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[about those who, after enduring many misfortunes, find happiness]

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Story 7 • 79

One of the daughters of the Sultan of Babylon is sent to be married to the King of Algarve. After four years of mishaps during which time she is handled and possessed by nine men in different places, she is at last returned to her father as a virgin, whereupon, as at the beginning, she is shipped off to marry the King of Algarve.

The Third Day • 97

[about those who, through clever thinking, achieve their goals or recover things lost]

Story 1 • 97

Masetto de Lamporecchio pretends to be a deaf-mute to become the gardener of a convent where he has all the nuns contending with each other to sleep with him.

Story 6 • 103

Ricciardo Minutolo is in love with Filippello Sighinolfi's wife. When he finds out how jealous she is over her own husband, he leads her to believe that his own wife is meeting up with Filippello at the baths on the very next day. He talks her into going there to witness it for herself, only to have her discover that when she thought she was with her own husband, she had been with Ricciardo the whole time.

Story 8 • 110

After swallowing a certain powder, Ferondo is taken for dead and buried. But the Abbot, who is having a good time with his wife, takes him out of his grave, puts him in prison, and convinces him that he's actually in Purgatory. When he is at last brought back to life, the Abbot's new child, born to his wife, he raises as his own.

Story 9 • 117

Giletta of Narbonne cures the King of France of his fistula. She then demands Beltramo of Roussillon for her husband, who marries her against his will, then flees in haste to Florence where he courts another young woman. But Giletta takes her place in bed with him and gives birth to two sons, bringing Beltramo in time to favor her and accept her as his wife.

Story 10 • 125

When Alibech becomes a recluse, the monk Rustico teaches her how to put the Devil back into Hell. Then, after she is taken out of this seclusion, she marries Neerbale.

The Fourth Day • 129

[about lovers who come to misery]

Introduction • 129

Story 1 • 135

Tancredi, Prince of Salerno, assassinates his daughter's beloved and sends his heart to her in a golden chalice. This she steeps with poison, drinks, and dies.

Story 2 • 143

Brother Alberto convinces a lady that the Angel Gabriel is in love with her. Then, by taking on the angel's appearance, he beds her on a regular basis until her relatives show up. Terrified, he jumps out of the window and hides out in a poor man's house, whereupon, the following day, this pauper disguises him as the Wildman and leads him to the main piazza. There his fellow friars recognize him, take him into their custody, and lock him in a cell for the rest of his life.

Story 5 • 152

Lisabetta's brothers slay her lover, but he reveals himself to her in a dream and shows her where he is buried. In secret, she retrieves his head and reburies it in a pot of basil, watering it with her tears for hours each day. When her brothers remove it from her, she dies of grief a short time later.

Story 8 • 155

Girolamo is in love with Salvestra, yet goes to Paris in keeping with his mother's prayers. But upon his return he discovers that Salvestra is now married. By stealth, he enters her house, places himself at her side, and dies. His corpse is taken to the church, followed by Salvestra who, next to him, likewise expires.

The Fifth Day • 160

[about lovers who, after great trials and misfortunes, at last find happiness]

Story 1 • 160

Through his unwavering love for Lady Efigenia, Cimone gains wisdom. Later, he abducts her while at sea, but finds himself jailed in Rhodes. Lisimaco frees him and together they snatch both Efigenia and Cassandra during their wedding celebrations and take flight with them to Crete. There they are married and in due course are called back to their homelands with their wives.

Story 4 • 169

Messer Lizio da Valbona catches Ricciardo Manardi with his daughter, but Ricciardo retains her father's favor by marrying her.

The Sixth Day • 174

[about those who, through a quick retort or witty quip, escape danger, loss, or shame]

Story 1 • 174

A knight invites Lady Oretta to ride along with him through storyland, but he makes such a botch of his tale that the lady pleads to be set back on the ground.

Story 4 • 175

Chichibio, the cook to Currado Gianfigliuzzi, gets himself out of a scrape with a smart reply that turns his master's anger into laughter. Thus he rescues himself from the heavy doom implied by Currado's threat.

Story 7 • 178

When the husband of Donna Filippa catches her with her lover, she is haled into court where she not only regains her freedom through a quick and clever reply, but has the statute changed at the same time.

Story 9 • 180

With a bantering witticism, Guido Cavalcanti justifiably belittles a group of Florentine gentlemen as they try to take him off his guard.

The Seventh Day • 183

[about the tricks women play on their husbands whether for love or self-protection and escape]

Story 2 • 183

When her husband returns home suddenly, Peronella hides her lover inside a barrel. The husband announces that it has been sold, but she declares that she's sold it already to a man who had just then gotten inside to check its condition. Suddenly the lover jumps out of the barrel, gets the husband to scrape it clean, and then to lug it home for him on his back.

Story 6 • 187

While Madonna Isabella is in company with Leonetto, Messer Lambertuccio, also in love with her, comes along for a visit. When her husband returns, she has Messer Lambertuccio rush out of the house brandishing a dagger and her husband ends up escorting Leonetto back to his house.

The Eighth Day • 190

[about tricks that women play on men, men play on women, or men play on other men]

Story 3 • 190

Calandrino, Bruno, and Buffalmacco walk the banks of the Mugnone looking for heliotrope. Calandrino thinks he's found it and goes back home with a load of stones. When his wife bawls him out for his stupidity, he gets furious and thrashes her. Then he tells the whole story to his buddies, which they know even better than he does.

Story 7 • 197

A scholar falls in love with a widow who already has a lover, yet she sets him up to wait for her throughout a cold winter's night in the snow. Later, as her advisor, he arranges for her to spend the whole of a mid-July day naked on top of a tower where she is exposed to the sun and bitten by gadflies.

The Ninth Day • 216

[on open topics]

Story 5 • 216

Calandrino falls in love with a young woman, so Bruno makes a magic parchment with which he can touch her to make her accompany him. When he gets caught out by his wife, though, he ends up in a really nasty situation.

Story 6 • 223

After two young men find a place to sleep at a small house, one of them gets into bed with the host's daughter, and the host's wife mistakenly gets into bed with the other. In due time, the daughter's lover ends up in her father's bed, thinking it to be his own, and tells his "companion" about his adventures. Violence threatens, before the wife, seeing her error, gets over into her daughter's bed and, by choosing her words carefully, calms everything down.

Story 10 • 227

Godfather Pietro convinces his friend, Brother Gianni, to use one of his magic spells to turn his wife into a mare, but when it comes to pinning on the tail, Pietro decides it's not what he wants and thus spoils the spell.

The Tenth Day • 231

[about those who have acted with generosity or magnanimity in any capacity]

Story 3 • 231

Mithridanes is jealous of Nathan's reputation for generosity and decides to kill him. But when he meets up with him by accident and fails to recognize him, Nathan has an opportunity to tell him just how the murder might be carried out. By Nathan's arrangement, the two of them meet up in a small wood. Realizing then just who Nathan is, Mithridanes feels immense shame before becoming his friend.

Story 5 • 236

In mid-winter, Madonna Dianora asks Messer Ansaldo for a May garden in full blossom, which he provides through the help of a magician. In exchange for this, Ansaldo had exacted sexual favors which her husband authorized her to give. When Ansaldo hears of her husband's generosity, however, he frees the woman from her promises, whereupon the magician frees Messer Ansaldo from the payment he owes for his services.

Story 8 • 240

Sophronia believes she has married Gisippus, when in reality she has married Titus Quintus Fulvius, whom she accompanies to Rome. In time, Gisippus, in a state of abject poverty, follows them. Thinking that Titus has willfully disregarded him, he seeks to die by confessing to a murder. Titus recognizes him, however, and confesses to that same crime to save Gisippus's life. When the real murderer sees what is happening, he turns himself in and Octavius Caesar grants freedom to all three of them. Titus afterward gives his sister in marriage to Gisippus and offers him the enjoyment of all his possessions.

Story 10 • 256

At the insistence of his most influential subjects, the Marquis of Saluzzo agrees to find himself a wife, yet he follows his own mind in the matter by choosing the daughter of a peasant. When their two children are born, however, he arranges for her to believe that both have been slain. In due course, he pretends to have lost all interest in her and sends her away wearing nothing but her smock. News is then circulated that he has taken a new wife, at the same time bringing his own daughter back to the residence in the guise of his bride. Upon confirming that she has endured all these trials with patience, he brings her back home, now more cherished than ever, reveals to her their adolescent children, graces her as his Marchioness, and exhorts all his subjects to do the same.

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