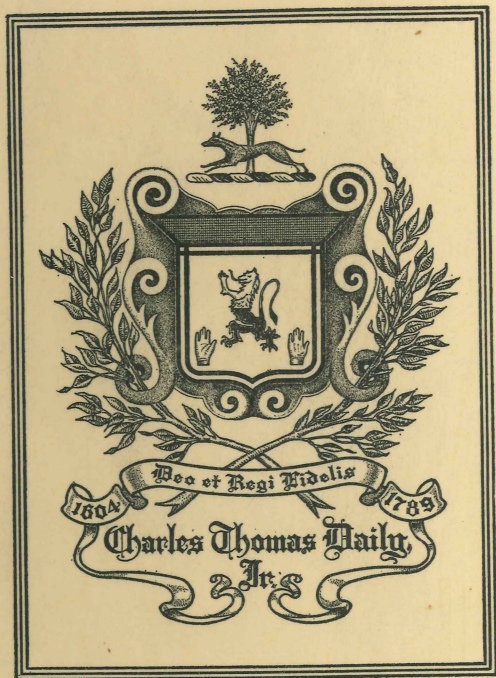


THE PANCHATANTRA

TRANSLATED BY ARTHUR W. RYDER





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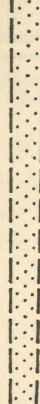
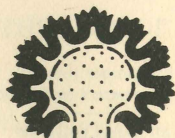
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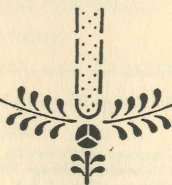
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The jobless man is hired
For careful serving;
The holder may be fired,
If undeserving.

No character moves up or down
At others' smile or others' frown;
But honor or contempt on earth
Will follow conduct's inner worth.

And once more:

It costs an effort still
To carry stones uphill;
They tumble in a trice:
So virtue, and so vice."

"Well," said Cheek, "what do you wish to imply?"
And Victor answered: "You see, our master is
frightened, his servants are frightened, and he does
not know what to do." "How can you be sure of
that?" asked Cheek, and Victor said: "Isn't it plain?

An ox can understand, of course,
The spoken word; a driven horse
Or elephant, exerts his force;

But men of wisdom can infer
Unuttered thought from features' stir—
For wit rewards its worshiper.

And again:

From feature, gesture, gait,
From twitch, or word,
From change in eye or face
Is thought inferred.

THE PANCHATANTRA

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 Is thought inferred.

So by virtue of native intelligence I intend to get him into my power this very day."

"Why," said Cheek, "you do not know how to make yourself useful to a superior. So tell me. How can you establish power over him?"

"And why, my good fellow, do I not know how to make myself useful?" said Victor. "The saintly poet Vyasa has sung the entry of the Pandu princes into Virata's court. From his poem I learned the whole duty of a functionary. You have heard the proverb:

No burden enervates the strong;
To enterprise no road is long;
The well-informed all countries range;
To flatterers no man is strange."

But Cheek objected: "He might perhaps despise you for forcing yourself into a position that does not belong to you." "Yes," said Victor, "there is point in that. However, I am also a judge of occasions. And there are rules, as follows:

The Lord of Learning, speaking to
A false occasion,
Will meet with hatred, and of course
Lack all persuasion.

And again:

The favorite's business comes to be
A sudden source of king's *ennui*,
When he is thoughtful, trying scents,
Retiring, or in conference.