

the Buddhists in their endeavours to teach the lower classes of the people, and had therefore been mixed up with many of the ideas peculiarly Buddhistic.

The collection known to us under the name of *Panchatantra* became very popular, and finally by means of well-known translations, Persian, Arabic, Hebrew, Greek and Latin, reached the principal countries of the East and also of the West. The earliest collection of the fables and parables was no doubt made in Sanskrit, but of that collection we possess at present an abbreviated text only the *Panchatantra* or *Pentamerone*, of which another abridgment has reached us as the *Hitopadesha* or Wise Counsel.

I cannot here explain all the stations through which the original and perfect text of the *Panchatantra* reached Persia, Syria, and last, Europe also. A full account may be found in my collected works, "Chips from a German Workshop," vol. iv., p. 440. At present I can only say that this book of Indian fables became known to the King of Persia, Khusrau Nushirvan (531-579 A.D.), who had it translated into Pehlevi, the ancient language of Persia, while the Chalif Al-Mansur (754-775 A.D.) had it rendered into Arabic. That translation was again turned into modern Persian (914), Greek (1080), Hebrew (1250), and Latin (1263-78), and afterwards into all the languages of Europe—Italian, German, French, &c., till it fell into the hands of La Fontaine, many of whose charming *fabliaux* are taken directly from that source.

Of course, in their progress from India to Europe many changes took place. Even in India itself every narrator felt himself at liberty to vary his story. Thus the Abbé Dubois in his "Mœurs, Institutions et Cérémonies des Peuples de l'Inde," 1848, tells what is evidently our story such as he often heard it in the South of India:¹

A traveller, having missed his way, was overtaken by darkness in the midst of a dense forest. In fear of wild beasts, he decided that the only means

¹ "Hindu Manners, Customs, and Ceremonies." Vol. ii. By the Abbé J. A. Dubois. Translated by Henry K. Beauchamp. Oxford: 1897.