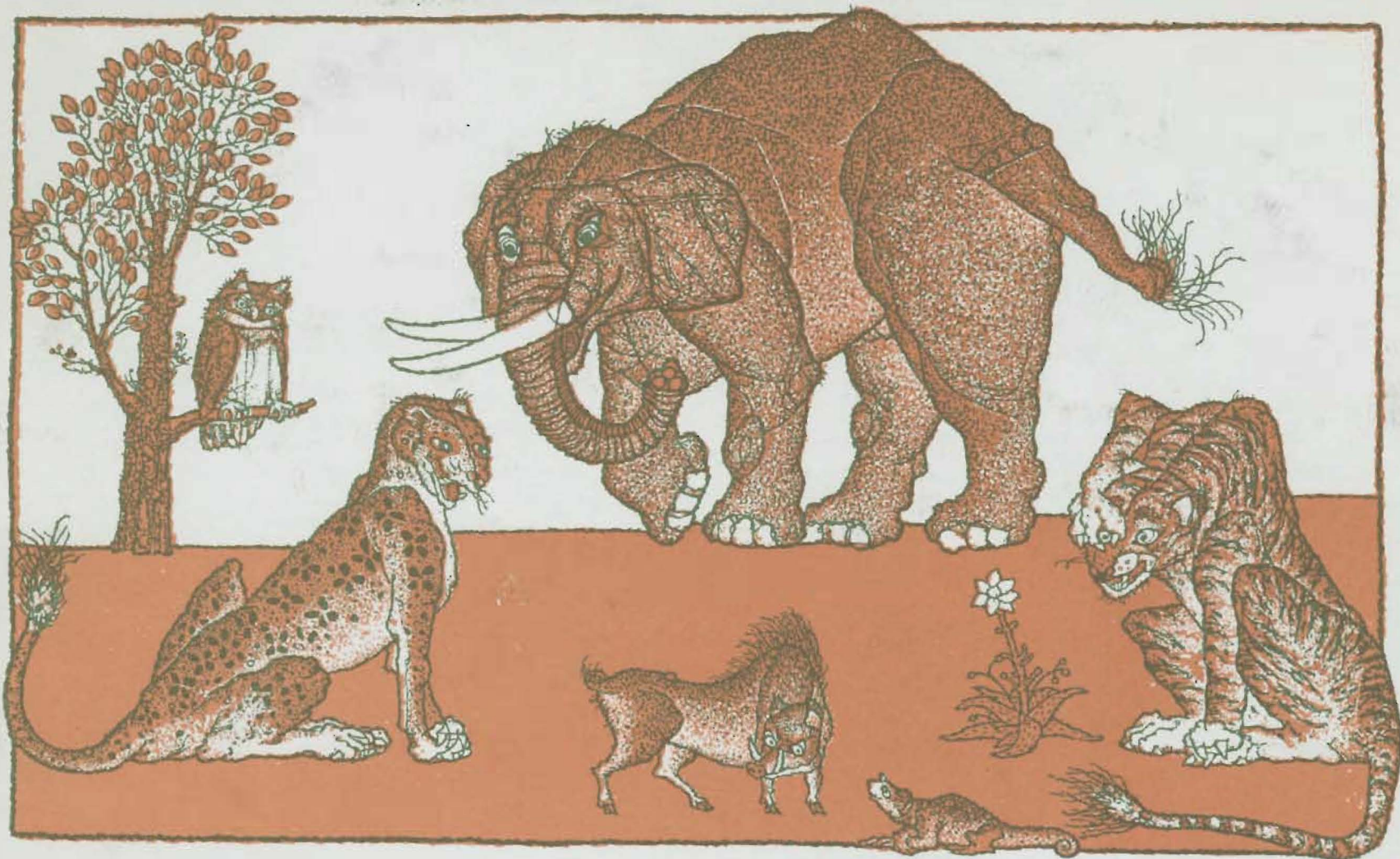


FOLK TALES FROM INDONESIA



FOLK TALES FROM INDONESIA

TOLD BY HAROLD COURLANDER

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MUSIC LP

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FOLK TALES FROM INDONESIA

Here are some authentic Folk Tales from Indonesia, told by Harold Courlander, who is well known for his many books and articles on Folklore. These tales are selected from his book, *Kantchil's Lime Pit*, illustrated by Robert Kane whose work appears on the front of this cover and published by Harcourt, Brace and Co. The narration is simple and direct, true to the spirit of the tales as told in the original Indonesian Languages.

The hero of these stories is a little mouse deer called Kantchil. Kantchil stands only one foot high, but he is so clever that he often outwits animals who are much larger and fiercer, such as the tiger, the wild boar, the crocodile, and the elephant. His shrewd and resourceful behavior resembles that of the American brer rabbit, but his personality is uniquely Indonesian. There is a cunning sharpness and at the same time a humorous pomposity in Kantchil's character which gives no end of delight to children.

In *War Between The Crocodiles And Kantchil*, the little mouse deer gets the buffalo out of the crocodile's clutches, with the result that the crocodiles declare war upon him. Kantchil, however, frustrates the crocodiles in their efforts at revenge.

In *The Bet Between Matjan And Gadja*, Kantchil comes to the aid of Gadja, the elephant. Gadja has made and lost a bet with Matjan the tiger, and as a penalty is to be eaten by him. But Kantchil saves the day for Gadja and changes the tiger's mind by means of one of his ingenious tricks.

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In *Kantchil's Lime Pit*, the mouse deer finds himself in a predicament. He involves other larger and more naive animals -- tiger, elephant and boar -- and rescues himself in a clever fashion at their expense. In many tales Kantchil calls upon Mohammed and the Raja to support his wisdom and authority, in the *Lime Pit Story*, Kantchil quotes God as he spins his plot.

The Tigers' War Against Borneo explains why there are no tigers in Borneo today. Here the wise Kantchil is credited with saving an entire country by his presence of mind.

Two Out Of One has an unusually imaginative quality. Trapped in the garden of Matjan the tiger where he has gone to steal mangoes, Kantchil outwits the tiger by offering to make two tigers out of one.

Harold Courlander is a writer and Folklorist who is well known for his "Haiti Singing", one of the definitive books on Haitian Folk Music and Dances. He is also the author of a number of Books of Folk Tales, including: "The Cow-Tail Switch" (In collaboration with George Herzog), a collection of West African Tales; "Kantchil's Lime Pit", a collection of Indonesian Folk Tales; "Uncle Bouqui of Haiti", Haitian Tales; and "The Fire On The Mountain" (with Wolf Leslau), a collection of Ethiopian Folk stories. He has written numerous articles for the *Musical Quarterly* and other publications on the Folk Music of Haiti, Cuba and Ethiopia, and has recorded Music and Folklore in many parts of the world as well as in the

United States. Mr. Courlander is editor of The Ethnic Series of recordings issued by the Ethnic Folkways Library, to which he has contributed numerous recordings which he made in the field. He is also a Novelist and a Guggenheim fellow.



Photo by David Gahr

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