

(Ebook free) The Island of Animals

## The Island of Animals

*Denys Johnson-Davies*

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#17022843 in Books 1994-04Original language:English 8.75 x 12.25 x .50l, #File Name: 029274035276 pages | File size: 56.Mb

**Denys Johnson-Davies : The Island of Animals** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Island of Animals:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An AWAIR pick!By Audrey ShabbasTranslated by Denys Johnson-Davies, and with wonderful illustrations by Tunisian artist Sabhia Khemir, this work is adapted from an Islamic text set down in Basra in the tenth century. The Island of Animas expounds teachings iin the form of a fable about humankind's responsibilities toward their fellow creatures. It asks the question: Is there any respect in which humans are superior to animals, and by virtue of what qualities is humankind entitled to think they have mastery over the animal kingdom? To the King of the Djinn, each side makes its case. The Quranic text, traditions of the Prophet, and stories recounted heere as each argues their case, are only a small part of those available on the subject of animals. As such they show a very real understanding of our proper attitude towards out fellow creatures - a concern that has only recently begun to trouble the conscience of the West. Marvelous black and white illustrations in this rich work in oversized format.Produced for the stage by Golden Thread Productions, San Francisco in 2006 (www.goldenthread.org). From their own publicity: "Once upon a time, storm winds cast a ship of diverse nations on the shore of an island inhabited by animals living in peace and harmony. The men hunted the animals, convinced their held dominion over them. The animals took their grievance to the wise King of the Jinn who must now preside over The Case of Animals versus Man."Teachers/Librarians: suitable for 5th grade - adult. Social Studies/Humanities.2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A Very Interesting FolkloreBy NoraI really liked this book because it makes you really think, for example, it makes you think about who is more intelligent and superior, man or animal.

Another good thing about the book is that it tells the story from man's and animal's point of view. So if you want to read a good folklore book, read *The Island of The Animals*.

When a shipwreck results in humans landing on an island inhabited by animals, the animals bring a "case" before a judge because of the humans' self-centered arrogance toward the animals.

From Publishers Weekly  
The timely question of animal rights is expounded upon in this beautifully illustrated adaptation of an Islamic text written in Basra during the 10th century. Islam teaches that man is responsible for animals and should always treat them with respect; *The Island of Animals* asserts this concept through its account of a fabulous island inhabited only by animals and Djinn, a race of invisible beings, until the day a great storm shipwrecks men upon its shores. Soon men begin to use the animals living there for their own needs, but the animals rebel, taking their case to the Djinn. The King of the Djinn listens to testimony from both men and animals, and ultimately decides that man could be considered superior because he is the only creature granted a place in Paradise with the Almighty. But, he continues, although man is the master, other creatures are not his slaves, and any cruel behavior will be judged accordingly in the afterlife. Moving and educational, this fable is accompanied by superbly detailed black-and-white illustrations, including many full-page spreads. An important book that will be enjoyed by adults and children alike, and a reminder to all of the importance of humane treatment of animals. Copyright 1994 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal  
Gr 6-12—Based on a 10th-century Islamic text, this prescient fable pits animals against exploitative humans blinkered by their sense of superiority. Although the narrative opens with an exciting shipwreck, in which men land on an island inhabited only by beasts, the bulk of the tale is taken up by the "case" brought by the animals against the human intruders. A representative of each of the seven types of creatures (domestic, predator, birds, insects, etc.) comes before a judge (the devoutly Muslim king of the Djinn) to testify. The self-centered arrogance of the humans' case is reflected in the bee's observation that "it is well known about man that he never sees anybody else's point of view." The merits of both groups are nevertheless even until the end, when the men point out that they alone have been promised immortality by Allah. The Djinn grants their superiority, while insisting firmly on humankind's responsibility for all its actions. Although the text is entertaining, it remains at heart a theological treatise, designed to teach readers some basic tenets of Islam. Those values are clearly set forth in the informative introduction, which draws on a number of Arabic sources to support its view that Islamic philosophy enjoins human accountability and the sharing of the Earth with all creation.—Patricia Dooley (Green), St. George's School, Newport, Copyright 1994 Cahners Business Information, Inc.