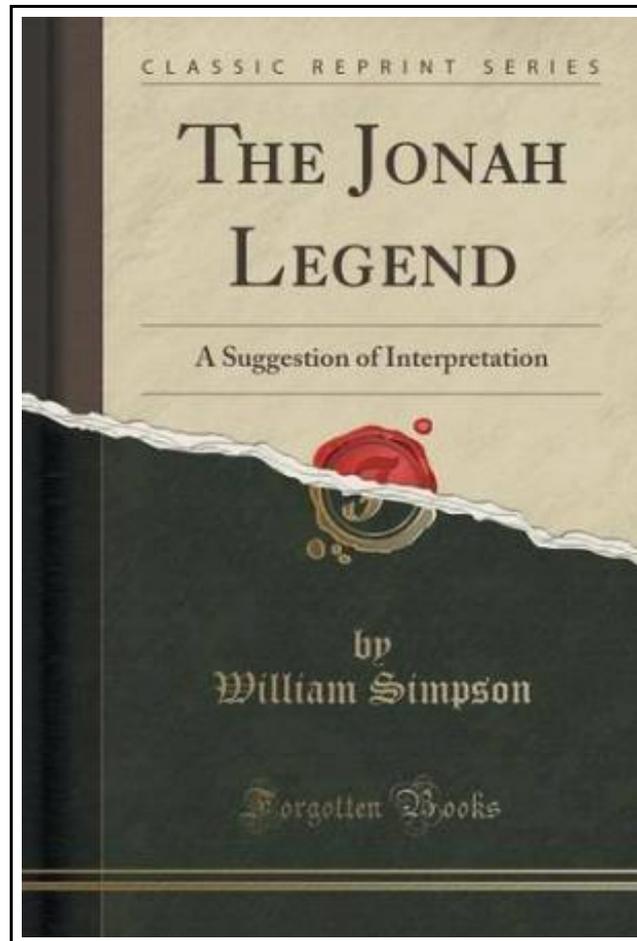


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The well-known modern interpretation of the myth of Perseus and Andromeda, or Herakles and Hesione, as a description of the Sun staying Darkness, has its connection with this group of legends. It is related in a remarkable version of this story that when the Trojan King Laomedon had bound his daughter Hesione to the rock, a sacrifice to Poseidon s destroying sea-monster, Herakles delivered the maiden, springing full armed into the fish s gaping throat, and coming forth painless after three days hacking within. This singular story, probably in part of Semitic origin, combines the ordinary myth of Hesione or Andromeda with the story of Jonah s fish, for which indeed the Greek sculpture of Andromeda s monster served as the model in early Christian art, while Joppa was the place where vestiges of Andromeda s chains on the rock in front of the town were exhibited in Pliny s time, and the bones of a whale were carried to Rome as relics of Andromeda s monster. To recognise the place which the nature-myth of the Man swallowed by the monster occupies in mythology, among remote and savage races and onward among the higher nations, affects the argument of a point of Biblical criticism. It strengthens the position of the critics who, seeing that the Book of Jonah consists of two wonder-episodes adapted to enforce two great religious lessons, no longer suppose intention of literal narrative in what they may fairly consider as the most elaborate parable of the Old Testament. Had the Book of Jonah happened to be lost in old times, and only recently recovered, it...

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