

**THE FABLES OF
AESOP. II. TEXT
AND GLOSSARY**

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The Fables of Aesop. II. Text and Glossary by Aesop & William Caxton & Joseph Jacobs

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AESOP & WILLIAM CAXTON & JOSEPH JACOBS

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62

The Fables of Aesop.

11.



HRYLAND

The fables of Æsop

*as first printed by WILLIAM CAXTON in 1484
with those of Avian, Alfonso and Poggio,
now again edited and induced
by Joseph Jacobs.*

II.

TEXT AND GLOSSARY.

55
9

895 35
178 100

LONDON, PUBLISHED BY DAVID NUTT 15
THE STRAND, M.D.CCLXXXIX.

¶ Here begynneth the book
of the subtyl historyes and Fables
of Esope whiche were translated
out of Frensshe in to Englysshe
by william Caxton



At Westmynstre In the yere of oure Lorde
.m. cccc.lxxxij



¶ Here begyneth the preeface or prologue of
the fyrste booke of Esope



Romulus son of thybere of the
Cyte of Atyque / gretynge / Esope
man of grece / subtyll and In-
genyous / teacheth in his fables
how men ought to kepe and
rewle them well / And to thende that he
shold thewe the lyf and customes of al maner
of men / he induceth the byrdes / the trees and
the beestes spekyng to thende that the men
may knowe wherfore the fables were found /
In the whiche he hath wretton the malyce of
the euylle people and the argument of the
Improbos / He teacheth also to be humble and
for to vse wordes / And many other fayr En-
samplis relieced and declared here after / the
whiche I Romulus have translated oute of grekes
tongue in to latyn tongue / the whiche yf thou
rede them / they shalle aguyse and sharpe thy
wytte and shal gyue to the cause of Joye /

¶ The first fable is of the cok and of the
precious stone /



As a Cok ones fought his pasture in
the donghille / he fond a precious
stone / to whome the Cok sayd /
Ha a fayre stone and precious
thow arte here in the fylth And
yf he that desyreth the had found the / as I
haue he wold haue take the vp / and sette the
ageyne in thy fyrst estate / but in vayne I haue
found the / For no thyng I haue to do with
the / ne no good I may doo to the ne thou
to me / And thys fable sayde Esop to them
that rede this book / For by the cok is to
vnderstand the fool which retcheth not of
fayence ne of wysedome / as the cok retcheth
and setteth not by the precious stone / And by
the stone is to vnderstand this fayre and play-
faunt book