



The Wise Fool: Fables from the Islamic World

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off

Media type:

Book

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In recent years fewer anthologies have been published so this new collection of traditional tales is particularly welcome. Tales about Mulla Nasruddin ? the Hodja ? are particularly welcome since they are not so well known here. These are not fairy tales full of kings, princesses and magic, they are fables ? comments on everyday behaviour. In this volume, Shahrukh Husain has gathered twenty-two of the Hodja stories, some no more than half a page, others a little longer but all demonstrating a dry wit and ironic view of people?s foibles. Some will be recognised from other traditions - ?The price of steam?, for example; others will be unknown ? delicious discoveries. This is a handsome volume illustrated with glowing artwork which reflects the colours found in the textiles, tiles and ceramics of the Middle East; it provides a richly satisfying accompaniment to the text. To help understanding there is a glossary, a pronunciation guide and a brief bibliography. As a collection this could be read, or used with older children, KS3 and even adults. If you are a fan of Yiddish humour (see Adele Geras?s **My Grandmother?s Stories**), you will appreciate the Hodja.

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