



Stories from Upper Egypt.

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To cite this article: C. S. Myers (1901) Stories from Upper Egypt., *Folklore*, 12:3, 329-330, DOI: [10.1080/0015587X.1901.9719641](https://doi.org/10.1080/0015587X.1901.9719641)

To link to this article: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/0015587X.1901.9719641>



Published online: 06 Feb 2012.



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get rich by trading in goods; where are our articles to trade with? We have only our women, we can only get rich through them."

This statement, at once candid and instructive, left no doubt as to the true nature and operation of *lobolo* in the case of this individual, and in all probability his case is that of many others.

P. PRESTAGE, S.J.

STORIES FROM UPPER EGYPT.

(Told by a Copt of Assiut, on board a Nile steamer, January 1901.)

I. One night a man, when walking down a street of his village, saw a giant before him with a face of fire and his legs planted one on each side of the pathway. The man turned and ran back, only to find the same giant once again similarly facing him. Thereupon he cried out. Some friends came to his aid, and the giant suddenly vanished. (Assiut.)

II. There was an unusually fine donkey for sale, and a man, who wished to purchase it, mounted the animal to give it a trial ride. It began immediately to grow taller and taller. But the man, who was very strong and was possessed of a knife, displayed the weapon and threatened to kill the donkey if it did not at once return to its former size. The beast consented, and the man was able to dismount again. (Assiut.)

III. A fellah (peasant) of Upper Egypt wished to marry, but, having no money, applied to his neighbour for a loan. The latter replied that he was too busy preparing to go to Cairo, and that he would lend him money upon his return. Accordingly the rich neighbour's boat, laden with corn, started down the Nile towards Cairo, and pursued an uneventful voyage until it reached the cliffs of Abdul Fûda. There it stopped, and, after using every effort, the Reis (captain) told his master that he could not make his ship move. Suddenly a man appeared on board. The owner asked him his business. The stranger replied, "At how much do you value your corn?" "Why do you ask?" said the owner. "I want to buy it," came the answer. The owner said, "I value my corn at five hundred guineas." "Then," exclaimed the stranger, "throw it into the Nile." This was done; and thereupon the stranger gave the owner a paper, saying, "Take this to the

slaughter-house in Cairo. You will find there a very dirty dog in front of the house sitting on its hind legs. Give it this paper, and it will procure you the money." Although he disbelieved all this, the man took the paper, and when he reached Cairo went to the slaughter-house, where he found several clean good dogs, and finally a dirty one sitting on its hind legs. He gave it the paper. The dog read it, and said, "I will give you the money to-morrow. Return here at this time." The next day, when the man revisited the dog, he was told, "Come again to-morrow for the rest. I give you now half the money you require." On the morrow the dog said, "To-day I can complete three-quarters of the full amount. You shall receive the remainder to-morrow." On the following day the last instalment was paid. "Tell me," inquired the man of the dog, "who are you, who was he who gave me the paper, and how did you procure the money?" The dog replied, "The man whom you met is my king, and I am his slave. It was my king that wished to marry, but he had no corn. On the first day after you came here I could not find sufficient money for you. When a thief stole money, I also stole. Where he stole one guinea,¹ I stole six. Thus I obtained for you the money." (Nile Valley, between Assiut and Luxor.)

C. S. MYERS.

RHYMES, ENGLISH AND HINDU.

I. 1. From Mr. Hills, a very old labourer, of Compton, near Newbury, June, 1900.²

Churn, butter, churn !
 Come, butter, come !
 Peter stands at our gate,
 Waiting for a butter-cake.
 Churn, butter, churn !
 Come, butter, come !

¹ The word "guinea" has become universally Arabicized in Egypt. It means an Egyptian pound, *i.e.*, 100 piastres = £1 or. 6d. It is the only common Egyptian word for such a coin, which is, as a fact, very rare, English gold being used (with the additional pence), as the equivalent of it.

² Ellis's *Brand*, iii., 313. It is interesting to find a charm in use 350 years ago still extant, and in a more complete form than that originally recorded.