



Popular Tales of the West Highlands Vol-IV

J. F. Campbell

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Popular Tales of the West Highlands, Vol. IV

by J. F. Campbell


This is the last of four volumes of Campbell's collection of Scottish folklore. This volume is essentially an extended appendix to the previous three volumes, containing commentary, documentation, and analysis, particularly a rousing defense of Scottish poetry, art, music, dress, and the Gaelic language. At the time had Scotland been subdued by Britain for several centuries, and was considered a backwards, peripheral area without much in the way of culture, and one of Campbell's goals was to provide a counterweight to this chauvinism. He has only dropped hints about this in the previous three volumes--now the gloves come off.

"This is J. F. Campbell's four-volume collection of Scottish folklore. Campbell, who was fluent in Gaelic, spent years in the field eliciting these stories from people in all walks of life. This was a salvage project, as the stories and the storytellers were rapidly dying out under the impact of the dominant British culture and the inroads of the industrial revolution. It is because of Campbell's pioneering effort that we have a comprehensive record of this rich vein of folklore.

This is a critical edition, which contains an extensive introduction, variations on each tale, and endnotes. Campbell is often cited in folklore studies, and many other anthologies of Scottish and general folklore include one or more stories from this collection.

The original book also includes the Gaelic text for most of the stories. Some of the more extensive Gaelic texts had to be omitted from this [...] version, although all the English translations are included. This is indicated by ellipsis marks in green. Most short and medium length Gaelic texts are included, including all of the Gaelic poetic texts."

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