

365

奇趣英语乐园

7

World Folktales

世界民间故事

〔印〕爱思得图书国际企业
Xact Studio International 编绘



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知识产权出版社
全国百佳图书出版单位

图书在版编目 (CIP) 数据

世界民间故事: 英文 / 印度爱思得图书国际企业编绘. — 北京: 知识产权出版社, 2018.8
(365 奇趣英语乐园)

ISBN 978-7-5130-5395-2

I. ①世… II. ①印… III. ①英语 - 儿童读物 IV. ①H319.4

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字 (2018) 第 006708 号

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责任编辑: 田 姝 尹 娟

责任印制: 刘译文

世界民间故事

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【印】爱思得图书国际企业 (Xact Studio International) 编绘

出版发行: 知识产权出版社有限责任公司 网 址: <http://www.ipph.cn>

电 话: 010-82004826 <http://www.laichushu.com>

社 址: 北京市海淀区气象路50号院 邮 编: 100081

责编电话: 010-82000860 转 8598 责编邮箱: yinjuan@cnior.com

发行电话: 010-82000860 转 8101 发行传真: 010-82000893

印 刷: 三河市国英印务有限公司 经 销: 各大网上书店、新华书店及相关专业书店

开 本: 720mm×1000mm 1/16 印 张: 13.5

版 次: 2018年8月第1版 印 次: 2018年8月第1次印刷

字 数: 200千字 定 价: 58.00元

ISBN 978-7-5130-5395-2

京权图字 01-2018-0268

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INTRODUCTION

Like other stories, kids like to read folk tales very much. Folktales not only entertain us but also take us beyond the literal world. In such an imagined world, they find themselves detached from the real world and attached to the world where everything is possible and everything whether having life or lifeless tells its joys, happiness and woes and weal.

Folktales, better known as traditional tales, are old, as the psyche is old and the imagination is enduring. The patterns of cause and effect, good and evil which run through these old tales underlie all cultures. Folktales, the unauthored, cumulative recasting of many generations' experience, explores the old, that is, fundamental areas of us, areas so common they remain at the bedrock of our humanity.

And because they are old, they are told and retold for centuries. They have actually become concise models of narrative, real building blocks for our imagination. The happenings and events make the reader learn some or the other moral. In these stories we can make what we wish to happen finally happen. In our imagination, we can see and feel core places that we may strive all our lives to bring into actual being. But in the folktales it is completed and we live and feel it, too, in the unique terms of our own images. In this book, 365 Folk Tales, the selected tales are best narrated with explicit illustrations justifying its theme and appeal.



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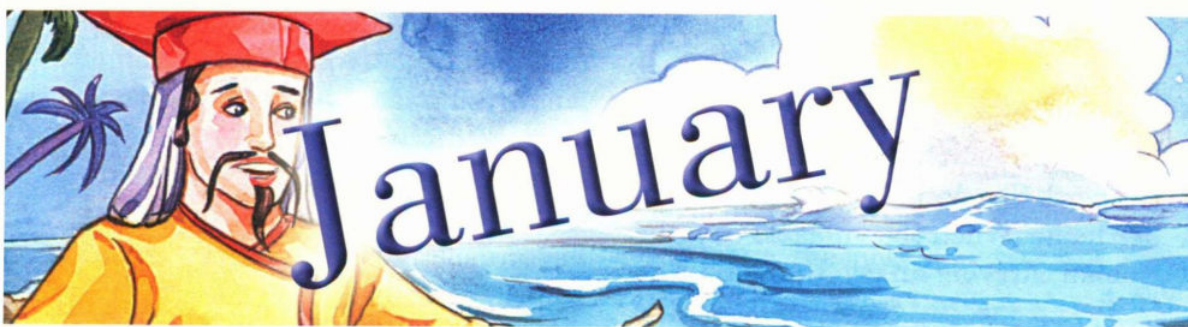
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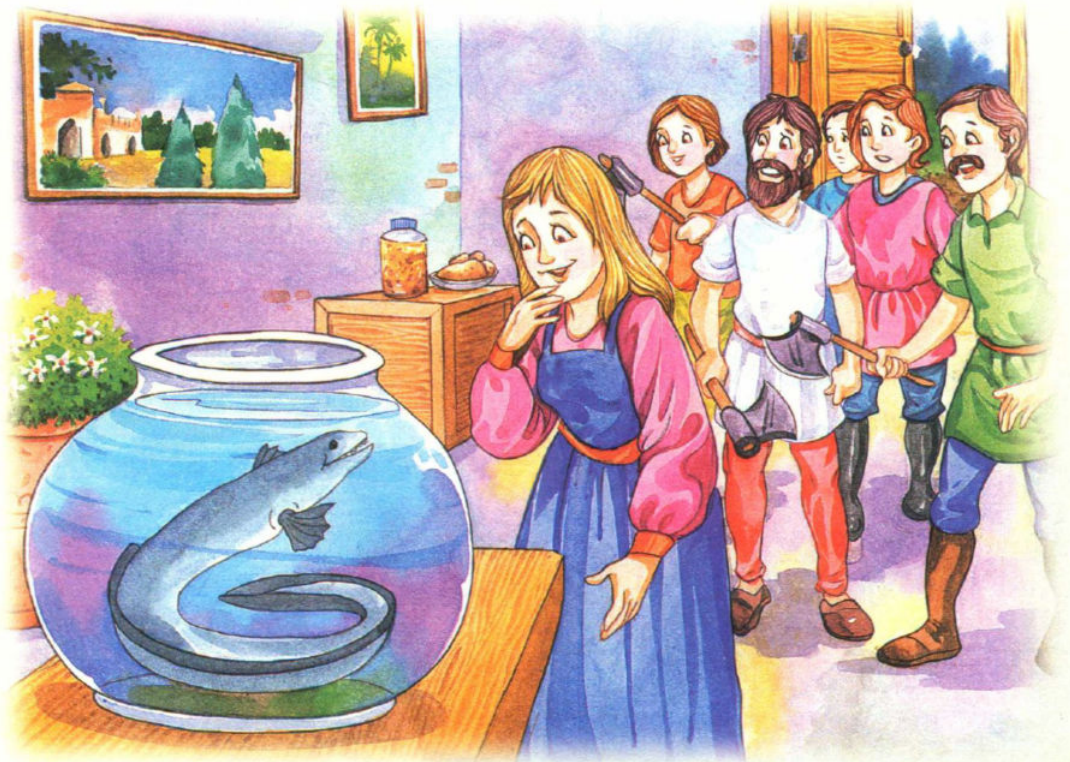
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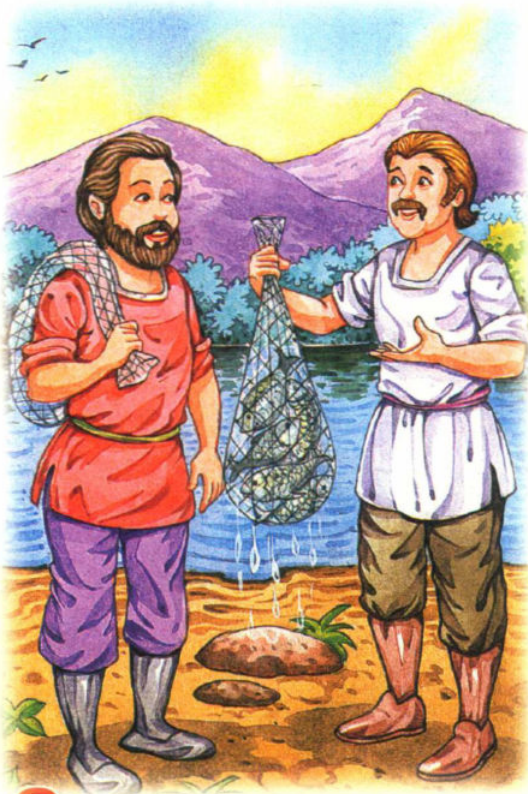


Sina and the Eel

Once upon a time a couple lived with their daughter Sina in a village. One day the mother went out to get some water. As she drew the water, she noticed an eel clinging to the side of the bowl. She decided to take the eel to her home. When the villagers saw the woman carrying an eel, they said it to be an evil one. But the woman took the eel home to be a pet for her daughter. Sina received the gift gladly, and kept her pet in a bowl of water. When the eel grew too large for the bowl, Sina placed it in a nearby pool. The eel continued to get bigger and by the time it was fully grown, he was in love with Sina. Sina's parents were very worried about that. So they took their

daughter and fled. However, the eel was not easily discouraged and began to pursue them. Sina managed to escape to the nearby island. There she hid at a pool. To her horror, there in the pool was the eel staring at her. Sina at once fled to the homes of some chiefs, who lived near the pool. "What's the matter?" they asked. "Please slay the eel that is pursuing me!" she pleaded. The villagers wasted no time in killing her ardent follower. As the eel was dying, he called out these parting words: "Sina, if you love me, plant me near a stone wall. A tree will grow and thrive and bear fruit." The villagers ate the eel, but Sina saved the head and planted it in front of her home in Laloata. Few days later, a tree began to grow there, in fulfillment of the eel's prophecy. The tree became known as a coconut tree.





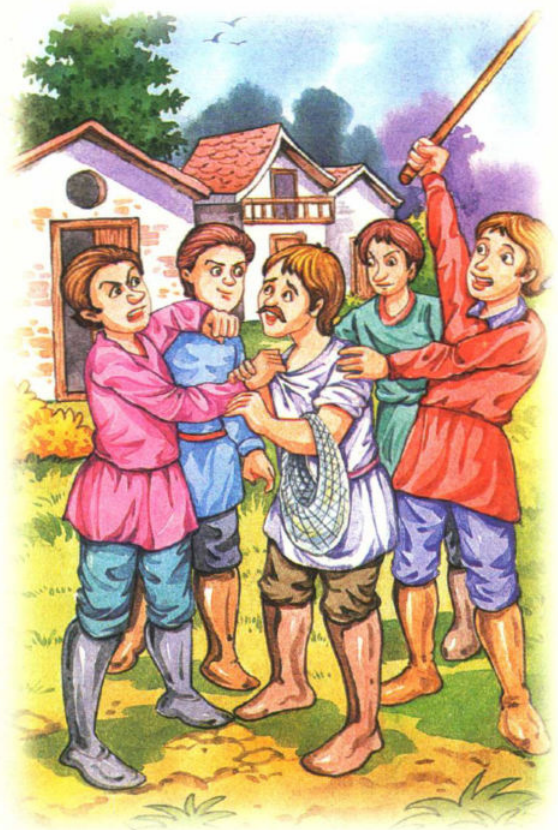
3 JANUARY

Greedy imagining the next day's catch, Anansi said, "No, you take these and I'll take tomorrow's fish." But the next day, the nets were rotting away and no fish were caught. The fisherman said, "Anansi, take these rotten nets to market. You can sell them for much money." When Anansi shouted, "Rotten nets for sale!" in the marketplace, people beat him with sticks. "Some partner you are," Anansi said to the fisherman as he rubbed his bruises. "I took the beatings. At least you have taken the pain." Anansi never tried to trick the fisherman again!

2 JANUARY

Anansi Goes Fishing

One day Anansi thought that he could trick a fisherman by doing his work. "Let's go fishing," he suggested. "Very well," said the fisherman, who was clever and quite wise to Anansi's tricks. "I'll make the nets and you can get tired of me." "Wait," said Anansi, "I'll make the nets and you can get tired of me!" Anansi made nets as his friend pretended to be tired. They caught four fish. The fisherman said, "Anansi, you take these. I'll take tomorrow's catch. It might be bigger."



4 JANUARY

Baba Yaga

Once upon a time there was a woman who had a step daughter. The wicked stepmother always used to beat her. One day she said to the girl, "Go to your aunt and ask her for a needle and thread to sew a blouse." The aunt, called Baba Yaga, was a witch. The little girl was not silly and she first went to her own aunt for advice. The aunt told her what to do and how to get rid of the witch. The girl thanked her aunt and came to the witch's hut.



5 JANUARY

"Good day to you, Auntie," said the girl. "My mother has sent me for a needle and thread to sew a blouse," She said. Then Baba Yaga, said. "Sit down and weave yourself." The girl sat at the loom. And Baba Yaga went out and told her maid, "Go and heat up the bath-house and give my niece a good wash; I want to eat her." "This is the end for me!" the girl despaired. Then she suddenly remembered what her own aunt had said. So she did what her own aunt had told her to do. Finally, she escaped from the witch and went to live with her own aunt.





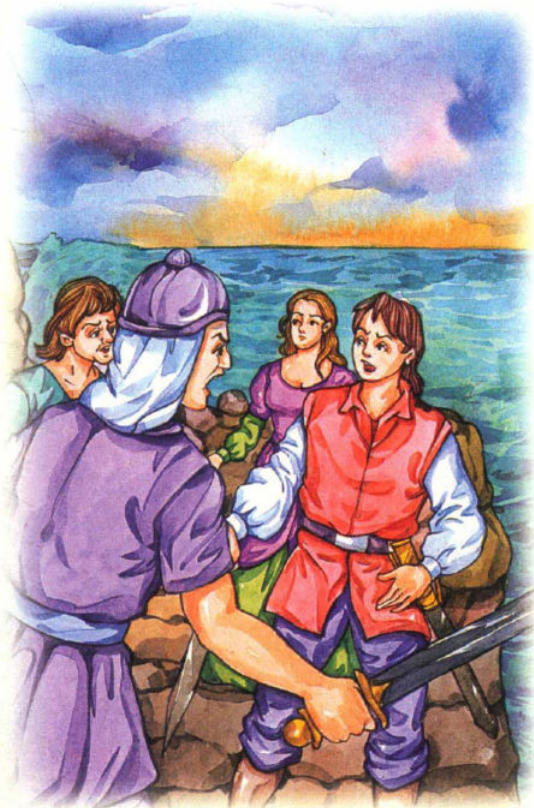
6 JANUARY

Bulanawan and Aguio

Langgona and his wife had twin boys named Bulanawan and Aguio. One day, when the mother took Bulanawan to the field, suddenly a great wind arose and took Bulanawan to a distant land. There he grew up and became a great warrior. One day while Bulanawan and his wife were walking along the seashore, they sat down and fell asleep. Aguio, the twin brother of Bulanawan, had also become a great warrior, went to this place not knowing that his brother was there.

7 JANUARY

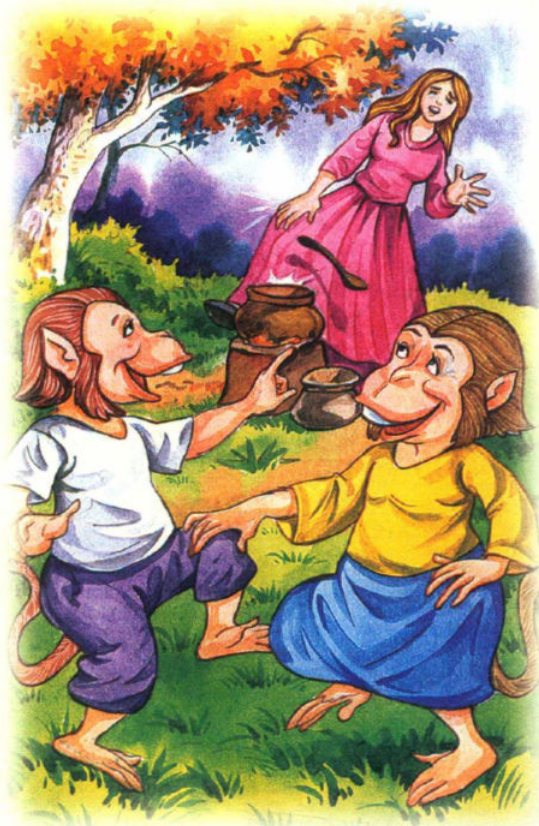
Meanwhile, Aguio saw the woman sitting on the rock, he felt enchanted to see her beauty. He decided to steal her. When she refused to come with him he went forward to fight with her husband. Bulanawan sprang up with a sword and came forth ready to fight. Aguio became very angry with this, and they fought until their weapons were broken, and the earth trembled. Then their father came and settled the trouble, and when all were at peace again they discovered that Aguio and Bulanawan were brothers. They returned home and lived happily.



8 JANUARY

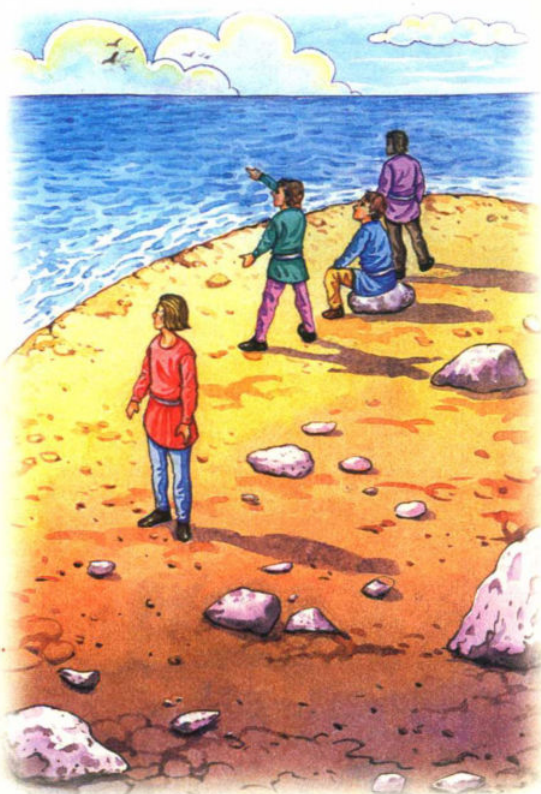
How Children Became Monkeys

Once upon a time, there lived a woman in a village. She had two children. She used to dye clothes to earn her living. One day the mother took her children with her to dye cloth. Not far from her home she had made an earthen oven onto which she boiled water and made colours for dying. Here she carried her cloth, some dye pots, and two shell spoons. After that she put the cloth into the colour. She put clothes one by one in the pot.



9 JANUARY

To let it take up the dark color, she left the clothes in the pot for hours. Meanwhile, the woman thought to cook food and so she went home. In her absence the children came and wore the colorful clothes. Wearing the clothes the children became happy and began to dance. By the time woman returned she saw them in clothes and got enraged. She chased the children and threw the spoon at them. Those spoons got stuck at their back. The woman then called the children back but they ran into the forest. Since then they became monkeys and lived like that.



10 JANUARY

How People Got Holes in Their Nose

In the beginning there were four beings and a bird that lived on an island. On this island there were no trees or grass. One day they sent this bird out across the waters to see what she could find. And when the bird returned she brought some soil, a piece of rattan, and some fruit. Melu, the oldest one, took the rattan and dug into the earth. Then he planted the seeds from the fruit, and they grew well until there were much rattan and many trees.

11 JANUARY

They were well pleased with their work. But one day Melu said: "What is this earth use of if there are no people?" One day they took some wax and shaped it into forms. But when they brought them to the fire the wax melted. So they tried to use mud to make people. All went well till they were ready to make the noses. They put them on upside down. Melu changed its place. Another fellow protested. So Melu seized the noses, and turned them as they are today. In a hurry he pressed his finger at the root, and it left a mark in the soft clay, which you can still see on the faces of people.

