



Animal Folk Tales From Around The World: Vol.ii



Author: Santhini Govindan
Format: Paperback
ISBN: 8178060523
Code: 9228C
Pages: 24
Price: Rs. 36.00 US\$ 3.00

Publisher: Unicorn Books
Usually ships within 15 days

Animals and birds have been our precursors on this earth. Since all creatures have their own unique appearance, man has often wondered about the infinite variety in shape, colour and form among living creatures.

Down the ages he wove imaginative stories to explain this baffling variety--and these subsequently passed into the folklore throughout the world.

Myths have been woven around-

- *How the tiger acquired stripes
- *How the crocodile got its rough, scaly back
- *Why the dog barks at everyone it encounters

Such myths are now part of our folklore.

The tales in this book come from all corners of the globe North America, Africa, Europe, Australia, South-east Asia and our own beautiful land India and bring us glimpses of faraway lands and stange creatures.

Reviews about the book:

Animal Folk Tales from Around the World Chandamama, April 2007

These slim volumes of interesting animal stories, rewritten for children by Santhini Govindan, a renowned Children's writer, have six stories each drawn from folk traditions around the world. Indian folk tales are well represented by stories from Assam, Meghalaya and Orissa, beside the well-known story of how squirrels got their stripes, retold from the Ramayana. And if you are not convinced that it was Lord Rama who gave squirrels their stripes, you can take your choice of another yarn on the same theme- this time spun by the Native American Iroquois!

Most stories take off from the unique physical appearance or habits of different animals, and attempt a fascinating explanation of these attributes. So, you have stories that tell you how the crocodile got its scaly skin and why dogs bark at strangers, and why the hawk and crow are not friends. Each story is not only amusing and lively, but contributes to a better understanding of the place of its origin, of which these animals are obviously natives.

The books (in three volumes) are well written for the most part, although the language tends occasionally to be heavy and not so child-friendly. Profusely illustrated, every page is a riot of colours, which, although attractive, often seems to be a case of



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overkill.

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