

# FABLES

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649424122

Fables by Robert Louis Stevenson

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON**

# **FABLES**



# FABLES

BY

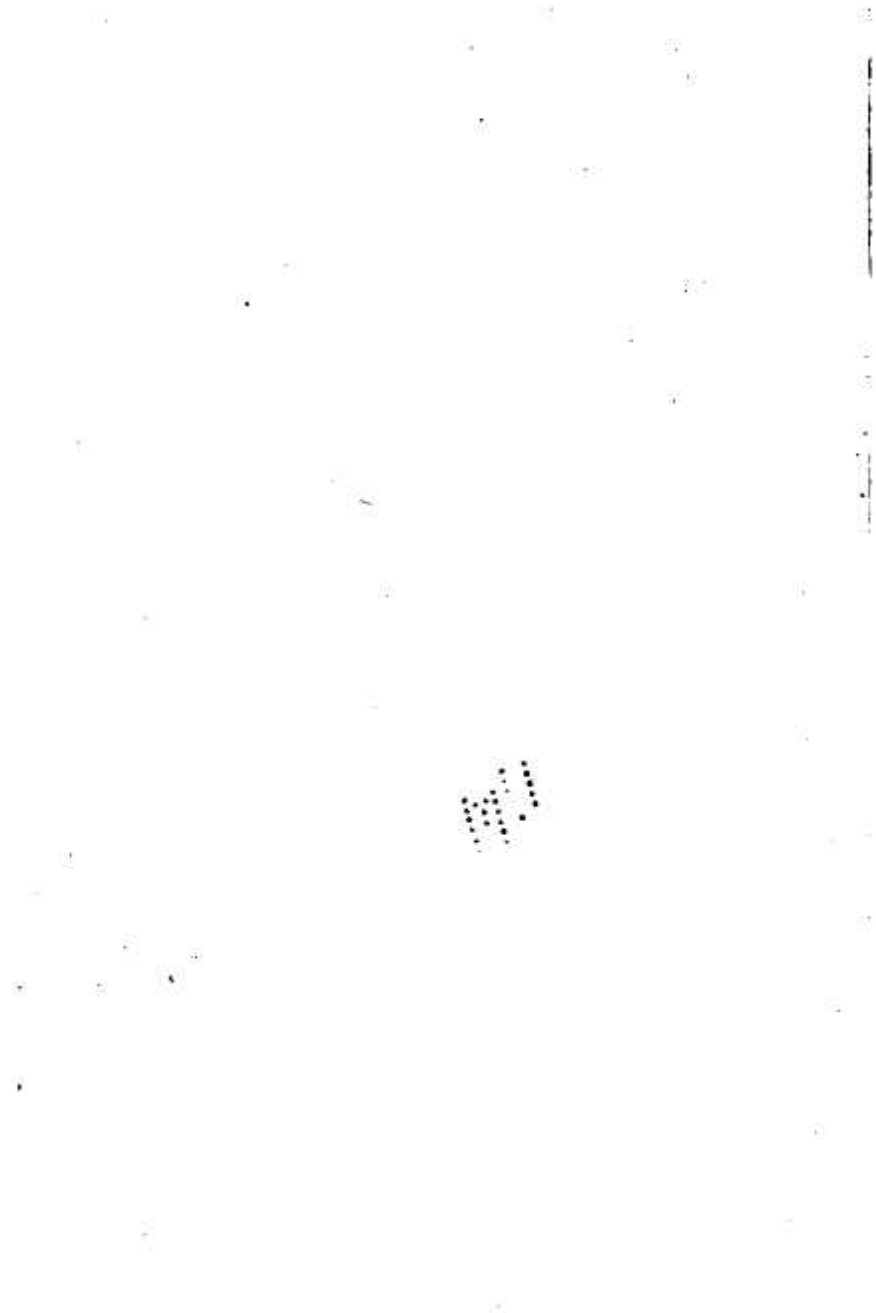
ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON



NEW YORK

CHARLES SCRIBNER'S SONS

MDCCC



Fred Newton Scott  
Request  
1-27/1928  
add. cop.

3-2-28 Kurtz

Q 2-3-36 Jim

### INTRODUCTORY NOTE

THE fable, as a form of literary art, had at all times a great attraction for Mr. Stevenson; and in an early review of Lord Lytton's *Fables in Song* he attempted to define some of its proper aims and methods. To this class of work, according to his conception of the matter, belonged essentially several of his own semi-supernatural stories, such as "Will of the Mill," "Markheim," and even "Jekyll and Hyde;" in the composition of which there was combined with the dream element, in at least an equal measure, the element of moral allegory or apologue. He was accustomed also to try his hand occasionally on the composition of fables more strictly so called, and cast in the conventional brief and familiar form. By the winter of 1887-88 he had enough of these by him, together with a few others running to greater length, and conceived in a more mystic and legendary vein, to enable him, as he thought, to see his way towards making a book of them. Such a book he promised to Messrs. Longman on the occasion of a visit paid him in New York by a member of the firm in the spring

of 1888. Then came his voyage to the Pacific and residence at Samoa. Among the multitude of new interests and images which filled his mind during the last six years of his life, he seems to have given little thought to the proposed book of fables. One or two, however, as will be seen, were added to the collection during this period. That collection, as it stood at the time of his death, was certainly not what its author had meant it to be. Whether it would have seen the light had he lived is doubtful; but after his death it seemed to his representatives of sufficient interest to be handed to Messrs. Longman, in part fulfilment of his old pledge to them, for publication in their Magazine, and there it first appeared.

S. C.



## CONTENTS

	PAGE
I. THE PERSONS OF THE TALE, . . .	3
II. THE SINKING SHIP, . . .	10
III. THE TWO MATCHES, . . .	14
IV. THE SICK MAN AND THE FIREMAN,	16
V. THE DEVIL AND THE INNKEEPER, .	18
VI. THE PENITENT, . . .	20
VII. THE YELLOW PAINT, . . .	21
VIII. THE HOUSE OF ELD, . . .	26
IX. THE FOUR REFORMERS, . . .	38
X. THE MAN AND HIS FRIEND, . . .	40
XI. THE READER, . . .	42
XII. THE CITIZEN AND THE TRAVELLER,	44
XIII. THE DISTINGUISHED STRANGER, .	45
XIV. THE CARTHORSES AND THE SADDLEHORSE, . . .	48
XV. THE TADPOLE AND THE FROG, . .	50

---

	PAGE
XVI. SOMETHING IN IT, . . . .	51
XVII. FAITH, HALF-FAITH, AND NO FAITH AT ALL, . . . .	57
XVIII. THE TOUCHSTONE, . . . .	61
XIX. THE POOR THING, . . . .	74
XX. THE SONG OF THE MORROW, . . . .	85

## FABLES