

—Dietz on Science—
NURSERY RHYME IS TRACED TO MYTH OF MOON

Jack and Jill Believed to Have Descended From Norse Poem.

BY DAVID DIETZ

Serials-Howard Science Editor

Every one knows the old nursery rhyme which recounts the adventures of Jack and Jill:

"Jack and Jill went up the hill,

To fetch a pail of water;

Jack fell down and broke his crown,

And Jill came tumbling after."

But few people, perhaps, realize that a lunar myth is concealed within the rhyme. That is the opinion held by many students of mythology.

The Volu-Spa, an 'ent' Norse poem, calls the moon-god "Mani," and tells that Mani transported two children from earth to the moon. These children were named Bil and Hjuki and were seized by Mani as they were drawing water from a well. According to the poem, they can be seen in the moon with their bucket.

Book Explains Tale

The most familiar legend makes the spots on the moon resemble a man, but in Sweden, even today, there is the tradition that the spots form two children carrying a bucket of water. It is entirely reasonable, therefore, to trace the connection between the old Norse mythology and the familiar nursery rhyme.

This connection was discussed at length in "Curious Myths of the Middle Ages" published in London in 1877. S. Baring-Gould was the author. Baring-Gould wrote:

"Hjuki, in Norse, would be pronounced Juki, which would readily become Jack; and Bil, for the sake of euphony and in order to give a female name to one of the children would become Jill.

Significance Deep

"The fall of Jack, and the subsequent fall of Jill, simply represent the vanishing of one moon spot after another, as the moon wanes.

"But the old Norse myth had a deeper significance than merely an explanation of the moon spots. Hjuki is derived from the verb, jakka, to heap or pile together, to assemble and increase, and Bil, from bila, to break up or dissolve.

"Hjuki and Bil, therefore, signify nothing more than the waxing and the waning of the moon, and the water they are represented as bearing signifies the fact that the rainfall depends on the phases of the moon.

"Waxing and waning were individualized, and the meteorological fact of the connection of the rain with the moon was represented by the children as water-bearers."

Theory Is Blasted

In this connection, it should be mentioned, perhaps, that the old idea that the phases of the moon controlled the weather has been completely exploded. It still persists and occasionally one will meet with an amateur weather prophet who insists that the sky is never cloudy when the moon is full. Records, however, prove conclusively that the sky is frequently cloudy at the time of full moon.

Most of the old British-German legends picture the spots on the moon as forming a man. He is represented sometimes as carrying a thorn bush over his shoulder or some stolen object. He is supposed to have been banished to the moon, either for theft or Sabbath-breaking.

Baring-Gould believes that these legends grew out of the older Norse ones. He continues:

"But though Jack and Jill became by degrees disengaged in the popular mind from the moon, the original myth went through a fresh phase and exists still under a new form.

Image Is Faint

"The Norse superstition attributed the moon to the moon, and the vulgar soon began to believe that the figure they saw in the moon was the thief.

"The lunar specks certainly may be made to resemble one figure, but only a lively imagination can discern two. The girl soon dropped out of popular mythology, the boy indeed into a venerable man and the bucket was transformed into the thing he had stolen—sticks or vegetables. The theft was in some places exchanged for Sabbath-breaking."

This same origin of the man in the moon was also suggested by Jacob Grimm in his "Teutonic Mythology."

"Plainly enough," wrote Grimm, "the water-pole of the heathen story has been transformed into the axe's shaft, and the carried pail into the thorn-bush."

ARRANGES TOUR TO FAIR

Big Four to Send Special Train to Chicago Saturday.

Tour by special train to the Centennial Progress exposition over the Big Four route will leave here at 8 Saturday morning, railroad officials announced today.

The party will return Sunday, leaving Chicago at 8 p. m. and arriving in Indianapolis about midnight.

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Part Played by Women in Politics to Be Topic of Senor Davila.



Don Carlos Davila

NEW NRA BOARD HAS POWER TO ENFORCE CODES

Compliance Group Backed by Justice, Trade Departments.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—A new division of NRA, backed by the full powers of the justice department and the federal trade commission, was created today to enforce codes and prevent price-gouging.

Establishment of a permanent code enforcement organization, to be known as the compliance division, was ordered by Administrator Hugh S. Johnson. He himself will head the division until a permanent compliance director is appointed.

Mr. Johnson also moved to increase NRA's efficiency by grouping his eighteen deputy administrators under four divisional administrators. This was expected to speed up completion of nearly two hundred pending codes and free Johnson for enforcement activities.

Regional Agencies Set

Under the compliance division will be a system of regional compliance agencies. Pending organization of these agencies, the twelve district managers of the commerce department were designated to serve as district compliance directors.

There also will be a system of local boards or committees to deal primarily with consumers' complaints against excessive price increases. Present local compliance will continue to handle violations of temporary presidential re-employment agreements.

Three on Board

Under the procedure outlined by Mr. Johnson, regional agencies will seek to adjust violations or, upon authorization of the compliance director, refer them to the code authority for the industry concerned. If no settlement is effected, the charge will be forwarded to Washington.

The compliance director will be aided by one member of the industrial advisory board and one member of the labor advisory board, comprising a national compliance board which will have a choice of a regular rate hearing.

This can not be launched under the law, in less than twenty days from the time notice is served. It will involve audits and appraisals and may drag on for many months, if past procedure is followed, it was said.

Meanwhile, the rates remain as Mr. Minton found them through his investigations by Mark Wolf, New York expert.

Last week in an address at Franklin, Governor Paul V. McNutt called attention to the new method in rate reduction cases as an avenue for prompt relief for rate payers.

Company attorneys at the outset contended that there was no law for such procedure and this conclusion also was reached by the commissioners, after months of hearings.

In announcing the commission decision for a formal hearing, Chairman Perry McCarron of the commission also pointed out that there is no law for so-called "agreed rates," such as the commission has been approving lately.

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