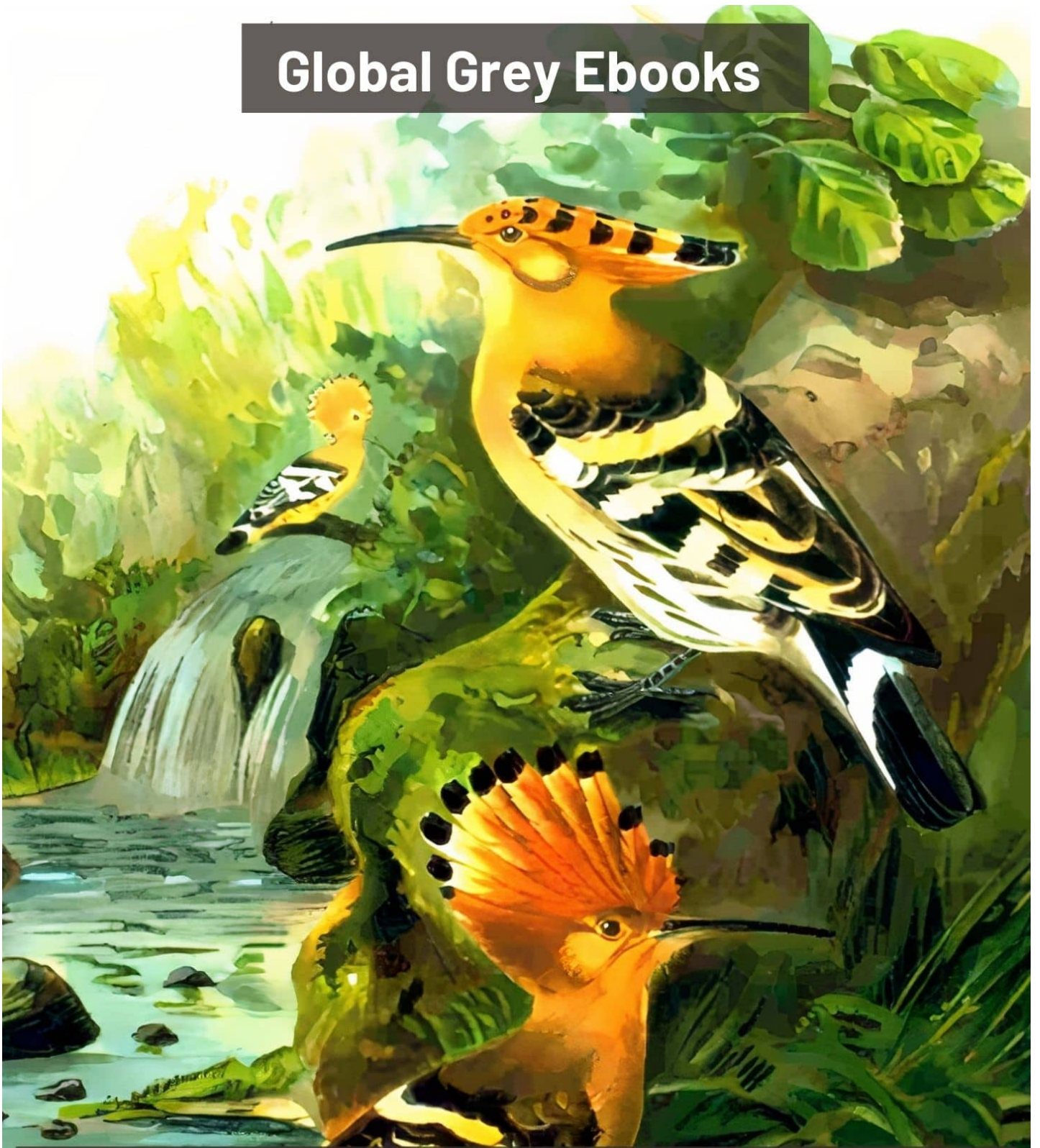


Global Grey Ebooks



THE BIRDS

ARISTOPHANES

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The Birds by Aristophanes.

This translation was first published in 1912 by the London Athenian Society.

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The Play

Here to the King who governs the gods from the summit of his inaccessible throne. Oh! Hymen! oh! Hymenæus! Rosy Eros with the golden wings held the reins and guided the chariot; 'twas he, who presided over the union of Zeus and the fortunate Here. Oh! Hymen! oh! Hymenæus!

Pisthetærus

I am delighted with your songs, I applaud your verses. Now celebrate the thunder that shakes the earth, the flaming lightning of Zeus and the terrible flashing thunderbolt.

Chorus

Oh, thou golden flash of the lightning! oh, ye divine shafts of flame, that Zeus has hitherto shot forth! Oh, ye rolling thunders, that bring down the rain! 'Tis by the order of *our* king that ye shall now stagger the earth! Oh, Hymen! 'tis through thee that he commands the universe and that he makes Basileia, whom he has robbed from Zeus, take her seat at his side. Oh! Hymen! oh! Hymenæus!

Pisthetærus

Let all the winged tribes of our fellow-citizens follow the bridal couple to the palace of Zeus²⁰⁵ and to the nuptial couch! Stretch forth your hands, my dear wife! Take hold of me by my wings and let us dance; I am going to lift you up and carry you through the air.

Chorus

Oh, joy! Io Pæan! Tralala! victory is thing, oh, thou greatest of the gods!

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²⁰⁵ Where Pisthetærus is henceforth to reign.