

Animal Story Translation

Standard Authorised Version

Story 1

The white rabbit has big ears. The cat walks to the rabbit and says: “You have big ears. Why are my ears small?” The rabbit says: “Your ears are small because you do not eat grass, but (you eat) flesh.” The cat is sad. But he is also bitter at the rabbit and runs to the rabbit and sits on him. “O cat”, the rabbit says, “my hairs are no longer white, but they are dark”. The eyes of the cat are bright. And he says: ‘You insult me’. And the cat walks around the rabbit and looks into his¹ eyes. “I know”, he says, “that I am small and the rabbit is big, but I am walking to the dwelling and I am fetching the dog.” The cat walks to the property and walks through the door of the house and finds the dog. And the dog walks out of the house and walks from the property to the rabbit and he kills him.

Story 2

The dwelling of the rooster is warm. When the sun shines, then the dwelling is still warmer. And the rooster, just as the cat, loves the warm sun. But he hates the cold. On the one hand this rooster summons the Sun, but on the other hand the rooster does not see the sun because he is blind. And now he says: “I do not see, but I know where the black cat sits. For he sits in a beautiful place and fills his belly with flesh.” And he runs from the house to the white rabbits, but he does not speak because he is smaller than the rabbits. The rabbits make their dwellings in the earth. And they run around the cat and have joy in their hearts. But the rooster alone is sad because he is blind and does not see.

Story 3

This story² is about the animals³. Once there is a cat. This cat is black. On the property where the cat sits there is also a rabbit. This rabbit is white. And he eats green grass. The rabbit invites the cat to his place on the property. And he says to the cat: “Why do you eat green grass?” And the cat replies: “If I eat grass, I am sick” And the rabbit says further: “Why do you not sleep at night? For I observe you closely and I hear you in the night and I am not able to sleep.” Therefore the cat answers: “I love to sing when the sky is dark.” After these things both the cat and the rabbit go through the door to the courtyard.

Story 4

On the property of the cat and the rabbit is a worm. This worm dwells under the house where all is dark. But the worm comes into the house. And the cat sees the worm. The whole worm is scarlet-red. And he says: “I know that you are looking at me. What then do you see? Do you not know that in the future I will be king?” But the cat answers: “I am greater than you, O evil worm. You will bow down to me.” Therefore the worm says: “But I will not bow down to you. As I live, I am strong, but you are weak. You eat flesh, but I am fed with fruits. On account of this I will live forever.” The rooster now comes and brings assembles the worm and the cat and the rabbit. For with him they will journey and will worship the dog. For the dog is truly king, greater than all the animals on the beautiful property. Since the dog is king, he wears a purple robe and a black belt. Under his feet are fiery red sandals. If the animals will worship the dog they will sleep well.

Story 5

“The dog is king, the dog is great, the dog is wise” say all the animals as they worship the dog. The dog wears a purple robe. He sits on the royal seat. For he judges the animals. The scarlet-red worm holds his face towards the ground and says further: “the dog will save us from all dangers and from the beast.” “Where is this beast?” replies the dog. “For I will kill it.” The black cat says: “We will therefore wait and the beast will come to us. For he indeed eats worms and roosters and cats and rabbits and especially dogs. The face of the dog is white. And he says: “I am cold. Where is my coat? I will go through the door into the house because night is coming and I will sleep. And my people will remain and will summon me if the beast comes. At that time I will cast the beast out of the courtyard.”

Story 6

This is the story of the animals on a property somewhere in the land of words. The dog was over all the

1 In Greek the word ‘his’ is less often literally used than in English. The definite article suffices. But in English idiom we often need to supply ‘his’.

2 Lit. “word”, here in the sense of “story”.

3 Lit. “irrational living creatures”.

living creatures. And this dog was king. At least this (dog) was wishing to be king. But when the dog said that he was king, this fact was not making him a king. For the fire is not in his eyes, but his eyes are white. And the cats bow down to him, for they fear him. But does this dog have wisdom? We shall see. For the time approaches when the beast will come. What then is the beast? The beast is a bear. And by her nose she finds the courtyard. But the worms saw her and were following the rabbits out of the courtyard into the forest. And the bear approaches the house and throws the door out into the courtyard. And she walks around in the house and seeks the dog. She asks: "Where are you, O dog?" But the dog is not found nor taken. For the dog took bread and was running up the staircase and was praying to the god of the dogs.

Story 7

On the one hand the dog was praying to the god of the dogs. On the other hand the bear walks around in the house. The name of the bear is 'beast'. And she cries out: "Did you write your last will and testament, O dog?" But the dog keeps silence. And will the god of the dogs hear him? Who is god of the dogs? The god of the dogs is an eagle. The belly of the dog feels sick and in his eyes there is water. By means of his lips he glorifies the eagle, but he fears the bear. And now the dog does not hear the bear in the house. For the bear departed into the courtyard. Therefore joy enters into the heart of the dog. For the eagle answered his prayer. The eagle has power.

Story 8

The dog now descending the staircase beholds the house and sees the destruction which the bear made. And with his two ears he pays attention. But in his heart he dies, hearing the bear in the courtyard eating the blind rooster. But he obeys his inner voice and drinks water. And now he sits. Sitting therefore, he persuades himself that as king it is necessary for him to do something. And opening his mouth he perceives his white teeth. Thus reigning as king he will save the other living creatures. Now, praying to the eagle, he receives strength. And the dog, taking milk and honey, makes a trap hoping to catch the bear. And in expectation he wags his tail.

Story 9

All the animals – the cat, the rabbit, the rooster, the worm – await in fear their king who is hoping to save them. But the rooster having remained behind died. For the bear, having departed from the house, ate the rooster. And the dog, having made a trap, running to the bear leads her to the trap. And the bear, crying out, immediately runs into the trap. And the cat greets the bear, having brought milk which he drinks. The dog now binds the bear who is growing angry with leather straps.

Story 10