

THE FABLES

OF BĪDPĀĪ



The Fables of Bidpai.

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Bidpā'ī
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The earliest English version of the
Fables of Bidpai,

"The Morall Philosophie of Doni"
by Sir Thomas North, whilom
of Peterhouse, Cambridge
Now again edited and induced
by Joseph Jacobs, late of
St. John's College,
Cambridge.



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in the neaft three yong Parrattes: fo taking them vp he caried them home, and familiarlye brought them vp, and taught them to ſpeake ſome things in his language, (the Indian tongue) which in that countrie where he dwelled nobody vnderſtoode. One of them could piertly ſaye. Our Myſtreſſe maketh hir huſbande a Cuccolde. The other. O what a ſhame is that. The thirde ſayd, it is true, it is true, it is naught. Theſe toyes had the ſeruant deuifed to be reuenged of hir, for that he could not obtaine his purpoſe, and bicauſe ſhe would not conſent to his wickedneſſe. Thus all the daye theſe bleſſed Parattes tampered on theſe verſes only, and ſang them ſtil as they were taught. And for that the tongue was ſtraunge, there was neuer none of the countrie coulde vnderſtande it. There came one daye to the houſe of this honeſt man, two Merchants, kinſefolks to his wife, which bicauſe they had trafficked *India* very well, they had the tongue perſitely. And being at the table, they talked of many things, and they fell at length into talke of Parattes. So that the good man of the houſe cauſed his men to bring his three Parattes to him, only to ſhowe them vnto his kinſemen. The little Parattes being made of, beganne to ſing