THE BLACK BROTHERS DRINKING AND GLUCK WORKING . . . . .	20
GLUCK LOOKING OUT AT THE GOLDEN RIVER . . . . .	22
THE GOLDEN DWARF APPEARING TO GLUCK . . . . .	26
GLUCK LOOKING UP THE CHIMNEY . . . . .	29
THE BLACK BROTHERS BEATING GLUCK . . . . .	31



---

	PAGE
HANS AND SCHWARTZ FIGHTING . . . . .	32
SCHWARTZ BEFORE THE MAGISTRATE . . . . .	33
HANS AND THE DOG . . . . .	38
THE BLACK STONE . . . . .	41
INITIAL LETTER — GLUCK RELEASING SCHWARTZ . . . . .	42
SCHWARTZ ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN . . . . .	44
INITIAL LETTER — GLUCK ASCENDING THE MOUNTAIN . . . . .	47
PRIEST GIVING GLUCK HOLY WATER . . . . .	48
GLUCK AND THE CHILD . . . . .	50

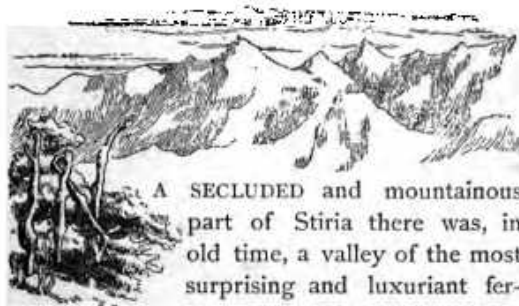
# THE KING OF THE GOLDEN RIVER ;

OR,

## THE BLACK BROTHERS.

### CHAPTER I.

HOW THE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEM OF THE  
BLACK BROTHERS WAS INTERFERED WITH  
BY SOUTHWEST WIND, ESQUIRE.



A SECLUDED and mountainous part of Stiria there was, in old time, a valley of the most surprising and luxuriant fertility. It was surrounded, on all sides, by steep and rocky mountains, rising into peaks, which were always

covered with snow, and from which a number of torrents descended in constant cataracts. One of these fell westward, over the face of a crag so high, that, when the sun had set to everything else, and all below was darkness, his beams still shone full upon this waterfall, so that it looked like a shower of gold. It was, therefore, called by the people of the neighborhood, the Golden River. It was strange that none of these streams fell into the valley itself. They all descended on the other side of the mountains, and wound away through broad plains and by populous cities. But the clouds were drawn so constantly to the snowy hills, and rested so softly in the circular hollow, that in time of drought and heat, when all the country round was burnt up, there was still rain in the little valley; and its crops were so heavy, and its hay so high, and its apples so red, and its grapes so blue, and its wine so rich, and its honey so sweet, that it was a marvel to every one who beheld it, and was commonly called the Treasure Valley.

The whole of this little valley belonged to three brothers, called Schwartz, Hans, and Gluck. Schwartz and Hans, the two elder brothers, were very ugly men, with overhang-