



## The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales

*Richard Garnett*

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## **The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales** Richard Garnett

Best known for his non-fiction and biographies, Richard Garnett published this collection of his short stories in 1888. *The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales* includes the title story, in which a mortal girl meets Prometheus on a mountain top; "The Demon Pope," in which a Pope makes good on a favor owed to Lucifer, "Alexander the Ratcatcher," in which Alexander the Eighth enlists the aid of a mysterious rat-killer; "The Elixir of Life," in which the sage Aboniel issues a challenge to his seven trusted disciples; "The Philosopher and the Butterflies," in which a scholar holds discourse with insects in the garden; and twenty-three other tales.

## **The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales Details**

Date : Published October 1st 2006 by Aegypan (first published 1888)

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Author : Richard Garnett

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# From Reader Review The Twilight of the Gods and Other Tales for online ebook

## Rosa says

Me ha costado un poco hacer la transición entre historia e historia pero en general me ha gustado mucho. Empezando por el prólogo de T.E Lawrence y encontrándome personajes que ya conocía al menos de oídas. Muy recomendables algunas historias en las que probablemente todo hubiera ido bien si hubiesen escuchado a su maestro.

Y una oreja como por un ojo no es mal trato...

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## Samuel says

Tales of gods, devils, demons and men; fairy tales, whimsy, morals and death.

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## Alex Sarll says

Vicious little fables of philosophers, devils and fools residing somewhere in the little-visited territory between Saki, John Collier and James Branch Cabell. Predating all of the aforementioned, I wouldn't be surprised if Garnett had influenced them - but whereas I normally end up thereabouts through recommendations (less from friends than from other writers), Garnett I encountered more or less by chance, having just read 'The Demon Pope' in an anthology before seeing this collection in the Kindle app's list of free classics. Whether unacknowledged inspiration or simultaneous evolution, either way would perfectly suit Garnett, in whose stories effort is invariably unrewarded and wisdom a curse.

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## Emily says

Appollo's lyre has been pawned? A dumb oracle? The Devil becomes pope? Oh, what fun! If Terry Pratchett had been around in the 19th century, I know with whom he would have been hanging. What a priceless little collection of stories this is. Wish Garnett had written more (and a novel or two while he was at it).

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## Lucy says

Written in a faux-classical style, this took some reading. Added to the need to have ancient history at your fingertips in order to appreciate the stories, this collection is probably not worth bothering with. Maybe it was more appreciated in an age of greater leisure and better education.

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## **Fraser Sherman says**

Cheerfully, charmingly cynical stories where power invariably seems to corrupt and people are rarely what they seem. Prometheus passes himself off to early Christians as a martyred saint. Cardinals plotting against the Pope change their tune when they become convinced he's the devil (after all, they respect him a lot more). A saint becomes friends with the demon who's secretly working the saint's greatest miracle. A caterpillar refuses to accept that he'll devolve into something as frivolous and useless as a butterfly. The tone is more rueful and world-weary than angry at human folly, which makes it all go down smoother. Free on Gutenberg, but it's also in hard copy.

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## **Mónica Casado says**

Muy divertido y crítico. No me esperaba para nada que fuera a ser tan ligero y agradable de leer, ha sido un descubrimiento magnífico. El autor sabe manejar el humor con mucha delicadeza, la ironía es genial. Recomendadísimo.

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## **Mike Moore says**

This is a collection of short stories written in the late 19th century. It was recommended to me by a friend, who thought I would have trouble finding a copy. However, as it turns out, the book can be readily obtained in cheap "public domain" university editions, and is also occasionally reprinted as a seminal work aimed at fans of Gaiman, Ellison, and others like them.

The reason for this is immediately apparent. This reads like Gaiman, about a hundred years earlier. Charmingly weird, amusing and insightful and obviously the product of a mind which had consumed an abundance of information on old gods, fairy tales and other cultures, Garnett sometimes leans toward didactic, but never loses his sense of humor or empathy.

This can wear thin if you read it front to back. Many of the pieces collected in my volume were minor or very similar to other stories in the work (the original edition had 16 stories, mine had 28). However, taken a few at a time over a long period, and with an appreciation for the hosts of authors on which Garnett has had an evident influence, I'm going to go with the high rating for this work.

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## **Indra says**

Divertido y ameno, algunos cuentos están muy chidos y otros se pueden pasar por alto. Los que más me gustaron coincidieron en ser en los que se burlaba de la iglesia católica. Tiene un sentido del humor inteligente, y está escrito a la manera de fábulas o historias antiguas. No es un must-read, pero sí está entretenido.

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## **R. Scot Johns says**

Bought it thinking it was a Norse mythology retelling, but it's actually a version of the Greek Prometheus tale. Well told and beautifully written, but I only read that first tale, as I am currently immersed in studies of Norse myths. Will finish later.

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## **Chris Duval says**

Here's an illustrative opening from one of these short, short stories from the late 19th century: "Jupiter: 'Daughter Truth, is this a befitting manner of presenting yourself before your divine father? You are positively dripping; the floor of my celestial mansion would be a swamp but for your praiseworthy economy in wearing apparel.'" Here you see the author's bemused detachment, his willingness to draw on the classics, a style of wording that evokes his era, and some cleverness: here the delivery of Truth's scanty attire through dialog about a wet floor. Not shown here is the author's frequent satirical jabs at hypocrisy and naiveté. He targets particularly religious leaders and is catholic about this: hitting Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Taoists, Confucianists and Stoics. Like many of his time, he'll throw in some untranslated Latin from time to time, and some archaic words, but otherwise it's quite an easily taken, and conveniently in small bites.

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## **Rozonda says**

I learned about this book by mere chance on a bookshop's FB page and I was intrigued by its description. Supernatural tales in a historical setting, with humour and irony? I had to check that out. And am I glad I did. In Garnett's tales, fine irony and humour are intertwined with poetical descriptions, and religion, politics, arts, the human condition and other issues are looked at in a satirical yet compassionate light. I was reminded of Heine, Borges, Saki and many other great writers, but Garnett has a very personal style. Great.

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## **Sarah Spelbring says**

This was a collection of short stories all revolving around supernatural occurrences. Some were of a Christian variety, others were Greek/Roman in origin, and some were Godless. They all had a feeling of myth and fairytale, which is something I like in my reading.

All the stories were different, had different endings, different characters (some famous), many were based on true life happenings, it was just overall an interesting read.

I do not know if I have a favorite, but the one that sticks in my mind is 'The Poisoned Maid'.

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## **Stuart Aken says**

The age of this book shows in the writing, of course, much of which is convoluted and authorial in voice. But

the tales have a fabulous air about them and are entertaining. There is, of course, a moral behind each and the author's mission to educate the reader comes through rather more strongly than a modern readership would welcome. But I learned a fair amount along the way as I read these tales based on the myths and legends of other civilisations.

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## **Ignacio Senao f says**

Se hace pesado tantos relatos parecidos: algo con problemas (animal o humano) se encuentra con rey, mago o dios. Mediante una situación sin sentido, el inferior acaba demostrando que no todo es el poder, fin.

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