

FABLES AND

STORIES

MORALIZED.

Being a

SECOND PART

OF THE

Fables of ÆSOP,

And other

Eminent Mythologists, &c.

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The MORAL.

HERE's a Short Lecture upon the Force of *Imagination*, and the *Instability* of *Humane Affairs*; where the most Timorous of Creatures does the Office of a Mighty Army, and more, perhaps, then the Power and Politicks of an Emperour, in the Head of a *Hundred Thousand Men*, could have done without it. A Man might bring Instances innumerable of These Impressions, by *Fear*, *Phancy*, and *Panick Terrours*. But it may serve, once for all, to tell us, that in Matters even of the Greatest moment, the World is govern'd rather by *Imagination*, then by *Reason*; and we Live but by *Guess*.

254. An Elephant and a Rhinoceros.

HERE pass'd a Challenge betwixt an *Elephant* and a *Rhinoceros*; Time and Place appointed, and both ready for the encounter. *How come you*, says the *Rhinoceros*; *that are a Beast, to take upon you the handling of a Sword, which is a Weapon Peculiar to Man? And then again, how come you to consult the Stars about the Succession of Empires, and to write down the Resolution in Magical Letters upon the Sand? Well!* says the *Elephant*; the Skill of managing a *Sword*, is no Crime I hope, unless it be one to defend my Country. And then for my looking up to Heaven, 'tis no more then we all do, Morning and Evening, in Acknowledgment of the Benefits we receive from above. And so for my writing with my *Trunk* upon the *Sand*, it may serve to inform you, that we are Capable of Discharging even the Nicest of *Humane Offices*. This is not either to Decline, or Delay the Combat; and so they Both stood to their Arms; the One advancing his *Trunk*, and the Other his *Horn*. While they were now coming to the very *Push*, they found themselves surpriz'd, upon the Sight of a *Frog* and a *Mouse*, that stood *drawn*, hard by there, and ready to engage. Pray'e soft a little, says the *Rhinoceros*; and before we go any further, let us understand the meaning of This Quarrel here, Now the

the Subject of the Dispute, it seems, was only which was the most Beautiful Creature of the Two; the *Frog*, or the *Mouse*. Now the Case was so Ridiculous, and the Example so Scandalous, that the very Shame of Playing the Fool after such a Copy, made them Friends again.

The MORAL.

IT was a Thousand Pittyes that the *Frog* and the *Mouse* did not put in for *Seconds* to the *Two Champions*, the *Elephant* and the *Rhinoceros*, which would have made the Figure yet more Ridiculous, and consequently more suitable to the End it was intended for. Here are *Two Quarrels* started in this *Apologue*, One of them betwixt a Brace of *Beasts*, upon a Dispute which was the *Greater Philosopher*, or Statesman of the Two: and the *Other*, betwixt a *Frog* and a *Mouse* upon the Question, which of the Two was the *Greater Beauty*: Just at this Solemn rate of Fooling, People manage in this World, till the very Shame of Playing the Fops, in Mean and Scandalous Company, without the least Touch of *Honour*, and *Conscience*, brings them to their Senses again.

255. A *Lyoness* and a *Mule*.

UPON the Tidings of a *Lyoness* being deliver'd of an *Issue Male*, the *Beasts* of the *Forrest* came all thronging to Court, to joy her of her Son and Heir; and a *Mule* sent in his Compliment among the Rest; but she was so busy in a Lecture to her Son, upon the *Gracefulness* of his *Meen*, *March*, and *Fashion*, that she was not to be spoken with at that time.

The *Mule* made Another Attempt a while after, and she was then so taken up in a *Lesson* to him upon the *Dignity* of his *Bloud*, *Family*, and *Function*, that no *Mortal* was to come at her till that was over.

The *Mule*, after This, came once again, but she was then so intent upon the *Topique* of the *Duty*, and the *Mystery* of *Government*, and the *Royal Arts* of keeping the *People* in *Obedience*, by a *Political Temperament* of *Love* and *Fear* in the *Administration* of *Justice*, that there was no coming at her Then neither.