

# *The* ANIMALS *in the* ARK

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PICTURES BY A. VIMAR



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Next, all bow and say Good day!  
Well, my dear, I hope you slept,  
No such storm was ever seen—  
Weather-records have been kept.

Listen to the patter-pat,  
Sounding on the window panes—  
Skies as black as Noah's hat.  
Water? Well, you see it rains.

Charming weather, frogs must think.  
Why, I wonder, aren't they out?  
One would almost fear to sink,  
Listening to the gutters spout.



Rheumatism frets the ass.  
"Mr. Lion, please, I beg,  
Shut that window as you pass,  
Such a draught is on my leg."

So they chatter and make jokes,  
Whiling all the stupid hours,  
Lively and good-natured folks,  
Laughing at the awful showers.

Mr. Crocodile, aside,  
Seemed the only one put out;  
What could prick his tender hide?  
Rose-leaves in his bed no doubt.



Something, as he took his nap,  
Dreaming of his river Nile,  
Waked him up and made him yap—  
Poor old Mr. Crocodile!

Then a gay rhinoceros,  
Quartered in the room next door,  
Nimbly, but with such a fuss,  
Danced and juggled on the floor.

"Yes, the nicest dreams must end,"  
Sighed the elephant, "Heigh-ho!  
Tell me what it meant, good friend,  
What I dreamed last night, you know."

"In a garden full of flowers,  
With a lovely pair of wings,  
Round I flew for hours and hours,  
Just like butterflies and things."

Thus the animals, each one,  
While the flood around them roared,  
Killed the time with play and fun.  
No one seemed the least bit bored.





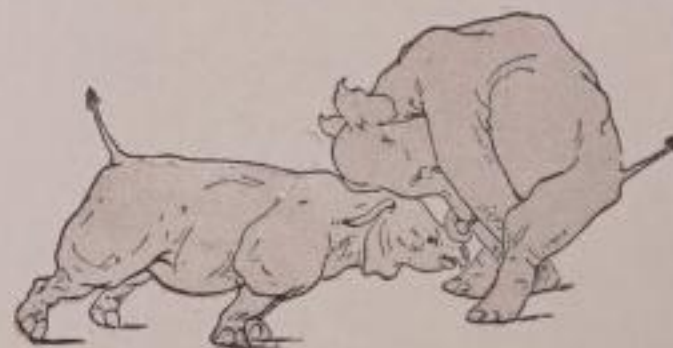
of harmony sang a cantata especially composed for the occasion.

A few of the minor events then came off: the sack races by little rabbits and the long jump by the frogs, low and lofty tumbling, sleight-of-hand tricks by the monkeys, and difficult balancing by the badger. Indeed, every one was given an opportunity to display his talents.

Then came the more important events.



The wrestling match between the rhinoceros and the elephant was short, but lively; after a few tricky feints the elephant, by a clever twist of his trunk, seized his adversary around the waist and held him a moment aloft, all ready to slap him down and pin his two shoulders to the floor. I tell you it was a mighty ticklish moment for Mr. Rhinoceros. He, however, had strength enough to







twist himself about and fall upon his feet. The two athletes watched each other panting. Then the invincible Hornynose, letting out a war-whoop, threw himself with irresistible force upon the Bulwark-of-the-Jungle, who in his turn was lifted off his feet and suddenly found himself four yards away, flat upon his back,

with his four feet up in the air. There wasn't the slightest question of a fall.

The elephant picked himself up, humiliated but dignified, and, wiping his forehead, accepted the condolences which the happy victor gracefully offered him.

The obstacle race for antelopes, gazelles, deer and chamois was the prettiest sight imaginable. Cries of admiration greeted the appearance of these graceful animals, who seemed to sail like birds over every difficult obstruction.



elephant, would you believe it, slipped on the polished floor and down they went, he right across her slender neck. The gaiety was interrupted a little by this accident, but soon began again.



It was not hard to guess where Mr. Piggy was all this time. With shameless unconcern he had gobbled up plate after plate of delicious meats and rare fruits.

In the adjoining rooms the smaller animals were amusing themselves. In the distance a drum, which the sedate badger continually beat, let all the company know that they were to come together for supper.

The day after a party is always rather sad, and between you and me it was so in the Ark. The crocodile had what you might call a hide-ache, and the ship's doctor was called in to look at Master Hippopotamus's tongue.

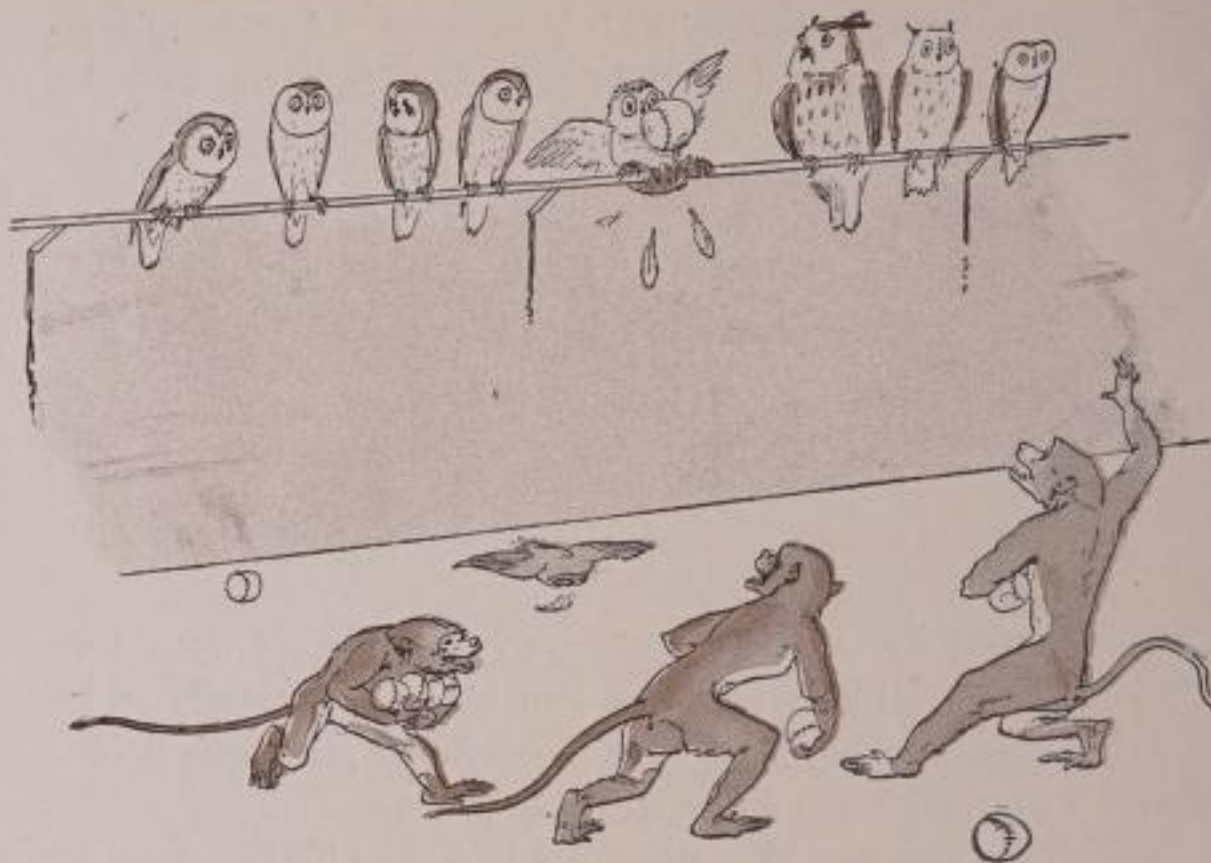
In the morning the purser began giving out the various stores: vegetables, breakfast foods and all sorts of fish. Of course the meat-eaters for the time being had to abandon their usual diet and content themselves with tinned things.





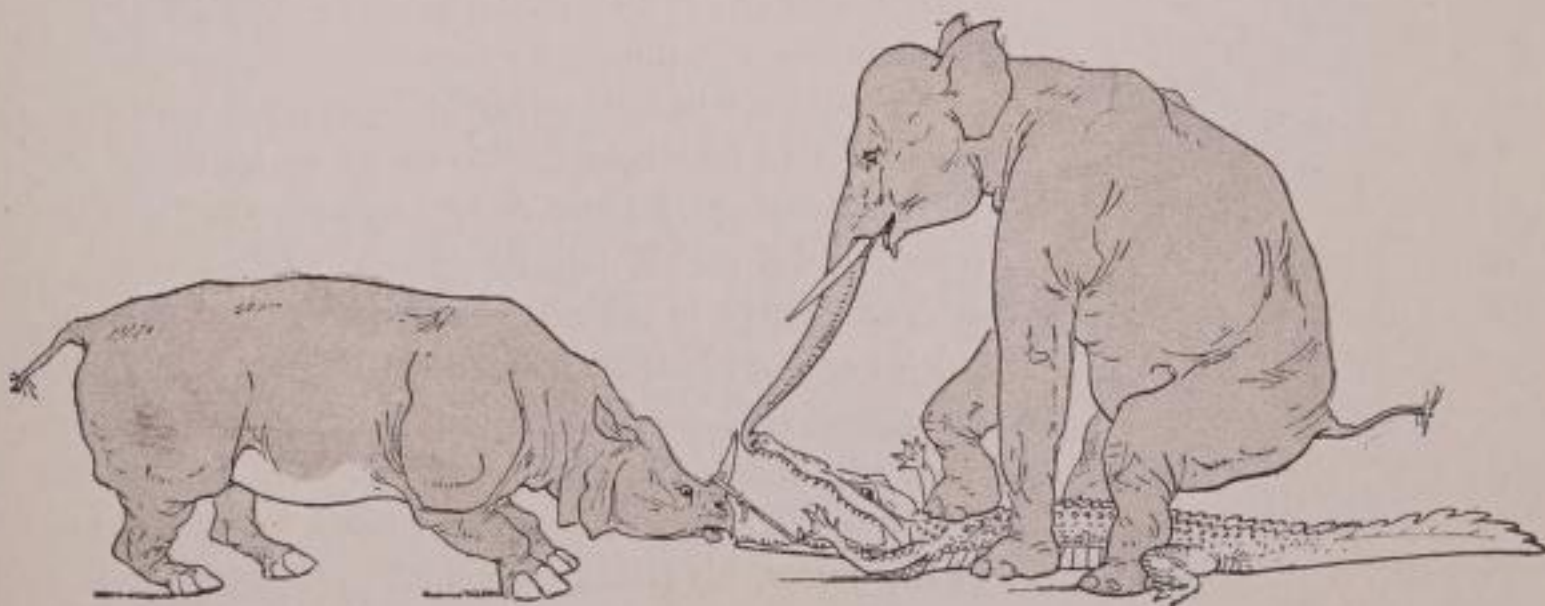
an awful toothache. He insisted upon trying the most unheard of remedies; mustard foot baths, poultices and great plasters: — useless, all of them. At length he was persuaded that the only thing to do was to have the tooth out. The elephant and the rhinoceros performed this operation, always delicate, with the most perfect success.

As for the monkeys, to tell the truth, they were almost impossible to get on with. As long as they kept by themselves, no one thought of stopping them if it amused them



to pull out each other's fur by handfuls, or to scratch each others' noses; but it was too much when they began to tease and ill-treat those dear, harmless little parrots and owls. The monkeys bethought themselves of playing "nigger baby" with these perfectly innocent and quiet birds, knocking them off their perches without so much as a word of warning.

Their favorite victim, however, was the hippo-







*With joyful shouts the animals hurried to disembark*