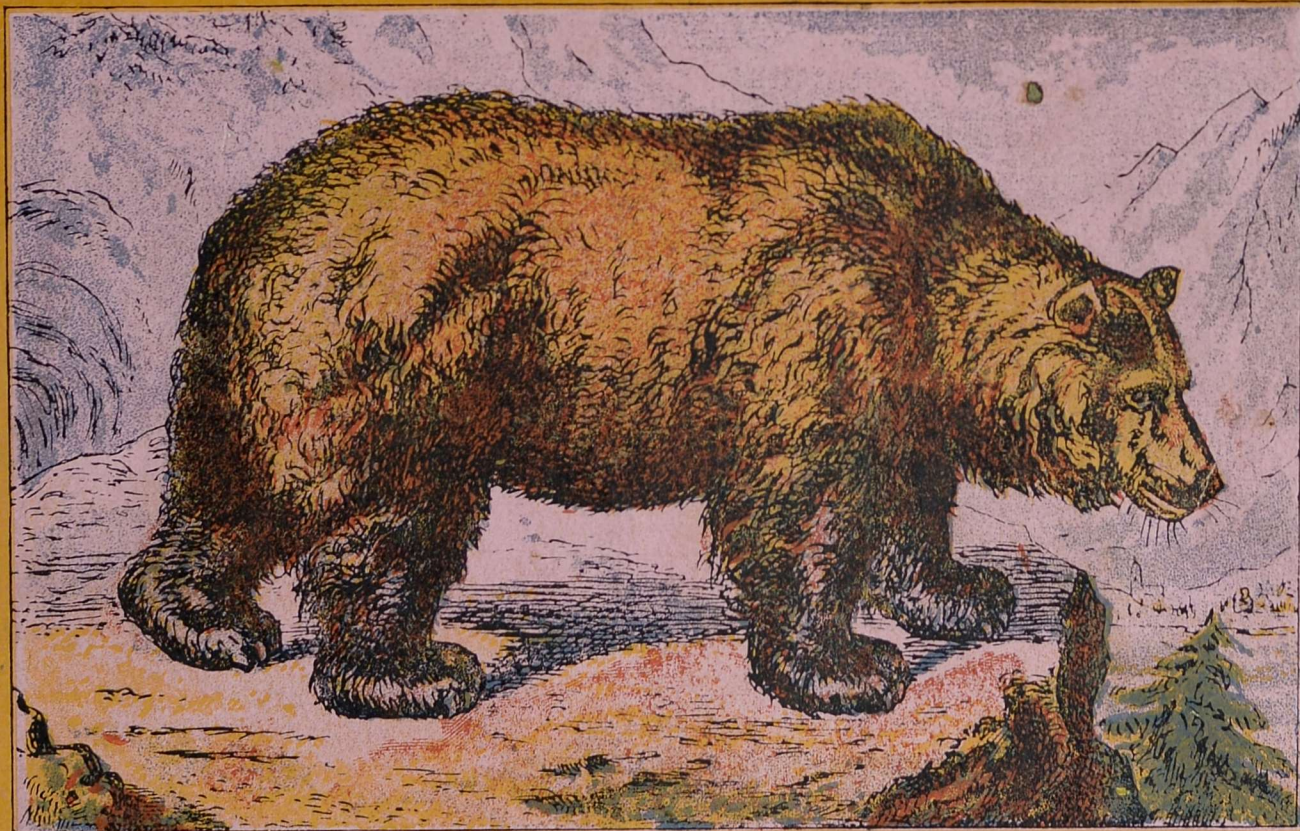


THE ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

BROWN BEAR, ELEPHANT, DROMEDARY, LEOPARD, KANGAROO, ZEBRA.



LONDON: FREDERICK WARNE & CO.

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Arthur Allen,

A Birthday gift,

From His affect,

Mama, October 31st 178 —

THE BROWN BEAR.

THE Brown Bear is found in the great forests of the north of Europe and America, where it lives in dens, or caves, or the hollow of old trees. It feeds on nuts, wild fruit, vegetables, and roots; but when driven by hunger, it will eat sheep and even cows. It is very fond of honey, strawberries, and grapes, and will travel for miles to procure them. It is a very strong animal; it can stand on its hind legs for some time together, and thus it generally attacks its enemies. It sits up to eat, and holds its food in its paws.

The Bear has a thick coat of valuable fur. The sole of its foot is of excessive width, and the whole surface of it touches the ground when it walks; nevertheless the animal runs or rather trots along as swiftly as a man can run. It is also capable of climbing trees with ease.

The strength of the Bear is enormous. It is a solitary animal, living in the pine forests alone—not in herds; sleeping by day, and coming out in the night in search of prey.

It is very intelligent, and can be taught many amusing tricks, which have often been exhibited in our streets.

The female Bear is a remarkably tender mother, often dying in defence of her young when they are attacked by the hunters.



THE ELEPHANT.

THE Elephant is the largest terrestrial animal—that is, animal that dwells on the land—as the whale is the largest of fish. The form of the Elephant is very awkward and ungainly, but he is wonderfully sagacious, and possesses a great memory, and much kind feeling for his owner. His trunk—an organ which no other animal possesses—is merely the nose prolonged to a great length, and terminating in the openings of the nostrils. The trunk supplies the place of an arm and a hand. It is strong, flexible, and highly sensitive; with it he can pick up a pin, or root up a great tree.

Elephants live together in herds or troops in the great forests of Africa and Asia. They have always a leader, who is generally an old female elephant, but very often an old male. Their food consists of herbs, roots, and grain; they are also very fond of bananas and coconuts.

The Elephant when tamed becomes a very useful servant. He can carry vast weights, and his skill in using his trunk makes him serviceable in other ways. We have seen the Elephant of an Indian rajah go through his war exercises, which showed that he might be formidable in battle where cannon was not in use; and the same creature (which then acted with apparently savage ferocity) fanned us when seated on his back, and selected and gathered flowers for us at his mahout's (or driver) order. Many stories are told of the intelligence and affection of this wonderful creature.

The valuable ivory tusks of the Elephant cause him to be eagerly hunted; and in his turn he assists his rider in hunting the tiger, for which sport he is regularly trained.



THE LEOPARD.

THE Leopard is a very fierce and savage beast of prey, but much smaller than the lion or tiger. Its skin is covered with spots. It is found in the forests of Africa, near rivers and streams. It is very strong, and can bound many feet at one spring.

Its den is chiefly found in the midst of great forests, on the tree-trunks of which it is in the habit of sharpening its claws, thus leaving marks on the bark, which warn travellers where it is likely to be found. The Leopard never hunts in the middle of the day, as the sunlight does not suit its sight; but at night it sees perfectly, and then it starts in search of food, and makes great havoc amongst flocks and herds, if there are any near.

The Leopard is sometimes called the "Tree-Tiger," because it climbs trees when it is hunted or when waiting for its prey.

The Leopard, which in its wild state is a terrible animal, may be tamed easily, and is then very affectionate and playful. But it should never be suffered to lick the hand, as its tongue is as rough as a rasp, and if it takes off the skin and tastes blood, its savage nature is likely to return, and it would become dangerous.

The Indian Leopard, called the "Cheetah," can be trained to hunt deer and antelopes. The "Cheetah" will become as tame as a cat; but one cannot quite trust it.





THE DROMEDARY.

THE Dromedary is the lightest and swiftest of the Arabian Camels. He is formed by GOD to travel easily over the great plains of sand on which he lives. He is provided for this purpose with hard soles under his feet to help him to walk on them, and with double lids to his eyes to protect them from the loose flying sand.

He can go many days without drinking, because in one of his stomachs—he has four—there are cells in which he can store up water, to keep by him till he wants it. He is also satisfied with very little food: thistles and prickly shrubs and a little grain suffice him. He can carry great weights, and runs very swiftly. He has been called the “Ship of the Desert.” The Arabian Camel has only one hump.

The Arabs drink the milk of the Camel, and travel about on its back. Its hair is very fine and delicate, and makes fine woollen shawls, and also brushes for painters. Dromedaries carry the luggage of merchants and other people across the desert: an Arab goes before them, singing a low song. If he sings slowly, the Dromedaries move slowly; if he sings faster, they move faster; when he ceases singing, they stand still, and kneel down, ready to be unloaded.

The Dromedary is very patient and obedient; but if too great a burden is put on his back, he will not get up, but utters lamentable cries, striking at his driver with his head.



THE KANGAROO.

THE Kangaroo is a very singular-looking animal. It has very short fore legs, and very long and powerful hind ones, and a strong thick tail, on which it partly rests when upright. It cannot walk very easily, as you may suppose, with legs of such different lengths, though at times it does so; but it bounds along in great leaps with immense swiftness. The Kangaroo is also provided with a natural cradle for its little ones. This is a bag or "purse," as it is called, of skin, in front of the animal. Here the little Kangaroo lives till it can jump; then it gets out on the grass, to nibble it or to play on it; but when it is tired, or danger approaches, it jumps into its soft warm cradle again.

The Kangaroo lives in the plains and on the low grassy hills of Australia and Tasmania. It eats herbage and low bushes, and during the heat of the day it shelters itself in the high grass and among the tall ferns. The Kangaroo is a very timid creature, but God has given it the means of defending itself by making its tail very hard and strong, and also by putting on the fourth toe of each of its hind feet a terribly sharp and long nail.

The Kangaroo is hunted for its flesh and skin; the flesh is very good to eat. It will live in England, and is very tame when kept in captivity.



THE ZEBRA.

THE Zebra is a very handsome animal, larger than the ass, and rather resembling the mule. It has a large head and ears, and fine delicate legs, and its skin is as smooth as satin, with beautiful stripes on it like ribbon. On the male Zebra these stripes are brown on a yellowish-white ground; on the female Zebra they are black on a white ground.

Zebras inhabit the burning plains of Africa, over which they bound with great swiftness, equalling a race-horse in speed.

These animals feed on grass and vegetables, like the ass and horse; but in captivity they will eat anything that is given to them, even meat.

The sight of the Zebra is very powerful: it can discern the hunters at a great distance, and as soon as it sees them it takes to flight.

When caught young and carefully trained, the Zebra may be tamed. A beautiful specimen kept in London some years ago was so gentle that he would permit a child of six to ride on his back, and was familiar even with strangers, whom he would let pat him. Occasionally, however, the Zebra shows a fierce and savage temper.

The ancient Romans were fond of having wild beasts exhibited in their circuses, and making them fight with each other; or sometimes killing them themselves for sport. A Zebra was exhibited at these Roman games, and was called a *hippotigris* (a horse-tiger), perhaps on account of its stripes.

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