

Translating Literary Texts

Arabic Passage:

"ألف ليلة وليلة" هي مجموعة من القصص العربية جُمعت في العصور الوسطى، وقد نقلت غالبية قصصها التي تقدر بـ 264 قصة على ألسنة رواة القصص، ووصلت بعضها إلى أوروبا خلال العصور الوسطى. ومع مرور الوقت، زاد عدد القصص في المجموعة حيث أضيف إليها من مصادر متعددة، ورتبت داخل القصة الأصلية. في عام 1450م وصلت مجموعة القصص إلى شكلها الحالي. وتروي القصة الأصلية كيف أن الملك شهریار، بدافع من عدم ثقته في المرأة، كان يتزوج زوجة جديدة كل يوم، ويأمر بقتلها في صباح اليوم التالي، إلى أن استطاعت عروسه شهرزاد تأجيل الحكم عليها، لأنها بدأت تروي له قصة ليلة الزفاف، واستطاعت أن تجعل شهریار شغوفاً لمعرفة بقية القصة، وهكذا من قصة إلى أخرى. وقد امتد ذلك إلى ألف ليلة وليلة، وكان يمهلها كل ليلة، وبعدها أفلح شهریار عن عاداته القديمة. وكانت الترجمة الأولى لألف ليلة وليلة فرنسية، ترجمها أنطوان غالان عام 1704م. ومنذ ذلك الوقت أصبح علي بابا وسمسم وعلاء الدين ومصباحه السحري والسندباد البحري معروفين في أوروبا، كما إن هذه القصص قد ألهمت الموسيقار الروسي رمسكي كورساكوف لإصدار مجموعة سيمفونية أسماها شهرزاد.

English Translation of the Teacher:

"A Thousand and One Nights" is a collection of stories in Arabic pieced together in the Middle Ages. Around 264 of these stories had been retold by story tellers and some stories reached Europe at that time. The number of these stories increased with time where other stories had been inserted to the collection. They were reconnected to the original story. In 1450 the collection became as it is now. The original story tells about the king Shahriar who out of his distrust in women, was marrying one bride every day and ordering to kill her in the morning, but when he got married to Shahrazad, she could delay his judgment, because she started telling him a story in the first night of their wedding. She was able to make Shahriar curious about the end of the story. And moving from one story to another this lasted one thousand and one nights, he was postponing her judgment until he abandoned his old-fashioned habit. The French translation of A Thousand and One Nights was the first translation done by Antoine Galland in 1704. Since then, Ali Baba, Sesame, Aladdin and his magic lamp and Sindibad the sailor were all famous in Europe. This collection even inspired the Russian Musician Rimsky Korsakoff who produced a symphony which he called Shahrazad.

English Translation of Egyptian scholar Akram A. Mo'men:

The thousand and one nights is a collection of tales in Arabic, built up during the Middle Ages. Some of its 264 tales were transmitted orally by story tellers, and some of them reached Europe during the middle ages. As time went on, the collection increased by the addition of tales from other sources and organized it, within the framework of a frame tale. By 1450 the work had assumed its present form. The frame-tale recounts how king Shahriar, persuaded by the faithlessness of women, married a new wife each evening and put her to death the next morning. Until his bride Shahrazad won reprieve by commencing a story in her wedding night, and artfully sustaining Shahriar's curiosity about the outcome of her tales within tales. For a thousand and one nights, he kept reprieving her, then he abandoned his original plane. The first European translation was a French by Antoine Galland in 1704. Since then, Ali Baba, Sesame, Aladdin and his magic lamp and Sindibad the sailor have all become familiar to Europeans. The stories inspired the Russian music composer Rimsky Korsakoff to compose a symphonic suite entitled Shahrazad.