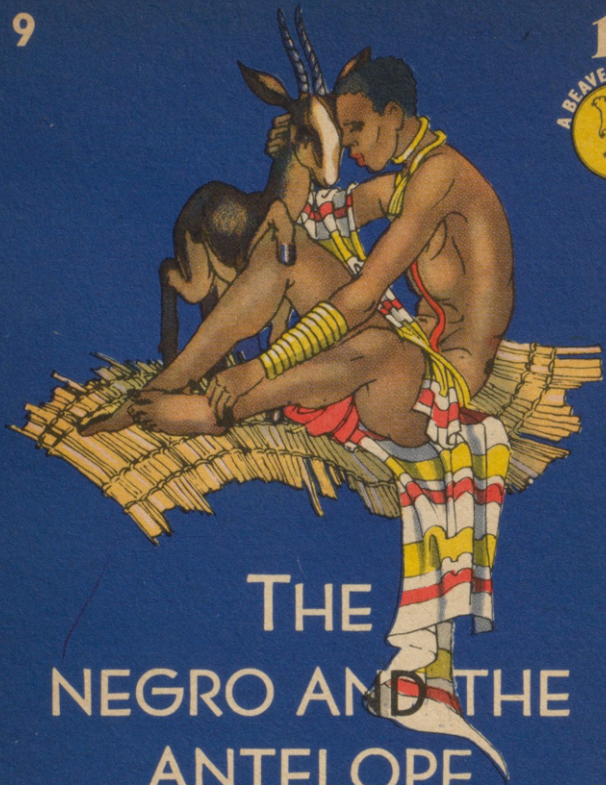


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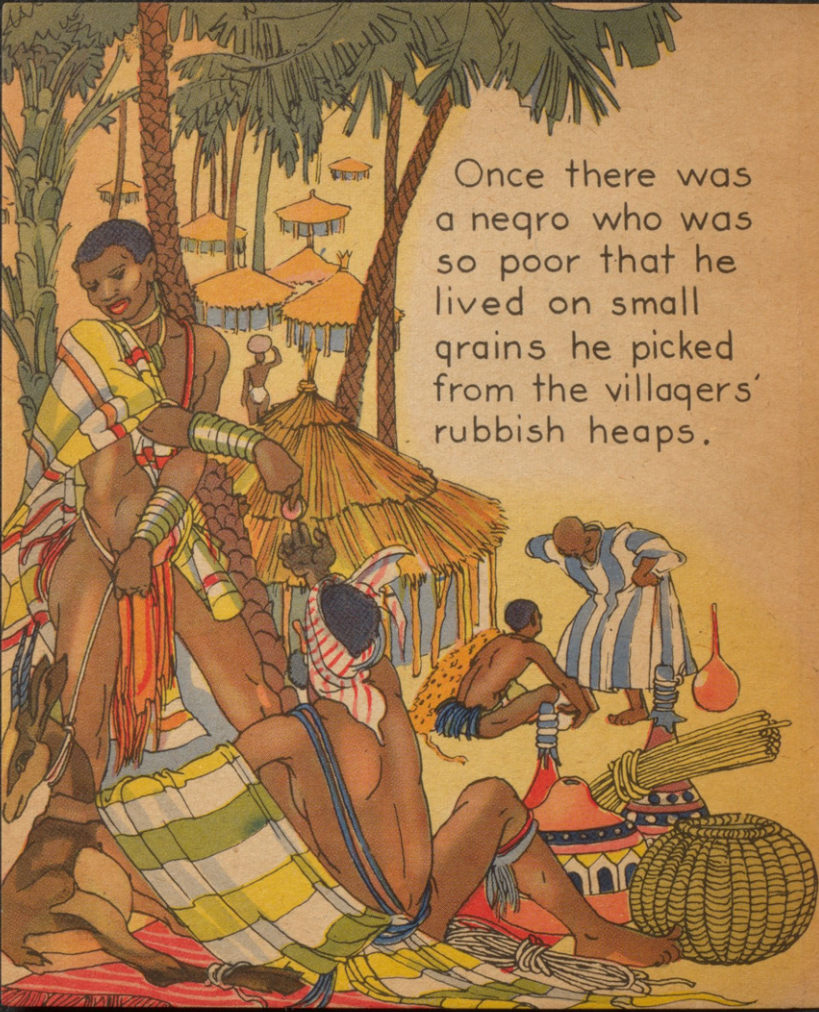
A BEAVERDIME BOOK



THE NEGRO AND THE ANTELOPE

BRUNSWICK PRESS LIMITED, FREDERICTON, N.B., CANADA

Once there was
a negro who was
so poor that he
lived on small
grains he picked
from the villagers'
rubbish heaps.



One day he found a small coin and as he was very hungry he wanted to buy some meat with it. A roadside merchant came by and sold him a little antelope. The negro took it gladly, intending to eat it.

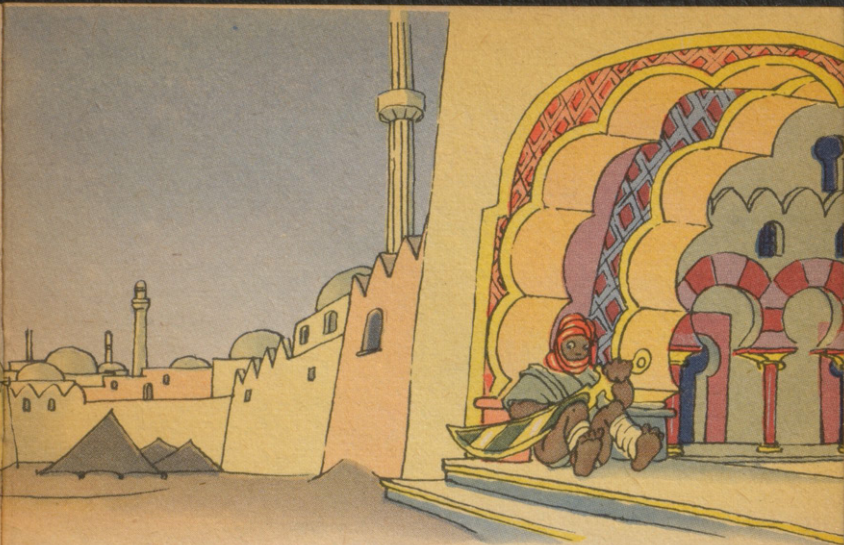
Suddenly it began to plead with him, "Have pity on me! Let me live." The negro had a kind heart and let the animal go.

The antelope bounded happily away to the wood.





That evening it returned and slept in the hut. So several days passed. Then one day, in the wood, under a tree growing in the midst of a bramble bush, it found a valuable diamond. The animal's first thought was to rush to its master, then it said to itself, "If I take my



master this diamond, it will bring him trouble. As he is poor no one will believe that he came by it honestly. I will try to help him another way." The antelope took the diamond between its teeth and ran quickly from the wood until



he reached the sultan's palace. He leapt up the steps to the sultan's throne and said, "Mighty sultan! my master is a rich and famous man. He asks you to give him your daughter as his wife. As proof of his friendship he sends you this costly diamond."



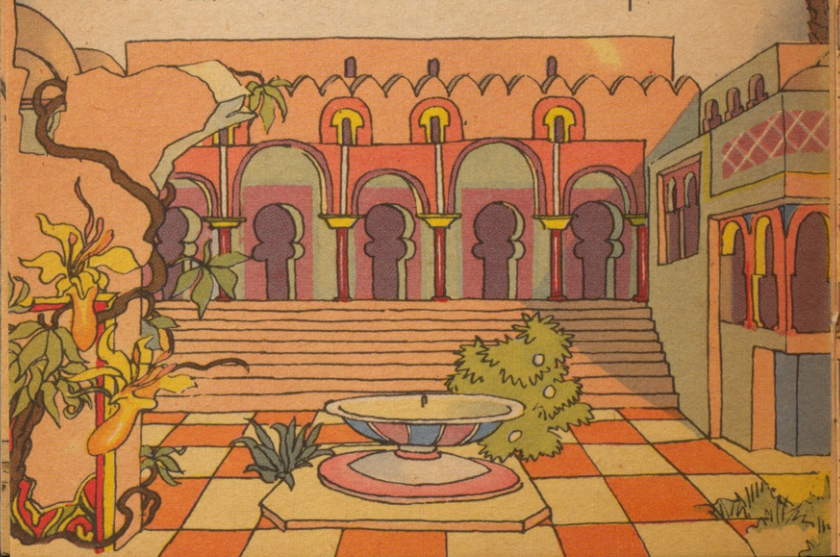
The sultan was pleased with the gift and ready to agree.

The antelope ran off as quickly as it could to its master and they set out together. Before they reached the palace, the animal said to him, "Throw yourself in the sand!" The poor negro lay in the sand and the antelope tore his clothes with his dainty

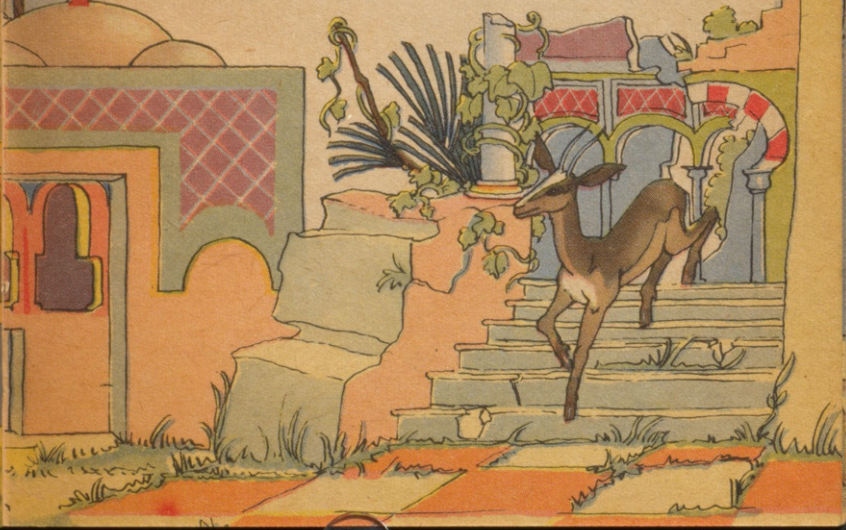




hooves and covered him with bruises. Then he left him lying there and ran to the sultan crying, "My master has been robbed by bandits. Can you help him?" The sultan gladly gave him magnificent clothes, food and a large sum of money. He brought them all to his master and the poor



negro could have bought up the richest prince in the city. He would be married in three days, but he had no house for his bride. The antelope went off again until it came to an empty deserted city, the houses were tumble-down and overgrown with weeds. But one house



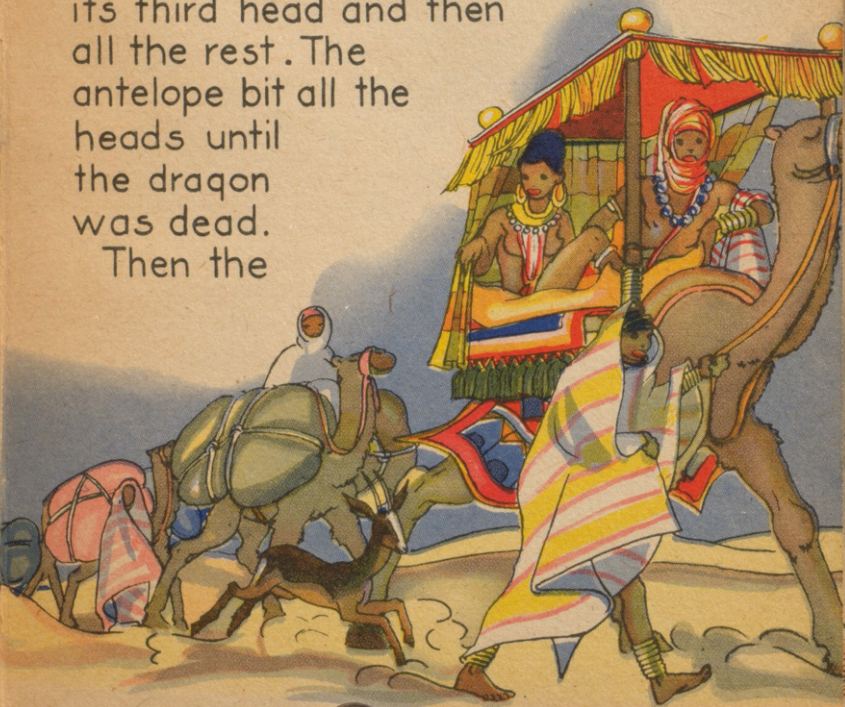
stood there magnificently built of ruby,
turquoise and marble. Here lived a
dreadful dragon with seven heads and
seven eyes. He slept in the house
every day of the week.

The little antelope was
brave and determined.
He waited by a
window. When
at last the
dragon came
and



stretched out one of its seven heads, he bit it. The dragon howled with pain and stretched out its second head. The antelope bit the dragon again. The dragon stretched out its third head and then all the rest. The antelope bit all the heads until the dragon was dead.

Then the





antelope ran to its master and led everyone in a splendid procession to the new palace. Now all seemed to be well, but the poor negro

suddenly grew proud and ungrateful. He scorned the antelope which had brought him his good fortune and drove it out of the house.

The animal had scarcely gone before the negro fell into a dead faint. When he awoke, he was lying in his poor hut and had to feed on the small grains he found in the villagers' rubbish heaps. Soon he was not sure whether it had really happened or had just been a dream.



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