

550 BC

AESOP'S FABLES

THE OLD MAN AND DEATH

Aesop

Aesop (620-560 BC) - A Greek writer and/or collector of fables about whose life little is known. He is said to have been born a slave and later released, but many believe he is a legendary figure. Aesop's Fables are animal stories with moral lessons, many of which are from Oriental and ancient sources dated hundreds of years before his time. The Old Man and Death (550 BC) - "We would often be sorry if our wishes were granted."

THE OLD MAN AND DEATH

A very poor old man, footsore and bent with years, threw down the heavy bundle of firewood under which he had been groaning, and with tears in his eyes exclaimed: "Oh, hard luck! What pleasure have I ever known? Nothing but work all day- no money- no one to care for me. Alas! I'd sooner Death would take me away." Behold, the grim King of Kings stood before him, dreadful and awe-inspiring, as he rested on his scythe. "Beg pardon, but did I receive a hurry call?" The old man turned all colors and trembling like a leaf, replied, "Please, sir, would you kindly help me to lift this bundle of sticks on to my shoulder?" We would often be sorry if our wishes were granted.

THE END