

ARMENIAN FOLK FABLES



Illustrated by Naira Poghosyan

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Preface

The first large collection of Armenian Folk Fables was compiled and recast by folklore specialist Artashes Nazinyan. This collection was published in 2008. Later, I compiled a new collection of Armenian Folk Fables. This new collection of fables was published in 2011. Basically, my collection was the continuation of Nazinyan's work, for the collection contained valuable material and the folk fables were of edifying worth.

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Armenian literature of 19-20 centuries was used while compiling the new collection of fables. The major part of the material was chosen from folklore and ethnographic collections, the other part was chosen from among the section of fable examples involved in dialect studies, some fables were chosen from books about several districts, also from several personal collections. When choosing the fables their modernity, the distinct and deductive value of their morals was taken into consideration.

And now, I have pleasure in presenting to our readers this new collection of Armenian Folk Fables translated into English.

This collection includes the following types of fables:

- Classical allegorical fables; the characters of such fables are animals, partly.
- Short folk tales
- Fairy-tale fables
- Satiric fables and tales
- Fables with dialogues and proverbs

Armen Sargsyan





THREE NECESSARY THINGS

They asked a wise man:

"What does a man need to live a full life in this world?"

"Three things are essential to people: a farmer needs a plough, a scientist needs a pen, and a soldier needs a sword. The combination of these three ensures the wealth of the world, the brightness of mind and the safety of life," said the wise man.

THE EXE-KING

An exe-king was asked:

"Why were you banished from your kingdom?"

"I was banished because I confided high positions and important assignments to unworthy and mean people while insignificant matters were trusted to wise and outstanding people."

THE ELEPHANT AND THE LION

Once an Elephant asked a Lion:

"Why do you attack and tear unprotected animals?"

"I want to bring about peace; they don't get on well," said the Lion.

"How are you going to bring about peace?"

"By the method inherited from my ancestors: in my stomach."

THE OAK-TREE AND THE PUMPKIN

A pumpkin pip fell under an oak-tree and began to sprout up. The pumpkin bush grew very quickly and twined around the oak-tree. Not long after it reached the top of the tree and said to the Oak:

"How many years did it take you to grow so much?"

