

hood? said the King. *How could the Cat in so small an Interval of time as one Night, transport her self from Egypt to Babylon?* Æsop replied with a smile, *And how ob King can the Mares of Egypt, that are divorc'd by so remote a Distance, Conceive upon the Neighing of the Horses of Babylon?* The King admir'd his Sagacity, and extoll'd his successful Genius. Not long after he summoned several Sages from *Heliopolis* to Skirmish with Æsop in variety of Questions; and when their Disputations were wound up, he refresh'd all with a Banquet. When they were marshall'd at their prepared Feast, one of the *Heliopolitans* said to Æsop, *I am employed by one of our Deities to encounter you with this Demand. You discover too much your Ignorance (said Æsop) by retrenching the Knowledge of one of your Gods, since the Omniscience of the Powers above, cannot be improv'd by our narrow and contracted Notions.* A second urg'd this, and desired Æsop would extricate the Sense folded up in it; *There is a vast Temple, and a Column supporting twelve magnificent Cities, each of which are sustain'd with thirty Rasters, which two Women constantly circulate.* To this Æsop replied; *The Temple is this World, the Cities the Moneths, the Rasters the Dayes of the Moneth, the Day and Night are the two Women by interchangeable Vicissitudes successively attending each other.* The Day following, *Nectenabo* summoned his Friends to assemble, and said, *The Tribute to be exacted of us by Lycerus, does entitle it self to the Ingenuity of Æsop.* One of them replied, *We will assault him with Questions, which we know not, nor ever heard of.* To morrow (said Æsop) *I shall unmuffle those also with a Solution;* departing therefore he prepared a Schedule, wherein this was engross'd, *Nectenabo confesses he is indebted a thousand Talents to Lycerus.* In the morning he produced this Instrument before the King:

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