Fables as a Point of Contact between East and West  
- A Study on the Medieval Latin Fable Tradition -

The fables as a genre of folk literature or folk tales have a long history both in the East and the West. The ancient Greek fable tradition, represented by the famous name Aesop, was handed down to the Romans, in the form of the collections made by Babrius, Phaedrus and Avianus and many less conspicuous authors. The medieval period in the West has known the Aesopian fables mainly through those fables transmitted under the names of Phaedrus and Avianus. The medieval Latin West was a productive period in the tradition of fable, in that there emerged new fables and also various recasts of the Aesopian fables.

The new impetus of great importance comes from the Orient, when the *Panchatantra* and other fables of Indian origin, and with them the elements of Oriental fables were introduced to Europe in the middle of the thirteenth

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century. Although the Panchatantra was translated into Greek in the eleventh century, its influence on the Latin West was not conspicuous, and it was not until the Castilian translation, and subsequently the Latin translation of the Calila and Dimna, which is the Arabic translation of the Panchatantra, were made in the thirteenth century that the Oriental elements made themselves visible in the European fables both in the subject matter and the structure.

The Directorium Humanae Vitae, the Latin translation of the Calila and Dimna through the Hebrew translation, was made by a converted Jew named John of Capua between the years 1253 and 1305. In the following years, many other Latin translations were made on the basis of the work, among which that by Raymond de Béziers is famous, and it was also translated into various European languages such as French, Spanish, Italian, German and English. The Directorium Humanae Vitae was printed twice in about 1480 and these were published in Paris in the years of 1887 and 1889 and the first critical edition of the work was published also in 1889 by J. Derenbourg. The Directorium Humanae Vitae exerted considerable influence on not only the medieval fables in the West but also the vernacular literature, e.g., the Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer.

[Keywords: fables, Aesop, medieval Latin fables, Indian animal fables, Arabic tradition]

1. 서 론

흔히『이솝 우화집』이나 라퐁텐의『우화』로 대표되는 우화 문학은 민속