



**THE LAUGHABLE
STORIES
OF BAR-HEBRAEUS**

E. A. WALLIS BUDGE

Global Grey ebooks

**THE
LAUGHABLE STORIES
COLLECTED BY
MÂR GREGORY JOHN BAR-HEBRÆUS
MAPHRAN OF THE EAST FROM A.D. 1264 TO 1286**

**THE SYRIAC TEXT EDITED WITH AN
ENGLISH TRANSLATION
BY
E. A. WALLIS BUDGE**

The Laughable Stories of Bar-Hebraeus translated by E. A. Wallis Budge.

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From the time when became certain to thee the intention of departure
 It became empty and destitute of both knowledge and understanding.
 In the treasury of the mind blazing fire hath been piled up, 170
 Which overcometh with fierce flame and burning the Babylonish woman.
 With the dew of life of thine angelic shadow
 Unless thou sprinkle her behold she will be burnt up like the Chaldean
 woman.

Her liver hath become to her a well—like the Israelitish woman—
 And in it is preserved the unquenchable fire of thy love.
 175 In two mighty fire-temples it hath become a dweller,
 And within a very little it had worshipped the fire like a Persian.
 In the heart and liver, which are the houses of life, the fire kindleth,
 And into them entereth the Magian prophetess to prophesy.
 Inasmuch as her body is enfeebled and her mind wandereth,
 180 If she erreth in her speech let her not be blamed.
 My heart hath no peace and quietness, and my mind getteth no rest,

And without thy likeness there will never remain perception in my brain.
 [My] sleep by day and by night is washed with tears,
 And for this reason a sleepless eye hath come to me.
 If an unwatchful eye hath ever been seen, * 185
 It would fix itself to see thee; and if [it] did not no man would see it sunk
 in slumber.³
 For at thy gate [my] soul standeth like a beggar,
 Asking a vision of thyself in a dream and not a cake.

³ I am uncertain about the meaning of these lines.