

# ANZA PUBLISHING

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**A Delightful Set of Short Stories  
From a Master Storyteller**

## **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** *Eight Modern Fables of Love, Faith and Courage* by Bayard Taylor

*Bayard Taylor has produced a very remarkable book . . . crowded with life-like characters, full of delicate and subtle sympathies, and lighted up throughout with that playful humor which suggests always wisdom rather than mere fun —London Spectator*

The great genre of short stories, with the unifying themes of love, faith and courage, had at one time flourished in literature. A truly underrated author, Bayard Taylor, had an exemplary ability to elucidate the good qualities in man, while humorously rejecting the ridiculous and banal. Unlike certain other writers of his generation who critiqued American culture through fiction, Taylor is never cruel, vulgar or simplistic, because he maintains a sympathetic resonance with his characters; an air of dignity is always present. The “fables” in **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST** (Hambleton Hill Press) are entertaining and well written, and readers will discover the many layers of meaning within the plots. Two examples show Taylor’s remarkable versatility:

*Beauty and the Beast* takes place at the court of Russian Prince Alexis, a tyrant who abuses all those around him. He considers his son useless, and his wife a weakling, and seeks solace in hunting and lavish feasts. His son leaves the court for St. Petersburg, where he falls in love with a girl, and marries her. His father is outraged about him marrying a commoner, and he then sets up every kind of torment for his son in retaliation. Nonetheless, when the old man finally sees the young bride, he is mesmerized. Alexis undergoes a transformation and realizes his son truly made the right choice. The autocrat now demands that peace descend on the principality. Yet, a tragedy causes further turmoil, and the prince belatedly learns about commitment and justice. In the end, it is the new princess who rules over a contented land.

A very touching and uplifting story is *Jacob Flint’s Journey*. A shy young boy, living on a remote farm, Jacob suffers from the teasing other children inflict on him. He longs to do good and be respected for his talents. He reaches his low point, however, when a girl he likes rejects him most cruelly. Subsequently, his father says it is time to go on the journey of discovery Jacob has contemplated. He is given some money for his travels, still, he would generally have to work to support himself. Full of expectation and hope, he sets out, and after awhile, he stops to offer his services at a farm, where he is kindly received. At this residence, Jacob falls in love with the daughter of the farmer. Returning home, he tells his father he wants to marry this girl. The father understands, but then asks him and his girl to agree to certain harsh and unusual conditions before he can give his blessing. They both accept the terms, and during a visit by the girl’s parents, the reasons for the conditions are revealed. An even more astonishing disclosure concerns a large sum of money. Jacob suddenly realizes that his dreams have become reality.

The other stories in the book : *The Strange Friend*, *Twin-love*, *The Experiences of the A. C.*, *Friend Eli's Daughter*, *Miss Bartram's Trouble*, and *Mrs. Strongitharm's Report*.

Bayard Taylor (1825-1878) was of Quaker and South German descent. Although Taylor went on to become a diplomat, essayist, and poet, his first employment after leaving the family farm was as a printer's apprentice. The idealistic youth's cherished goal was to visit various European countries, to see first-hand the circumstances in which great culture and art arose. When Taylor's cousin asked him to be his companion on an extended journey through the Old World, Taylor, although without much money, found the opportunity too tempting to pass up. After these events, in 1846, Taylor bought with a friend as a partner a printing-office in his native county, and began to publish the Phoenixville "Pioneer". But after a year he sold his newspaper and obtained a place on the New York "Tribune" in the literary department. During the Civil War, he wrote articles advocating the Union. Due to his knowledge of European affairs and his honest, genial manner, he was eventually induced to become a diplomat. He was appointed secretary of legation, General Simon Cameron being minister, at St. Petersburg in 1862. In 1867, the Taylors revisited Switzerland and Italy. In 1877, Taylor's health failed, and after a partial recuperation he was nominated by President Hayes as minister to Berlin. His confirmation was followed by a series of testimonials, culminating with a banquet in New York, at which the poet Bryant presided. Taylor wrote many books, including books of travel, novels, poetry and stories, including "Travels in Greece and Rome" (New York, 1859) "At Home and Abroad" (2 vols., 1859-62); "The Boys of other Countries" (1876); "The Picture of St. John," a romantic art-poem (1869); "The Prophet: A Tragedy" (1874); and "Home-Pastorals" (1875).

Paul Dennis Sporer (editor) is the author of *The Dimensions of Companionship*; *Liberating Love*; *The Concept of Family*; and *Equal but Different*. He has also served as editor on more than 30 culturally and historically significant books, including *Painting Explained*, by Thomas Gullick; *Is Secession Treason?*, by Albert Bledsoe; *The Heart of Aryavarta*, by Lawrence Dundas; *Beauty and Art*; by Aldam Heaton; *The French at Home*, by Albert Rhodes; *From Slave Cabin to Pulpit*, by Peter Randolph; *Newer Ideals of Peace*, by Jane Addams; *Views of Old Europe*, by Bayard Taylor; *Gentle Measures*, by Jacob Abbott; *Parental Influences*, William Bacon; *Finding a Way Out*, by Robert Moton; *The New Birth*, by Austin Phelps; *Tupelo*, by John Hill Aughey; *An Incident of Travel*, Arthur Jerome Eddy; *End of an Era*, by John Sergeant Wise; *The Missionary*, by Samuel Mazzuchelli; *Half a Century*, by Jane Swisshelm; *Born Three Times*, by Thomas L. Johnson; *Dark Hollow*, by Anna Katharine Green; and *1492: Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, by Mary Johnston.

For further information about **BEAUTY AND THE BEAST**, or to arrange an interview with the editor, Paul Dennis Sporer, please contact Cassandra Foxton, [inform\\_at\\_anzapublishing.com](mailto:inform_at_anzapublishing.com). The publisher's website address is [AnzaPublishing.com](http://AnzaPublishing.com).

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