Translations / Traductions

Krylov’s Fables

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Book 6: Contents

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No 1: The Wolf And The Shepherds

The Wolf creeping round the shepherds’ holding
And peering through the fence’s paling
  Saw that they had procured
  The best ram of the herd
  Which they were calmly preparing
       By disemboweling.
This the dogs were calmly disregarding.
As in annoyance he left the scene
He thought: “It’s an undeniable fact;
What a commotion there would have been
Had I been the perpetrator of this act.”

No 2: The Cuckoo And The Dove

The Cuckoo on her branch sent forth her sad cuckoo.
  “Why are you so sad my love?”
   From her branch asked the Dove
       With a gentle coo.
“Is it because spring has passed by
And with it love? Because the sun sits lower in the sky
And because the winter is drawing nigh?”
“Poor me! How can I not feel so low?”
The Cuckoo said. “Judge for yourself my tale of woe.
I was happy in love this spring that has passed
   And I became a mother at last.
But my children do not wish to know me.
   Such disrespect
      I did not expect.
I am filled with envy when I see
The ducklings surround their mother in a huddle
And the chicks run to their mother for a cuddle.
   Like an orphan I remain alone.