TALES OF THE MARVELLOUS AND NEWS OF THE STRANGE

The first English translation of this spectacular collection of medieval Arab fantasy stories a great cache of ancient, magical stories in the same tradition as The Arabian Nights, Tales of the Marvellous and News of the Strange is an extraordinary find. Dating from at least a millennium ago, these are the earliest-known Arabic short stories, which survived in a single, ragged manuscript in a library in Istanbul. Some found their way into The Arabian Nights, but most have never been read in English...



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Tales of the Marvellous and News of the Strange

Author	Malcolm C. Lyons
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Peek Inside the Book

But racism is most outrageously to the fore in Ashraf and Anjab, in which the sadistically villainous Anjab is described by Harun al-Rashid as follows: This man is black as a negro with red eyes, a nose like a clay pot and lips like kidneys, and his mother...

The moon features frequently as a simile for beauty (and indeed Budurs name means moons). Beautiful women are conventionally compared to gazelles. It was more common to evoke beauty through metaphor and simile than by close physical...

Reader's Opinions

This certainly lives up to its title! The stories get a bit repetitive, but I took my time with it and ended up being delighted. Many thematic parallels to Shakespeare and general folklore, it was wonderful to steep myself...