

ALLADIN AND THE MAGIC LAMP

2-WORD EYE-HOP, SUPERREADING, RON COLE

In the reign of the Caliph  
Haroun-al -Raschid,  
there lived at Bagdad  
a poor porter called Hindbad.  
One day, when the weather  
was excessively hot, he was  
employed to carry a heavy  
burden from one end of  
the town to the other.  
Having still a great way  
to go, he came into  
a street where a refreshing  
breeze blew on his face,  
and the pavement was sprinkled  
with rose water. As  
he could not desire a better  
place to rest, he took off  
his load, and sat upon  
it, near a large mansion.  
He was much pleased that  
he stopped in this place;  
for the agreeable smell of wood

of aloes, and of pastils,  
that came from the house,  
mixing with the scent  
of the rose -water, completely  
perfumed the air. Besides,  
he heard from within a concert  
of instrumental music, accompanied  
with the notes of  
harmonious nightingales.  
This charming melody, and  
the smell of savoury  
dishes, made the porter  
conclude there was a feast  
within. His business seldom  
leading him that way,  
he knew not to whom the  
mansion belonged; but to satisfy  
his curiosity he went to  
some of the servants,  
whom he saw standing at  
the gate in magnificent  
apparel, and asked the  
name of the proprietor.  
"How," replied one of them,  
"do you live in Bagdad,  
and know not that this  
is the house of Sinbad

the sailor, that famous  
voyager, who has sailed  
round the world?" The  
porter, who had heard  
of this Sinbad's riches, lifted  
up his eyes to Heaven,  
and said, loud enough  
to be heard: "Almighty  
creator of all things,  
consider the difference  
between Sinbad and me! I  
am every day exposed to  
fatigues and calamities,  
and can scarcely get barley  
-bread for myself and  
my family, whilst happy  
Sinbad expends immense riches  
and leads a life of  
pleasure. What has he  
done to obtain a lot so agreeable?  
And what have I done to  
deserve one so wretched?"  
Whilst the porter was  
thus indulging his melancholy,  
a servant came out of  
the house, and taking

him by the arm, bade  
him follow him, for Sinbad,  
his master, wanted to  
speak to him. The servants  
brought him into a great  
hall, where a number of  
people sat round a table,  
covered with all sorts  
of savoury dishes. At  
the upper end sat a  
venerable gentleman,  
with a long white beard,  
and behind him stood  
a number of officers and  
domestics, all ready  
to attend his pleasure.  
This personage was Sinbad.  
The porter, whose fear  
was increased at the sight  
of so many people, and  
of a banquet so sumptuous,  
saluted the company trembling.  
Sinbad bade him draw near,  
and seating him at his  
right hand, served him  
himself, and gave him a

cup of excellent wine. When  
the repast was over,  
Sinbad addressed his conversation  
to Hindbad, and inquired  
his name and employment.  
"My lord," answered he,  
"my name is Hindbad."  
"I am very glad to see  
you," replied Sinbad; "but  
I wish to hear from  
your own mouth what it was  
you lately said in the  
street." Sinbad had himself  
heard the porter complain  
through the window, and  
this it was that induced  
him to have him brought  
in. At this request, Hindbad  
hung down his head in  
confusion, and replied:  
"My lord, I confess  
that my fatigue put me out  
of humour, and occasioned  
me to utter some indiscreet  
words, which I beg you  
to pardon." "Do not think

I am so unjust," resumed Sinbad,  
"as to resent such a complaint,  
but I must rectify your  
error concerning myself. You  
think, no doubt, that  
I have acquired, without labour  
and trouble, the ease which  
I now enjoy. But do not  
mistake; I did not attain  
to this happy condition,  
without enduring for several  
years more trouble of  
body and mind than can well  
be imagined. Yes, gentlemen,"  
he added, speaking to  
the whole company, "I  
can assure you my troubles  
were so extraordinary,  
that they  
were calculated to discourage  
the most covetous from undertaking  
such voyages as I did,  
to acquire riches. Perhaps  
you have never heard a distinct  
account of my wonderful  
adventures; and since  
I have this opportunity,

I will give you a faithful  
account of them, not  
doubting but it will be  
acceptable." THE FIRST  
VOYAGE "I inherited  
from my father considerable  
property, the greater  
part of which I squandered  
in my youth in dissipation;  
but I perceived my error,  
and reflected that riches  
were perishable, and quickly  
consumed by such ill managers  
as myself, I further  
considered, that by my  
irregular way of living  
I wretchedly misspent my  
time; which is, of all  
things, the most valuable.  
Struck with these reflections,  
I collected the remains  
of my fortune, and sold all  
my effects by public  
auction. I then entered  
into a contract with some  
merchants, who traded

by sea. I took the advice  
of such as I thought  
most capable, and resolving  
to improve what money  
I had, I embarked with several  
merchants on board a  
ship which we had jointly  
fitted out. "We set sail,  
and steered our course  
toward the Indies through  
the Persian Gulf, which  
is formed by the coasts  
of Arabia Felix on the  
right, and by those of  
Persia on the left.  
At first I was troubled  
with sea-sickness, but speedily  
recovered my health,  
and was not afterward  
subject to that complaint.  
"In our voyage we touched  
at several islands, where  
we sold or exchanged  
our goods. One day, whilst  
under sail, we were becalmed  
near a small island, but

little elevated above the  
level of the water, and  
resembling a green meadow.  
The captain ordered his  
sails to be furled, and  
permitted such persons  
as were so inclined to  
land; of which number I was  
one. "But while we were  
enjoying ourselves in eating  
and drinking, and recovering  
ourselves from the fatigue  
of the sea, the island  
on a sudden trembled,  
and shook us terribly.  
"The motion was perceived  
on board the ship, and  
we were called upon to re-  
embark speedily, or we should  
all be lost; for what we  
took for an island proved  
to be the back of a  
sea monster. The nimblest  
got into the sloop, others  
betook themselves to swimming;  
but for myself, I was still

upon the back of the creature  
when he dived into the sea,  
and I had time only  
to catch hold of a piece  
of wood that we had brought  
out of the ship. Meanwhile,  
the captain, having received  
those on board who were in  
the sloop, and taken  
up some of those that  
swam, resolved to improve  
the favourable gale that  
had just risen, and hoisting  
his sails, pursued his  
voyage, so that it was  
impossible for me to  
recover the ship. "Thus  
was I exposed to the mercy  
of the waves all the rest  
of the day and the following  
night. By this time  
I found my strength gone,  
and despaired of saving  
my life, when happily a  
wave threw me against  
an island. The bank was

high and rugged; so that I  
could scarcely have got up,  
had it not been for some  
roots of trees, which chance  
placed within reach. Having  
gained the land, I lay  
down upon the ground  
half dead, until the  
sun appeared. Then, though  
I was very feeble, both  
from hard labour and  
want of food, I crept along  
to find some herbs fit  
to eat, and had the good  
luck not only to procure  
some, but likewise to  
discover a spring of  
excellent water, which  
contributed much to recover  
me. After this I advanced  
farther into the island,  
and at last reached a  
fine plain, where at a  
great distance I perceived  
some horses feeding. I  
went toward them, and

as I approached heard the  
voice of a man, who  
immediately  
appeared, and asked  
me who I was. I related  
to him my adventure,  
after which, taking me  
by the hand, he led me  
into a cave, where there  
were several other people,  
no less amazed to see me  
than I was to see them.  
"I partook of some provisions  
which they offered me.  
I then asked them what  
they did in such a desert  
place, to which they  
answered, that they  
were grooms belonging  
to the Maha-raja, sovereign  
of the island, and that every  
year, at the same season  
they brought thither the  
king's horses for pasturage.  
They added, that they  
were to return home on the  
morrow, and had I been

one day later, I must have  
perished, because the  
inhabited part of the  
island was at a great  
distance, and it would  
have been impossible  
for me to have got thither  
without a guide. "Next  
morning they returned to  
the capital of the island,  
took me with them, and  
presented me to the  
Maha-rajah. He asked me  
who I was, and by what  
adventure I had come  
into his dominions. After I had  
satisfied him, he told  
me he was much concerned  
for my misfortune, and at the  
same time ordered that  
I should want nothing; which  
commands his officers were  
so generous as to see  
exactly fulfilled. "Being a merchant,  
I frequented men of my  
own profession, and particularly

inquired for those who  
were strangers, that perchance  
I might hear news from  
Bagdad, or find an opportunity  
to return. They put a  
thousand questions respecting  
my country; and I, being  
willing to inform myself  
as to their laws and customs,  
asked them concerning  
everything which I thought  
worth knowing. "There belongs  
to this king an island  
named Cassel. They assured  
me that every night a noise  
of drums was heard there,  
whence the mariners fancied  
that it was the residence  
of Degial. I determined  
to visit this wonderful  
place, and in my way  
thither saw fishes of  
one hundred and two hundred  
cubits long, that occasion  
more fear than hurt,  
for they are so timorous,

that they will fly upon  
the rattling of two sticks  
or boards. I saw likewise  
other fish about a cubit  
in length, that had heads  
like owls. "As I was  
one day at the port after  
my return, a ship arrived,  
and as soon as she cast  
anchor, they began to unload  
her, and the merchants  
on board ordered their goods  
to be carried into the custom  
-house. As I cast my  
eye upon some bales, and  
looked to the name,  
I found my own, and perceived  
the bales to be the  
same that I had embarked  
at Bussorah. I also knew  
the captain; but being  
persuaded that he believed  
me to be drowned, I went, and  
asked him whose bales  
these were. He replied  
that they belonged to

a merchant of Bagdad,  
called Sinbad, who came to  
sea with him; but had  
unfortunately  
perished on the voyage,  
and that he had resolved  
to trade with the bales,  
until he met with some  
of his family, to whom he  
might return the profit.  
'I am that Sinbad,' said  
I, 'whom you thought to  
be dead, and those bales  
are mine.' "When the  
captain heard me speak thus,  
'Heavens!' he exclaimed,  
'whom can we trust in  
these times? There is no  
faith left among men.  
I saw Sinbad perish with  
my own eyes, as did also  
the passengers on board,  
and yet you tell me you  
are that Sinbad. What impudence  
is this? You tell a horrible  
falsehood, in order to  
possess yourself of what does

not belong to you.' 'Have  
patience,' replied I;  
'do me the favour to  
hear what I have to  
say.' Then I told him  
how I had escaped, and  
by what adventure I met with  
the grooms of the Maha  
-raja, who had brought  
me to his court. "The  
captain was at length  
persuaded that I was  
no cheat; for there  
came people from his ship  
who knew me, and expressed  
much joy at seeing me  
alive. At last he recollected  
me himself, and embracing  
me, 'Heaven be praised,'  
said he, 'for your happy  
escape. I cannot express  
the joy it affords me;  
there are your goods,  
take and do with them  
as you please.' I thanked  
him, acknowledged his probity,

and offered him part of  
my goods as a present,  
which he generously refused. "I  
took out what was most valuable  
in my bales, and presented  
them to the Maha-raja,  
who, knowing my misfortune,  
asked me how I came by  
such rarities. I acquainted  
him with the circumstance  
of their recovery. He was pleased  
at my good luck, accepted  
my present, and in return  
gave me one much more  
considerable. Upon this,  
I took leave of him, and  
went aboard the same ship,  
after I had exchanged  
my goods for the commodities  
of that country. I carried  
with me wood of aloes,  
sandal, camphire, nutmegs, cloves,  
pepper, and ginger. We  
passed by several islands,  
and at last arrived at  
Bussorah, from whence

I came to this city,  
with the value of one hundred  
thousand sequins. My family  
and I received one another  
with sincere affection.  
I bought slaves and a landed  
estate, and built a magnificent  
house. Thus I settled  
myself, resolving to forget  
the miseries I had suffered,  
and to enjoy the pleasures  
of life." Sinbad stopped  
here, and ordered the  
musicians to proceed  
with their concert, which  
the story had interrupted.  
The company continued  
enjoying till the evening,  
themselves  
when Sinbad sent for a  
purse of a hundred sequins,  
and giving it to the  
porter, said: "Take this,  
Hindbad, return to your home,  
and come back to-morrow  
to hear more of my adventures."  
The porter went away,

astonished at the honour  
done, and the present  
made him. The account  
of this adventure proved very  
agreeable to his wife  
and children, who did not  
fail to return thanks to  
God for what providence  
had sent them by the hand  
of Sinbad. Hindbad put  
on his best apparel next  
day, and returned to the bountiful  
traveller, who welcomed  
him heartily. When all the  
guests had arrived, dinner  
was served. When it was  
ended, Sinbad, addressing  
himself to the company,  
said, "Gentlemen, be pleased  
to listen to the adventures  
of my second voyage; they  
deserve your attention  
even more than those  
of the first." Upon this  
every one held his peace,  
and Sinbad proceeded.

THE SECOND VOYAGE "I  
designed, after my first  
voyage, to spend the  
rest of my days at Bagdad,  
but it was not long ere  
I grew weary of an indolent  
life. My inclination to trade revived.  
I bought goods proper for  
the commerce I intended,  
and put to sea a second  
time with merchants  
of known probity. We embarked  
on board a good ship,  
and after recommending  
ourselves to God, set  
sail. We traded from island  
to island, and exchanged  
commodities with great  
profit. One day we landed  
on an island covered with  
several sorts of fruit-trees,  
but we could see neither  
man nor animal. We went to  
take a little fresh air  
in the meadows, along the  
streams that watered them.

Whilst some diverted themselves  
with gathering flowers, and  
others fruits, I took my  
    wine and     and sat down  
    provisions,  
near a stream betwixt two  
    high trees which formed  
a thick shade. I made a good  
    meal, and afterward  
    fell asleep. I cannot tell  
    how long I slept, but  
when I awoke the ship was  
gone. "I got up and looked  
around me, but could  
not see one of the merchants  
who landed with me. I  
    perceived the ship under  
    sail, but at such a  
    distance, that I lost  
sight of her in a short  
    time. "In this sad condition,  
I was ready to die with  
grief. I cried out in agony,  
    and threw myself upon  
the ground, where I lay  
    some time in despair.  
I upbraided myself a hundred

times for not being  
content with the produce  
    of my first voyage, that  
    might have sufficed me  
all my life. But all this  
was in vain, and my repentance  
came too late. "At last I  
resigned myself to the will  
    of God. Not knowing what  
to do, I climbed up to the  
    top of a lofty tree, from  
whence I looked about on all  
    sides, to see if I could  
discover anything that could  
    give me hopes. When I gazed  
    toward the sea I could  
see nothing but sky and  
    water; but looking over  
    the land I beheld something  
white; and coming down,  
I took what provision  
    I had left, and went toward  
it, the distance being so great  
    that I could not distinguish  
what it was. "As I approached,  
    I thought it to be a

white dome, of a prodigious  
    height and extent; and  
when I came up to it,  
    I touched it, and found  
it to be very smooth. I  
    went round to see if  
it was open on any side,  
    but saw that it was not,  
and that there was no climbing  
    up to the top, as it  
was so smooth. It was at  
    least fifty paces round.  
"By this time the sun was  
about to set, and all of  
a sudden the sky became  
    as dark as if it had  
been covered with a thick  
    cloud. I was much astonished  
at this sudden darkness,  
but much more when I found  
it occasioned by a bird  
of a monstrous size, that  
    came flying toward me.  
I remembered that I had  
    often heard mariners speak  
of a miraculous bird called



the roc, and conceived  
that the great dome which  
I so much admired must  
be its egg. As I perceived  
the roc coming, I crept close  
to the egg, so that I  
had before me one of  
the bird's legs, which  
was as big as the trunk  
of a tree. I tied myself  
strongly to it with my  
turban, in hopes that  
next morning she would  
carry me with her out of  
this desert island. After  
having passed the night  
in this condition, the bird flew  
away as soon as it was  
daylight, and carried  
me so high, that I could  
not discern the earth;  
she afterward descended  
with so much rapidity that  
I lost my senses. But  
when I found myself on  
the ground, I speedily

untied the knot, and  
had scarcely done so, when  
the roc, having taken up a  
serpent of a monstrous  
length in her bill,  
flew away. "The spot  
where she left me was  
encompassed on all sides  
by mountains, that seemed  
to reach above the clouds,  
and so steep that there  
was no possibility of getting  
out of the valley. This  
was a new perplexity:  
so that when I compared  
this place with the desert  
island from which the  
roc had brought me I found  
that I had gained nothing  
by the change. "As I walked  
through this valley, I  
perceived it was strewed  
with diamonds, some of which  
were of a surprising  
bigness. I took pleasure  
in looking upon them;

but shortly saw at a distance  
such objects as greatly  
diminished my satisfaction,  
namely, a great number  
of serpents, so monstrous,  
that the least of them was  
capable of swallowing  
an elephant. They retired  
in the daytime to their dens,  
where they hid themselves  
from the roc, their enemy,  
and came out only in the  
night. "I spent the  
day in walking about in the  
valley, resting myself at  
times in such places as  
I thought most convenient.  
When night came on, I  
went into a cave, where  
I thought I might repose  
in safety. I secured  
the entrance with a great  
stone to preserve me from the  
serpents; but not so  
far as to exclude the  
light. I supped on part of

my provisions, but the serpents,  
which began hissing round  
me, put me into such  
extreme fear, that I could  
not sleep. When day appeared,  
the serpents retired, and  
I came out of the cave  
trembling. I can justly  
say, that I walked upon  
diamonds, without feeling  
any inclination to touch them.  
At last I sat down,  
and my apprehensions,  
notwithstanding  
not having closed my  
eyes during the night,  
fell asleep, after having  
eaten a little more of my  
provision. But I had  
scarcely shut my eyes, when  
something that fell  
by me with a great noise  
awaked me. This was a  
large piece of raw meat;  
and at the same time  
I saw several others fall  
down from the rocks

in different places. "I  
had always regarded as  
fabulous what I had heard  
sailors and others relate  
of the valley of diamonds,  
and of the stratagems  
employed by merchants  
to obtain jewels from  
thence; but now I found  
that they had stated  
nothing but truth. For  
the fact is, that the merchants  
come to the neighbourhood  
of this valley when the eagles  
have young ones; and,  
throwing great joints of  
meat into the valley,  
the diamonds upon whose  
points they fall stick  
to them; the eagles, which  
are stronger in this country  
than anywhere else, pounce  
with great force upon  
those pieces of meat, and  
carry them to their nests  
on the rocks to feed their

young; the merchants  
at this time run to the  
nests, drive off the eagles  
by their shouts, and take away  
the diamonds that stick  
to the meat. "Until I perceived  
the device I had concluded  
it to be impossible for me to  
leave this abyss, which  
I regarded as my grave;  
but now I changed my  
opinion, and began to think  
upon the means of my deliverance.  
I began to collect the  
largest diamonds I could find,  
and put them into the leather  
bag in which I used to  
carry my I afterward  
provisions.  
took the largest of the pieces  
of meat, tied it close round  
me with the cloth of my  
turban, and then laid  
myself upon the ground  
with my face downward,  
the bag of diamonds being  
made fast to my girdle.

"I had scarcely placed myself  
in this posture when the eagles  
came. Each of them seized  
a piece of meat, and  
one of the strongest  
having taken me up, with  
the piece of meat to  
which I was fastened,  
carried me to his nest  
on the top of the mountain.  
The merchants immediately  
began their shouting to  
frighten the eagles; and  
when they had obliged  
them to quit their prey,  
one of them came to the  
nest where I was. He  
was much alarmed when he saw  
me; but recovering himself, instead  
of inquiring how I came  
thither, began to quarrel  
with me, and asked, why  
I stole his goods. 'You  
will treat me,' replied  
I, 'with more civility when  
you know me better. Do

not be uneasy, I have diamonds  
enough for you and myself,  
more than all the other  
merchants together.  
What ever they have,  
they owe to chance, but  
I selected for myself  
in the bottom of the valley  
those which you see in  
this bag.' I had scarcely  
done speaking, when the other  
merchants came crowding  
about us, much astonished  
to see me; but they were  
much more surprised  
when I told them my story.  
"They conducted me to their  
encampment, and there  
having opened my bag, they  
were surprised at the largeness  
of my diamonds, and confessed  
that in all the courts  
which they had visited  
they had never seen any of  
such size and perfection.  
I prayed the merchant who

owned the nest to which  
I had been carried (for  
every merchant had his own),  
to take as many for his  
share as he pleased. He  
contented himself with  
one, and that the least  
of them; and when I pressed  
him to take more, 'No,'  
said he, 'I am very well  
satisfied with this,  
which is valuable enough to  
save me the trouble of  
making any more voyages,  
and will raise as great a  
fortune as I desire.'  
"I spent the night with  
the merchants, to whom I  
related my story a second  
time, for the satisfaction  
of those who had not heard  
it. I could not moderate  
my joy when I found myself  
delivered from the danger  
I have mentioned. I thought  
myself in a dream, and

could scarcely believe myself  
out of danger. "The merchants  
had thrown their pieces  
of meat into the valley  
for several days, and  
each of them being satisfied  
with the diamonds that had fallen  
to his lot, we left the  
place the next morning  
and travelled near high  
mountains, where there  
were serpents of a prodigious  
length, which we had the  
good fortune to escape.  
We took shipping at the first  
port we reached, and touched  
at the isle of Roha, where  
the trees grow that  
yield camphire. This tree  
is so large, and its branches  
so thick, that one hundred  
men may easily sit under  
its shade. The juice  
of which the camphire is  
made exudes from a hole  
bored in the upper part

of the tree, is received  
in a vessel, where it thickens  
to a consistency, and becomes  
what we call camphire;  
after the juice is thus  
drawn out, the tree withers  
and dies. "In this island  
is also found the rhinoceros,  
an animal less than  
the elephant, but larger  
than the buffalo. It has a horn  
upon its nose, about a cubit  
in length; this horn  
is solid, and cleft  
through the middle. The  
rhinoceros fights with  
the elephant, runs his horn  
into his belly, and carries  
him off upon his head;  
but the blood and the fat  
of the elephant running into  
his eyes, and making  
him blind, he falls to  
the ground; and then,  
strange to relate! the  
roc comes and carries

them both away in her  
claws, for food for her  
young ones. "In this island  
I exchanged some of my  
diamonds for merchandise.  
From hence we went to  
other ports, and at last,  
having touched at several  
trading towns of the continent,  
we landed at Bussorah,  
from whence I proceeded  
to Bagdad. There I immediately  
gave large presents to  
the poor, and lived  
honourably upon the vast  
riches I had gained with  
so much fatigue." [Illustration]  
\_The spot where she  
left me was encompassed  
on all sides by mountains  
that seemed to reach above  
the clouds, and so steep  
that there was no possibility  
of getting out of the  
valley.\_ Thus Sinbad ended  
his relation, gave Hindbad

another hundred sequins, and  
invited him to come the  
next day to hear the account  
of the third voyage. THE  
THIRD VOYAGE "I soon lost  
the remembrance of the perils  
I had encountered in my two  
former voyages," said Sinbad,  
"and being in the flower  
of my age, I grew weary  
of living without business,  
and went from Bagdad to  
Bussorah with the richest  
commodities of the country.  
There I embarked again with  
some merchants. We made a  
long voyage and touched  
at several ports, where  
we carried on a considerable  
trade. One day, being  
out in the main ocean,  
we were overtaken by a dreadful  
tempest, which drove us from  
our course. The tempest  
continued several days,  
and brought us before

the port of an island,  
which the captain was  
very unwilling to enter,  
but we were obliged to  
cast anchor. When we had  
furled our sails, the  
captain told us that this,  
and some other neighbouring  
islands, were inhabited  
by hairy savages, who would  
speedily attack us; and, though  
they were but dwarfs,  
yet we must make no resistance,  
for they were more in number  
than the locusts; and if we  
happened to kill one of  
them they would all  
fall upon us and destroy  
us. "We soon found that  
what he had told us was  
but too true; an innumerable  
multitude of frightful  
savages, about two feet high,  
covered all over with  
red hair, came swimming  
towards us, and encompassed

our ship. They spoke  
to us as they came near,  
but we understood not their  
language and they climbed  
up the sides of the ship  
with such agility as  
surprised us. They took  
down our sails, cut the cables,  
and hauling to the shore,  
made us all get out, and  
afterward carried the  
ship into another island,  
from whence they had come.  
"We went forward into the island,  
where we gathered some fruits  
and herbs to prolong  
our lives as long as  
we could; but we expected  
nothing but death. As  
we advanced, we perceived  
at a distance a vast pile  
of buildings, and made toward  
it. We found it to be a  
palace, elegantly built, and  
very lofty, with a gate  
of ebony, which we forced

open. We entered the court,  
where we saw before us  
a large apartment, with a porch,  
having on one side a  
heap of human bones, and  
on the other a vast number  
of roasting spits. We  
trembled at this spectacle,  
and being fatigued with  
travelling, fell to the  
ground, seized with deadly  
apprehension, and lay a  
long time motionless.  
"The sun set, the gate of  
the apartment opened with  
a loud crash, and there  
came out the horrible figure  
of a black man, as tall  
as a lofty palm-tree.  
He had but one eye, and  
that in the middle of  
his forehead, where it looked  
as red as a burning  
coal. His fore-teeth  
were very long and sharp,  
and stood out of his

mouth, which was as deep  
as that of a horse. His  
upper lip hung down  
upon his breast. His ears resembled  
those of an elephant,  
and covered his shoulders;  
and his nails were as long  
and crooked as the talons  
of the greatest birds. At  
the sight of so frightful  
a giant we became insensible,  
and lay like dead men.  
"At last we came to ourselves,  
and saw him sitting in  
the porch looking at  
us. When he had considered  
us well, he advanced toward  
us, and laying his hand upon  
me, took me up by the  
nape of my neck, and  
turned me round as a  
butcher would do a sheep's  
head. After having examined  
me, and perceiving me to be so  
lean that I had nothing  
but skin and bone, he let

me go. He took up all  
the rest one by one, and  
viewed them in the same  
manner. The captain being  
the fattest, he held him  
with one hand, as I would  
do a sparrow, and thrust  
a spit through him; he then  
kindled a great fire,  
roasted, and ate him in  
his apartment for his supper.  
Having finished his repast,  
he returned to his porch,  
where he lay and fell asleep,  
snoring louder than thunder.  
He slept thus till morning.  
As to ourselves, it was not  
possible for us to enjoy  
any rest, so that we  
passed the night in the  
most painful apprehension  
that can be imagined.  
When day appeared the giant  
awoke, got up, went out,  
and left us in the palace.  
"When we thought him at a distance,

we broke the melancholy  
silence we had preserved  
the whole of the night,  
and filled the palace  
with our and groans.  
lamentations  
"We spent the day in  
traversing the island,  
supporting ourselves  
with fruits and herbs  
as we had done the day  
before. In the evening  
we sought for some place  
of shelter, but found  
none; so that we were forced,  
whether we would or not,  
to go back to the palace.  
"The giant failed not  
to return, and supped  
once more upon one of  
our companions, after which  
he slept and snored till  
day, and then went out and  
left us as before. Our  
situation appeared to  
us so dreadful that several  
of my comrades designed to

throw themselves into the sea,  
rather than die so painful  
a death, upon which one  
of the company answered that  
it would be much more  
reasonable to devise  
some method to rid ourselves  
of the monster. "Having thought  
of a project for this purpose,  
I communicated it to my comrades,  
who approved it. 'Brethren,'  
said I, 'you know there  
is much timber floating upon  
the coast; if you will  
be advised by me, let  
us make several rafts capable  
of bearing us. In the  
meantime, we will carry  
out the design I proposed  
to you for our deliverance  
from the giant, and if it  
succeed, we may remain  
here patiently awaiting the  
arrival of some ship;  
but if it happen to  
miscarry, we will take

to our rafts and put to  
sea.' My advice was approved,  
and we made rafts capable  
of carrying three persons  
on each. "We returned to  
the palace toward the  
evening, and the giant  
arrived shortly after. We  
were forced to submit  
to seeing another of  
our comrades roasted, but  
at last we revenged ourselves  
on the brutish giant in the  
following manner. After  
he had finished his supper  
he lay down on his back  
and fell asleep. As soon as  
we heard him snore, according  
to his custom, nine of the  
boldest among us, and myself,  
took each of us a spit,  
and putting the points  
of them into the fire till  
they were burning hot,  
we thrust them into  
his eye all at once and

blinded him. The pain made  
him break out into a  
frightful yell: he started  
up, and stretched out his hands,  
in order to sacrifice  
some of us to his rage:  
but we ran to such places  
as he could not reach;  
and after having sought  
for us in vain, he groped  
for the gate and went out,  
howling in agony. "We  
quitted the palace after  
the giant and came to  
the shore, where we had  
left our rafts, and put them  
immediately to sea. We  
waited till day, in order  
to get upon them in case  
the giant should come  
toward us with any guide  
of his own species; but  
we hoped if he did not  
appear by sunrise, and  
gave over his howling,  
which we still heard, that

he would prove to be dead;  
and if that happened,  
we resolved to stay in  
that island, and not to  
risk our lives upon the rafts.  
But day had scarcely appeared  
when we perceived our cruel  
enemy, with two others  
almost of the same size,  
leading him; and a great  
number more coming before  
him at a quick pace. "We  
did not hesitate to take to  
our rafts, and put to  
sea with all the speed  
we could. The giants,  
who perceived this, took  
up great stones, and running  
to the shore, entered the  
water up to the middle,  
and threw so exactly  
that they sunk all the  
rafts but that I was  
upon; and all my companions,  
except the two with me,  
were drowned. We rowed with

all our might, and escaped  
the giants, but when we  
got out to sea we were  
exposed to the mercy  
of the waves and winds,  
and spent that night  
and the following day under  
the most painful uncertainty  
as to our fate; but  
next morning we had the  
good fortune to be thrown  
upon an island, where we landed  
with much joy. We found  
excellent fruit, which  
afforded us great relief  
and recruited our strength.  
"At night we went to  
sleep on the sea shore;  
but were awakened by the noise  
of a serpent of surprising  
length and thickness,  
whose scales made a rustling  
noise as he wound himself  
along. It swallowed  
up one of my comrades,  
notwithstanding his loud cries,



and the efforts he made to  
extricate himself from  
it; dashing him several  
times against the ground,  
it crushed him, and we  
could hear it gnaw and  
tear the poor wretch's bones,  
though we had fled to  
a considerable distance.  
"As we walked about, when  
day returned, we saw a tall  
tree, upon which we designed  
to pass the following  
night, for our security;  
and having satisfied  
our hunger with fruit,  
we mounted it before  
the dusk had fallen. Shortly  
after, the serpent came  
hissing to the foot of  
the tree; raised itself  
up against the trunk  
of it, and meeting with  
my comrade, who sat lower  
than I, swallowed him at once,  
and went off. "I remained

upon the tree till it was  
day, and then came down,  
more like a dead man  
than one alive, expecting  
the same fate as my two  
companions. This filled  
me with horror, and I advanced  
some steps to throw myself  
into the sea; but I withstood  
this dictate of despair,  
and submitted myself to  
the will of God. "In the  
meantime I collected  
a great quantity of small wood,  
brambles, and dry thorns,  
and making them up into  
faggots, made a wide circle  
with them round the  
tree, and also tied  
some of them to the branches  
over my head. Having done  
this, when the evening  
came I shut myself up  
within this circle, feeling  
that I had neglected  
nothing which could preserve

me from the cruel destiny  
with which I was threatened.  
The serpent failed not  
to come at the usual  
hour, and went round  
the tree, seeking for  
an opportunity to devour  
me, but was prevented  
by the rampart I had made;  
so that he lay till day,  
like a cat watching in  
vain for a mouse that  
has fortunately reached a  
place of safety. When day appeared  
he retired, but I dared  
not to leave my fort until  
the sun arose. "I felt so  
much fatigued by the labour  
to which it had put me,  
and suffered so much from  
the serpent's poisonous  
breath, that death seemed  
more eligible to me than  
the horrors of such a  
state. I came down from  
the tree, and was going

to throw myself into the sea,  
when God took compassion  
on me and I perceived  
a ship at a considerable  
distance. I called as  
loud as I could, and  
taking the linen from  
my turban, displayed  
it, that they might observe  
me. This had the desired  
effect; the crew perceived  
me, and the captain sent  
his boat for me. As soon  
as I came on board,  
the merchants and seamen  
flocked about me, to know  
how I came into that  
desert island; and after  
I had related to them all  
that had befallen me, the oldest  
among them said that  
they had often heard of the  
giants that dwelt in that  
island, that they were  
cannibals; and as to  
the serpents, they added,

that there were abundance  
of them that hid themselves  
by day, and came abroad  
by night. After having  
testified their joy  
at my escaping so many dangers,  
they brought me the best  
of their provisions; and the captain,  
seeing that I was in rags,  
was so generous as to give  
me one of his own suits.  
We continued at sea for  
some time, touched at  
several islands, and at last  
landed at that of Salabat,  
where sandal wood is obtained,  
which is of great use  
in medicine. We entered  
the port, and came to  
anchor. The merchants  
began to unload their goods,  
in order to sell or exchange  
them. In the meantime,  
the captain came to me  
and said: 'Brother,  
I have here some goods

that belonged to a merchant,  
who sailed some time  
on board this ship, and  
he being dead, I design to  
dispose of them for the  
benefit of his heirs.'  
The bales he spoke of  
lay on the deck, and  
showing them to me, he  
said: 'There are the goods;  
I hope you will take  
care to sell them, and  
you shall have factorage.'  
I thanked him for thus  
affording me an opportunity  
of employing myself, because  
I hated to be idle. 'The  
clerk of the ship took  
an account of all the  
bales, with the names  
of the merchants to whom they  
belonged, and when he  
asked the captain in  
whose name he should  
enter those he had given  
me the charge of, 'Enter

them,' said the captain,  
'in the name of Sinbad.'  
I could not hear myself  
named without some emotion;  
and looking steadfastly  
on the captain, I knew him  
to be the person who,  
in my second voyage, had  
left me in the island  
where I fell asleep. "I  
was not surprised that he, believing  
me to be dead, did not recognise  
me. 'Captain,' said I, 'was  
the merchant's name, to whom  
those bales belonged,  
Sinbad?' 'Yes,' replied he,  
'that was his name;  
he came from Bagdad, and  
embarked on board my ship  
at Bussorah.' 'You believe  
him, then, to be dead?'  
said I. 'Certainly,' answered he.  
'No, captain,' resumed I;  
'look at me, and you may  
know that I am Sinbad.'  
"The captain, having considered

me attentively, recognised  
me. 'God be praised,'  
said he, embracing me, 'I rejoice  
that fortune has rectified  
my fault. There are  
your goods, which I always  
took care to preserve.'  
I took them from him,  
and made him the  
acknowledgments  
to which he was entitled.  
"From the isle of Salabat,  
we went to another, where  
I furnished myself with  
cloves, cinnamon, and other  
spices. As we sailed  
from this island, we  
saw a tortoise twenty cubits  
in length and breadth.  
We observed also an amphibious  
animal like a cow, which  
gave milk; its skin is  
so hard, that they usually  
make bucklers of it. "In  
short, after a long voyage  
I arrived at Bussorah,  
and from thence returned to

Bagdad, with so much wealth  
that I knew not its extent.  
I gave a great deal to the  
poor, and bought another  
considerable estate in  
addition to what I had  
already." [Illustration]  
\_Having finished his repast,  
he returned to his porch,  
where he lay and fell asleep,  
snoring louder than thunder.\_  
Thus Sinbad finished the  
history of his third  
voyage; gave another hundred  
sequins to Hindbad, and  
invited him to dinner  
again the next day to  
hear the story of his fourth  
series of adventures.  
THE FOURTH VOYAGE "The  
pleasures which I enjoyed  
after my third voyage had  
not charms sufficient  
to divert me from another.  
My passion for trade,  
and my love of novelty,

again prevailed. I therefore  
settled my affairs, and  
having provided a stock of  
goods fit for the traffic  
I designed to engage  
in, I set out on my  
journey. I took the route  
of Persia, travelled  
over several provinces,  
and then arrived at a port,  
where I embarked. We hoisted  
our sails, and touched  
at several ports of the  
continent, and then put  
out to sea; when we were  
overtaken by such a  
sudden gust of wind, as  
obliged the captain to  
lower his yards, and  
take all other necessary  
precautions to prevent  
the danger that threatened  
us. But all was in vain;  
our endeavours had no effect,  
the sails were split  
in a thousand pieces, and

the ship was stranded;  
several of the merchants  
and seamen were drowned,  
and the cargo was lost.  
"I had the good fortune,  
with several of the merchants  
and mariners, to get upon  
some planks, and we were  
carried by the current  
to an island which lay  
before us. There we found  
fruit and spring water,  
which preserved our lives.  
We stayed all night  
near the place where we had  
been cast ashore and  
next morning, as soon as  
the sun was up, advancing  
into the island, saw some houses,  
which we  
approached. As soon as  
we drew near, we were  
encompassed  
by a great number of  
negroes, who seized us  
and carried us to their  
respective habitations.

"I, and five of my comrades,  
were carried to one place;  
here they made us sit  
down, and gave us a  
certain herb, which they  
made signs to us to eat.  
My comrades, not taking  
notice that the blacks  
ate none of it themselves,  
thought only of satisfying  
their hunger, and ate with  
greediness. But I, suspecting  
some trick, would not  
so much as taste it,  
which happened well for me;  
for in a little time after,  
I perceived my companions  
had lost their senses, and  
that when they spoke  
to me, they knew not what  
they said. "The negroes  
fed us afterward with rice,  
prepared with oil of cocoa  
-nuts; and my comrades,  
who had lost their reason,  
ate of it greedily.

I also partook of it, but  
very sparingly. They gave  
us that herb at first on  
purpose to deprive us  
of our senses, that we might  
not be aware of the sad  
destiny prepared for us; and  
they supplied us with rice  
to fatten us; for, being  
cannibals, their design  
was to eat us as soon  
as we grew fat. This  
accordingly happened,  
for they devoured my comrades,  
who were not sensible of  
their condition; but my senses  
being entire, you may easily  
guess that instead of  
growing fat I grew leaner  
every day. The fear of  
death under which I laboured  
caused me to fall into  
a languishing distemper,  
which proved my safety;  
for the negroes, having eaten  
my companions, seeing me

to be withered, and sick,  
deferred my death. "Meanwhile  
I had much liberty, so  
that scarcely any notice  
was taken of what I  
did, and this gave me an  
opportunity one day to  
get at a distance from the houses  
and to make my escape.  
An old man, who saw me  
and suspected my design,  
called to me as loud  
as he could to return;  
but I redoubled my speed,  
and quickly got out of  
sight. At that time  
there was none but the  
old man about the houses,  
the rest being abroad, and  
not to return till night,  
which was usual with  
them. Therefore, being sure  
that they could not  
arrive in time enough  
to pursue me, I went  
on till night, when I stopped

to rest a little, and  
to eat some of the provisions  
I had secured; but I speedily  
set forward again, and  
travelled seven days,  
avoiding those places which  
seemed to be inhabited,  
and lived for the most  
part upon cocoa-nuts,  
which served me both for  
meat and drink. On the eighth  
day I came near the sea,  
and saw some white people  
like myself, gathering  
pepper, of which there  
was great plenty in  
that place. This I took  
to be a good omen, and  
went to them without any  
scruple. They came to meet  
me as soon as they saw  
me, and asked me in Arabic  
who I was, and whence  
I came. I was overjoyed  
to hear them speak in my  
own language, and satisfied

their curiosity by giving  
them an account of my shipwreck,  
and how I fell into  
the hands of the negroes.  
'Those negroes,' replied they,  
'eat men, and by what  
miracle did you escape  
their cruelty?' I related  
to them the circumstances  
I have just mentioned,  
at which they were wonderfully  
surprised. "I stayed  
with them till they  
had gathered their quantity  
of pepper, and then sailed  
with them to the island  
from whence they had come.  
They presented me to their  
king, who was a good  
prince. He had the patience  
to hear the relation of  
my adventures; and he afterward  
gave me clothes, and commanded  
care to be taken of me.  
"The island was very well  
peopled, plentiful in everything,

and the capital a place of  
great trade. This agreeable  
retreat was very comfortable  
to me, after my misfortunes,  
and the kindness of this generous  
prince completed my satisfaction.  
In a word, there was  
not a person more in favour  
with him than myself; and  
consequently every man  
in court and city sought  
to oblige me; so that  
in a very little time  
I was looked upon rather  
as a native than a stranger.  
"I observed one thing  
which to me appeared very  
extraordinary. All the people,  
the king himself not excepted,  
rode their horses without  
bridle or stirrups.  
This made me one day  
take the liberty to ask the  
king how it came to pass.  
His Majesty answered,  
that I talked to him of

things which nobody knew  
the use of in his dominions.  
"I went to a workman,  
immediately and gave him a model for  
making the stock of a  
saddle. When that was done,  
I covered it myself  
with velvet and leather,  
and embroidered it with gold.  
I afterward went to a  
smith, who made me a  
bit, according to the pattern  
I showed him, and also some  
stirrups. When I had  
all things completed,  
I presented them to the  
king, and put them upon  
one of his horses. His  
Majesty mounted immediately,  
and was so pleased with  
them, that he testified  
his satisfaction by large presents.  
"As I paid my court very  
constantly to the king,  
he said to me one day:  
'Sinbad, I love thee

and I have one thing  
to demand of thee, which  
thou must grant.' 'Sir,'  
answered I, 'there is  
nothing but I will do,  
as a mark of my obedience  
to your Majesty.' 'I have a  
mind thou shouldst marry,'  
replied he, 'that so thou  
mayest stay in my dominions,  
and think no more of  
thy own country.' I durst not  
resist the prince's will,  
and he gave me one of  
the ladies of his court,  
noble, beautiful, and rich.  
The ceremonies of marriage  
being over, I went and  
dwelt with my wife, and  
for some time we lived together  
in perfect harmony. I  
was not, however, satisfied  
with my therefore  
banishment,  
designed to make my escape  
the first opportunity,  
and to return to Bagdad.

"At this time the wife of  
one of my neighbours  
fell sick, and died.  
I went to see and comfort  
him in his affliction,  
and finding him absorbed  
in sorrow, I said to  
him as soon as I saw him:  
'God preserve you and grant  
you a long life.' 'Alas!'  
replied he, 'how do you  
think I should obtain the  
favour you wish me? I  
have not above an hour to  
live.' 'Pray,' said I, 'do  
not entertain such a melancholy  
thought; I hope I shall  
enjoy your company many  
years.' 'I wish you,'  
he replied, 'a long life;  
but my days are at an  
end, for I must be buried  
this day with my wife. This  
is a law which our ancestors  
established in this island,  
and it is always observed.

The living husband is  
interred with the dead wife,  
and the living wife with  
the dead husband. Nothing can  
save me; every one must submit  
to this law.' "While he  
was giving me an account  
of this barbarous custom, the  
very relation of which chilled  
my blood, his kindred,  
friends, and neighbours  
came in a body to assist  
at the funeral. They dressed  
the corpse of the woman  
in her richest apparel, and  
all her jewels, as if it had  
been her wedding day; then  
they placed her in an  
open coffin, and began  
their march to the place  
of burial, the husband  
walking at the head of  
the company. They proceeded  
to a high mountain,  
and when they had reached  
the place of their destination,

they took up a large  
stone, which covered the  
mouth of a deep pit,  
and let down the corpse  
with all its apparel and  
jewels. Then the husband  
embracing his kindred  
and friends, suffered himself,  
without resistance, to be put  
into another open coffin  
with a pot of water,  
and seven small loaves,  
and was let down in the  
same manner. The ceremony  
being over, the aperture  
was again covered with  
the stone, and the company  
returned. "It is needless  
for me to tell you that  
I was a melancholy spectator  
of this funeral, while the  
rest were scarcely moved,  
the custom was to them  
so familiar. I could not  
forbear to the king  
communicating my sentiment respecting

the practice: 'Sir,' I said,  
'I cannot but feel astonished  
at the strange usage observed  
in this country, of burying  
the living with the dead.  
I have been a great traveller,  
and seen many countries,  
but never heard of so  
cruel a law.' 'What do you  
mean, Sinbad?' replied the  
king: 'it is a common  
law. I shall be interred  
with the queen, my wife, if  
she die first.' 'But, sir,'  
said I, 'may I presume  
to ask your Majesty, if  
strangers be obliged  
to observe this law?'  
'Without doubt,' returned the  
king; 'they are not exempted,  
if they be married in  
this island.' "I returned  
home much depressed  
by this answer; for the fear  
of my wife's dying first  
and that I should be

interred alive with her,  
occasioned me very uneasy  
reflections. But there  
was no remedy; I must have  
patience, and submit  
to the will of God. I  
trembled, however, at  
every little indisposition  
of my wife, and, alas!  
in a little time my fears  
were realised, for she fell  
sick and died. "The king  
and all his court expressed  
their wish to honour  
the funeral with their  
presence, and the most  
considerable people of  
the city did the same.  
When all was ready for  
the ceremony, the corpse  
was put into a coffin with  
all her jewels and her most  
magnificent apparel. The  
procession began, and  
as second actor in this  
doleful tragedy, I went next



the corpse, with my eyes  
full of tears, bewailing  
my deplorable fate. Before  
we reached the mountain,  
I made an attempt to  
affect the minds of the  
spectators: I addressed  
myself to the king first,  
and then to all those  
that were round me;  
bowing before them to the  
earth, and kissing the  
border of their garments,  
I prayed them to have compassion  
upon me.  
'Consider,' said I, 'that  
I am a stranger, and ought  
not to be subject to  
this rigorous law, and that  
I have another wife and children  
in my own country.'  
Although I spoke in the  
most pathetic manner, no  
one was moved by my address;  
on the contrary, they ridiculed  
my dread of death as cowardly,  
made haste to let my

wife's corpse into the pit,  
and lowered me down the  
next moment in an open  
coffin with a vessel full  
of water and seven loaves.  
"As I approached the bottom,  
I discovered by the aid  
of the little light that  
came from above the  
nature of this subterranean  
place; it seemed an  
endless cavern, and might  
be about fifty fathoms deep.  
"Instead of losing my  
courage and calling death  
to my assistance in that miserable  
condition, however, I  
felt still an inclination  
to live, and to do all  
I could to prolong my  
days. I went groping about,  
for the bread and water  
that was in my coffin,  
and took some of it. Though  
the darkness of the cave  
was so great that I could

not distinguish day and night,  
yet I always found my coffin  
again, and the cave seemed  
to be more spacious than  
it had appeared to be at first.  
I lived for some days  
upon my bread and water,  
which being all spent,  
I at last prepared for  
death. "I was offering  
up my last devotions  
when I heard something  
tread, and breathing  
or panting as it walked.  
I advanced toward that  
side from whence I heard  
the noise, and on my  
approach the creature puffed  
and blew harder, as if running  
away from me. I followed  
the noise, and the thing  
seemed to stop sometimes,  
but always fled and blew  
as I approached. I pursued  
it for a considerable time, till  
at last I perceived

a light, resembling a star; I  
went on, sometimes lost sight  
of it, but always found  
it again, and at last  
discovered that it came  
through a hole in the  
rock, large enough to  
admit a man. "Upon this,  
I stopped some time  
to rest, being much fatigued  
with the rapidity of my progress:  
afterward coming up  
to the hole, I got through,  
and found myself upon  
the seashore. I leave you  
to guess the excess of  
my joy: it was such that  
I could scarcely persuade myself  
that the whole was not a  
dream. "But when I was  
recovered from my surprise,  
and convinced of the reality  
of my escape, I perceived  
what I had followed to  
be a creature which came  
out of the sea, and was

accustomed to enter the  
cavern when the tides  
were high. "I examined  
the mountain, and found  
it to be situated betwixt the  
sea and the town, but  
without any passage to  
or communication with the latter;  
the rocks on the sea  
side being high and  
perpendicularly  
steep. I prostrated myself on  
the shore to thank God  
for this mercy, and afterward  
entered the cave again  
to fetch bread and water,  
which I ate by daylight  
with a better appetite than  
I had done since my interment  
in the dark cavern. "I  
returned thither a second time,  
and groped among the  
coffins for all the diamonds,  
rubies, pearls, gold bracelets,  
and rich stuffs I could find;  
these I brought to the shore,  
and tying them up neatly

into bales, I laid them  
together upon the beach,  
waiting till some ship  
might appear. "After two  
or three days, I perceived  
a ship just come out of  
the harbour, making for  
the place where I was.  
I made a sign with the linen  
of my turban, and called  
to the crew as loud as  
I could. They heard me,  
and sent a boat to bring  
me on board, when they  
asked by what misfortune  
I came thither; I told them  
that I had suffered shipwreck  
two days before, and made shift  
to get ashore with the goods  
they saw. It was fortunate  
for me that these people  
did not consider the place  
where I was, nor inquire  
into the probability of what I  
told them; but without  
hesitation took me on

board. When I came to  
the ship, the captain  
was so well pleased to  
have saved me, and so  
much taken up with his  
own affairs, that he also  
took the story of my pretended  
shipwreck upon trust,  
and generously refused some  
jewels which I offered  
him. "We passed by several  
islands, and among others  
that called the isle of  
Bells, about ten days'  
sail from Serendib,  
and six from that of Kela,  
where we landed. This island  
produces lead mines, Indian  
canes, and excellent  
camphire. "The King  
of the isle of Kela is  
very rich and powerful,  
and the isle of Bells,  
which is about two days'  
journey in extent, is  
also subject to him. The

inhabitants are so barbarous  
that they still eat  
human flesh. After we had  
finished our traffic in  
that island, we put to  
sea again, and touched  
at several other ports;  
at last I arrived happily  
at Bagdad with infinite  
riches. Out of gratitude  
to God for His mercies,  
I contributed liberally  
toward the support of  
several mosques, and the subsistence  
of the poor, and gave myself  
up to the society of  
my kindred and friends,  
enjoying myself with them  
in festivities and amusements."  
Here Sinbad finished the  
relation of his fourth  
voyage. He made a new  
present of one hundred  
sequins to Hindbad, whom  
he requested to return  
with the rest next day at

the same hour to dine with  
him, and hear the story  
of his fifth voyage. Hindbad  
and the other guests took  
their leave and retired.  
Next morning when they  
all met, they sat down at  
table, and when dinner  
was over, Sinbad began  
the relation of his fifth  
voyage as follows: THE  
FIFTH VOYAGE "All the troubles  
and calamities I had undergone,"  
said he, "could not cure me  
of my inclination to make new  
voyages. I therefore  
bought goods, departed with  
them for the best seaport;  
and that I might not  
be obliged to depend  
upon a captain, but have a  
ship at my own command,  
I remained there till  
one was built on purpose.  
When the ship was ready,  
I went on board with

my goods: but not having  
enough to load her,  
I agreed to take with  
me several merchants  
of different nations with  
their merchandise. "We sailed  
with the first fair wind,  
and after a long navigation,  
the first place we touched  
at was a desert island, where  
we found an egg of a roc,  
equal in size to that I  
formerly mentioned. There was  
a young roc in it just  
ready to be hatched, and  
its bill had begun to appear.  
The merchants whom I had  
taken on board, and who landed  
with me, broke the egg with  
hatchets, pulled out  
the young roc, piecemeal,  
and roasted it. I had  
earnestly entreated  
them not to meddle with  
the egg, but they would  
not listen to me. "Scarcely

had they finished their repast,  
when there appeared in  
the air at a considerable  
distance from us two great  
clouds. The captain whom  
I had hired to navigate  
my ship, said they were  
the male and female roc  
that belonged to the young  
one and pressed us to re-embark  
with all speed, to prevent  
the misfortune which he saw  
would otherwise befall us.  
We hastened on board,  
and set sail with all possible  
expedition. "In the meantime,  
the two rocs approached  
with a frightful noise, which  
they redoubled when they  
saw the egg broken, and  
their young one gone.  
They flew back in the  
direction they had come,  
and disappeared for some time,  
while we made all the sail  
we could to endeavour

to prevent that which  
unhappily befell us.  
"They soon returned,  
and we observed that each  
of them carried between its  
talons rocks of a monstrous  
size. When they came  
directly over my ship, they  
hovered, and one of them  
let fall a stone, but  
by the dexterity of the steersman  
it missed us. The other  
roc, to our misfortune,  
threw his burden so  
exactly upon the middle  
of the ship, as to split  
it into a thousand pieces.  
The mariners and passengers  
were all crushed to death,  
or sank. I myself was  
of the number of the latter;  
but as I came up again,  
I fortunately caught hold  
of a piece of the wreck,  
and swimming sometimes  
with one hand, and sometimes

with the other, I came to  
an island, and got safely  
ashore. "I sat down upon  
the grass, to recover  
myself from my fatigue,  
after which I went into  
the island to explore  
it. I found trees everywhere,  
some of them bearing green,  
and others ripe fruits,  
and streams of fresh pure  
water. I ate of the fruits,  
which I found excellent;  
and drank of the water,  
which was very good.  
"When I was a little advanced  
into the island, I saw an old  
man, who appeared very weak  
and infirm. He was sitting  
on the bank of a stream,  
and at first I took him  
to be one who had been  
shipwrecked like myself.  
I went toward him and saluted  
him, but he only slightly  
bowed his head. I asked

him why he sat so still,  
but instead of answering  
me, he made a sign for  
me to take him upon my  
back, and carry him  
over the brook, signifying  
that it was to gather  
fruit. "I believed him  
really to stand in need  
of my assistance, took him upon  
my back, and having carried  
him over, bade him get  
down, and for that end  
stooped, that he might get  
off with ease; but instead  
of doing so (which I laugh  
at every time I think of  
it) the old man, who to  
me appeared quite decrepit,  
clasped his legs nimbly  
about my neck. He sat astride  
upon my shoulders, and held my  
throat so tight, that  
I thought he would have  
strangled me, the  
apprehension  
of which made me swoon and

fall down. "Notwithstanding  
my fainting, the ill-natured  
old fellow kept fast  
about my neck, but opened  
his legs a little to  
give me time to recover  
my breath. When I had  
done so, he thrust one  
of his feet against my  
stomach, and struck me  
so rudely on the side  
with the other that he forced  
me to rise up against  
my will. Having arisen, he  
made me walk under the  
trees, and forced me  
now and then to stop, to  
gather and eat fruit.  
He never left me all day,  
and when I lay down to  
rest at night, laid himself  
down with me, holding  
always fast about my neck.  
Every morning he pushed  
me to make me awake,  
and afterward obliged me

to get up and walk,  
and pressed me with his  
feet. "One day I found  
in my way several dry  
calabashes that had fallen  
from a tree. I took a large  
one, and after cleaning it,  
pressed into it some juice  
of grapes, which abounded  
in the island; having filled  
the calabash, I put it by  
in a convenient place, and  
going thither again some  
days after, I tasted it,  
and found the wine so  
good, that it soon made  
me forget my sorrow,  
gave me new vigour, and  
so exhilarated my spirits,  
that I began to sing and  
dance as I walked along.  
"The old man, perceiving  
the effect which this  
liquor had upon me, and  
that I carried him with more  
ease than before, made

me a sign to give him  
some of it. I handed him  
the calabash, and the liquor  
pleasing his palate, he  
drank it all off. There  
being a quantity of  
considerable  
it, he became intoxicated,  
and the fumes getting up  
into his head, he began to  
sing after his manner,  
and to dance, thus loosening  
his legs from about me by  
degrees. Finding that he did  
not press me as before,  
I threw him upon the ground,  
where he lay without motion;  
I then took up a great  
stone, and crushed him.  
"I was extremely glad to be  
thus freed forever from  
this troublesome fellow. I  
now walked toward the  
beach, where I met the  
crew of a ship that  
had cast anchor, to take in  
water. They were surprised

to see me, but more so  
at hearing the particulars  
of my adventures. 'You fell,'  
said they, 'into the  
hands of the Old Man of  
the Sea, and are the first  
who ever escaped strangling  
by his malicious tricks. He  
never quits those he has  
once made himself master  
of till he has destroyed  
them, and he has made  
this island notorious  
by the number of men he  
has slain.' "After having  
informed me of these things,  
they carried me with them  
to the ship, and the captain  
received me with great  
kindness, when they  
told him what had befallen  
me. He put out again  
to sea, and after some  
days' sail, we arrived  
at the harbour of a great  
city. "One of the merchants

who had taken me into his  
friendship invited me  
to go along with him,  
and carried me to a place  
appointed for the  
accommodation  
of foreign merchants.  
He gave me a large bag,  
and having recommended  
me to some people of  
the town, who used to  
gather cocoa-nuts, desired  
them to take me with them.  
'Go,' said he, 'follow  
them, and act as you  
see them do, but do not  
separate from them, otherwise  
you may endanger your life.'  
Having thus spoken, he  
gave me provisions for the journey,  
and I went with them.  
"We came to a thick forest  
of cocoa-trees, very lofty,  
with trunks so smooth  
that it was not possible  
to climb to the branches  
that bore the fruit.

When we entered the forest  
we saw a great number of  
apes of several sizes, who  
fled as soon as they perceived  
us, and climbed up to the  
top of the trees with  
surprising swiftness.  
"The merchants with whom  
I was, gathered stones and  
threw them at the apes  
on the trees. I did the  
same, and the apes out  
of revenge threw cocoa  
-nuts at us so fast, and  
with such gestures,  
as sufficiently testified  
their anger and resentment.  
We gathered up the cocoa  
-nuts, and from time  
to time threw stones to  
provoke the apes; so that  
by this stratagem we filled  
our bags with cocoa-nuts,  
which it had been impossible  
otherwise to have done.  
"When we had gathered our

number, we returned to  
the city, where the  
merchant who had sent me  
to the forest gave me the  
value of the cocoas I brought:  
'Go on,' said he, 'and do  
the like every day, until  
you have got money enough  
to carry you home.' I thanked  
him for his advice, and  
gradually collected  
as many cocoa-nuts as produced  
me a considerable sum. "The  
vessel in which I had  
come sailed with some  
merchants who loaded  
her with cocoa-nuts. I embarked  
in her all the nuts I  
had, and when she was ready  
to sail took leave of the  
merchant who had been so  
kind to me. "We sailed  
toward the islands, where  
pepper grows in great plenty.  
From thence we went to  
the isle of Comari, where

the best species of wood of  
aloes grows. I exchanged  
my cocoa in those two  
islands for pepper and  
wood of aloes, and went with  
other merchants a pearl-fishing.  
I hired divers, who brought  
me up some that were  
very large and pure.  
I embarked in a vessel  
that happily arrived at  
Bussorah; from thence  
I returned to Bagdad,  
where I made vast sums  
from my pepper, wood of aloes,  
and pearls. I gave the  
tenth of my gains in alms,  
as I had done upon my return  
from my other voyages, and  
endeavoured to dissipate  
my fatigues by amusements  
of different kinds." When  
Sinbad had finished his  
story, he ordered one  
hundred sequins to be given  
to Hindbad, who retired

with the other guests; but  
next morning the same company  
returned to dine; when  
Sinbad requested their attention,  
and gave the following  
account of his sixth  
voyage: THE SIXTH VOYAGE  
"You long without doubt  
to know," said he, "how,  
after having been shipwrecked  
five times, and escaped  
so many dangers, I could resolve  
again to tempt fortune, and  
expose myself to new hardships.  
I am, myself, astonished  
at my conduct when I reflect  
upon it, and must certainly  
have been actuated by  
my destiny. But be that  
as it may, after a year's  
rest I prepared for a sixth  
voyage, notwithstanding  
of my kindred, who did all  
in their power to dissuade  
me. "Instead of taking  
my way by the Persian

Gulf, I travelled once more  
through several provinces  
of Persia and the Indies,  
and arrived at a seaport,  
where I embarked in a ship,  
the captain of which was  
bound on a long voyage.  
It was long indeed, for  
the captain and pilot  
lost their course. They,  
however, at last discovered  
where they were, but  
we had no reason to  
rejoice at the circumstance.  
Suddenly we saw the captain  
quit his post, uttering loud  
lamentations. He threw off  
his turban, pulled his  
beard, and beat his head  
like a madman. We asked him  
the reason, and he answered,  
that he was in the most  
dangerous place in all  
the ocean. 'A rapid current  
carries the ship along  
with it,' said he, 'and



we shall all perish in  
less than a quarter  
of an hour. Pray to God  
to deliver us from this  
peril; we cannot escape,  
if He do not take pity  
on us.' At these words  
he ordered the sails  
to be lowered; but all the  
ropes broke, and the ship  
was carried by the current  
to the foot of an inaccessible  
mountain, where she  
struck and went to pieces,  
yet in such a manner that  
we saved our lives, our  
provisions, and the best  
of our goods. "This being  
over, the captain said  
to us: 'God has done what  
pleased Him. Each of us  
may dig his grave, and  
bid the world adieu; for  
we are all in so fatal  
a place, that none shipwrecked  
here ever returned to

their homes.' His discourse  
afflicted us sensibly,  
and we embraced each other,  
bemoaning our deplorable  
lot. "The mountain at  
the foot of which we were  
wrecked formed part of the  
coast of a very large  
island. It was covered  
with wrecks, with human  
bones, and with a vast  
quantity of goods and  
riches. In all other  
places, rivers run from their  
channels into the sea, but  
here a river of fresh water  
runs out of the sea into  
a dark cavern, whose entrance  
is very high and spacious.  
What is most remarkable  
in this place is, that the  
stones of the mountain  
are of crystal, rubies, or  
other precious stones. Here  
is also a sort of fountain  
of pitch or bitumen, that

runs into the sea, which  
the fish swallow, and turn into  
ambergris: and this the  
waves throw up on the  
beach in great quantities.  
Trees also grow here,  
most of which are wood of  
aloes, equal in goodness  
to those of Comari. "To  
finish the description  
of this place, which may  
well be called a gulf, since  
nothing ever returns from  
it, it is not possible  
for ships to get off  
when once they approach  
within a certain distance.  
If they be driven thither  
by a wind from the sea,  
the wind and the current  
impel them; and if they  
come into it when a  
land-wind blows, the  
height of the mountain  
stops the wind, and  
occasions a calm, so

that the force of the current  
carries them ashore: and  
what completes the misfortune  
is, that there is no possibility  
of ascending the mountain,  
or of escaping by sea. "We  
continued upon the shore  
in a state of despair,  
and expected death every  
day. At first we divided  
our provisions as equally  
as we could, and thus every  
one lived a longer or  
shorter time, according  
to his temperance, and the use  
he made of his provisions.  
"I survived all my companions,  
yet when I buried the  
last, I had so little  
provision remaining  
that I thought I could not  
long endure and I dug  
a grave, resolving to lie down  
in it because there was  
no one left to inter me.  
"But it pleased God once more

to take compassion on me, and  
put it in my mind to  
go to the bank of the  
river which ran into the  
great cavern. Considering  
its probable course with  
great attention, I said to  
myself: 'This river, which  
runs thus under ground,  
must somewhere have an issue.  
If I make a raft, and  
leave myself to the current,  
it will convey me to some  
inhabited country, or  
I shall perish. If I be drowned,  
I lose nothing, but only change  
one kind of death for  
another.' "I immediately  
went to work upon large  
pieces of timber and  
cables, for I had choice  
of them, and tied them  
together so strongly that  
I soon made a very solid  
raft. When I had finished,  
I loaded it with rubies,

emeralds, ambergris,  
rock-crystal, and bales  
of rich stuffs. Having balanced  
my cargo exactly, and fastened  
it well to the raft,  
I went on board with  
two oars that I had made,  
and leaving it to the  
course of the river,  
resigned myself to the will  
of God. "As soon as I  
entered the cavern I lost  
all light, and the stream  
carried me I knew not  
whither. Thus I floated  
some days in perfect  
darkness, and once found  
the arch so low, that  
it very nearly touched my  
head, which made me cautious  
afterward to avoid the  
like danger. All this while  
I ate nothing but what was  
just necessary to support  
nature; yet, notwithstanding  
my frugality, all my provisions

were spent. Then a pleasing  
stupor seized upon me. I  
cannot tell how long it  
continued; but when I  
revived, I was surprised  
to find myself in an extensive  
plain on the brink of a  
river, where my raft was  
tied, amidst a great number  
of negroes. I got up as  
soon as I saw them,  
and saluted them. They  
spoke to me, but I did  
not understand their language.

I was so  
transported with joy,  
that I knew not whether  
I was asleep or awake;  
but being persuaded  
that I was not asleep,  
I recited aloud the  
following words in Arabic:  
'Call upon the Almighty,  
He will help thee; thou  
needest not perplex thyself  
about anything else: shut  
thy eyes, and while

thou art asleep, God will change  
thy bad fortune into good.'  
"One of the blacks, who  
understood Arabic, hearing  
me speak thus, came toward  
me and said: 'Brother,  
be not surprised to see us;  
we are inhabitants of this country,  
and came hither to-day to  
water our fields. We  
observed floating upon  
something  
the water, and, perceiving  
your raft, one of us  
swam into the river  
and brought it hither,  
where we fastened it, as you  
see, until you should  
awake. Pray tell us your  
history, for it must be  
extraordinary; how did you  
venture yourself into this  
river, and whence did  
you come?' I begged of  
them first to give me  
something to eat, and  
then I would satisfy their

curiosity. They gave  
me several sorts of food,  
and when I had satisfied  
my hunger, I related  
all that had befallen me,  
which they listened to  
with attentive surprise.  
As soon as I had finished,  
they told me, by the  
person who spoke Arabic  
and interpreted to them what  
I said, that it was one  
of the most wonderful  
stories they had ever heard,  
and that I must go along  
with them, and tell it  
to their king myself; it  
being too extraordinary  
to be related by any other  
than the person to whom the  
events had happened.  
"They immediately sent for a  
horse, which was brought  
in a little time; and  
having helped me to mount,  
some of them walked before

to shew the way, while  
the rest took my raft and  
cargo and followed.  
"We marched till we came  
to the capital of Serendib,  
for it was in that island  
I had landed. The blacks  
presented me to their  
king; I approached his throne,  
and saluted him as I used  
to do the Kings of the  
Indies; that is to say,  
I prostrated myself at  
his feet. The prince  
ordered me to rise, received  
me with an obliging air,  
and made me sit down near  
him. "I related to the king  
all that I have told  
you, and his majesty was  
so surprised and pleased,  
that he commanded my adventures  
to be written in letters  
of gold, and laid up in  
the archives of his kingdom.  
At last my raft was brought

in, and the bales opened  
in his presence: he admired  
the quantity of wood of  
aloes and ambergris;  
but, above all, the rubies  
and emeralds, for he had  
none in his treasury that  
equalled them. "Observing  
that he looked on my jewels  
with pleasure, I fell prostrate  
at his feet, and took the  
liberty to say to him:  
'Sir, not only my person  
is at your majesty's  
service, but the cargo  
of the raft, and I would  
beg of you to dispose  
of it as your own.' He answered  
me with a smile: 'Sinbad,  
I will take care not to  
covet anything of yours,  
or to take anything from  
you that God has given  
you; far from lessening  
your wealth, I design to  
augment it, and will not

let you quit my dominions  
without marks of my liberality.'  
He then charged one of his  
officers to take care  
of me, and ordered people  
to serve me at his own  
expense. The officer was  
very faithful in the execution  
of his commission, and caused  
all the goods to be carried  
to the lodgings provided for  
me. "I went every day  
at a set hour to make my  
court to the king, and  
spent the rest of my  
time in viewing the city,  
and what was most worthy  
of notice. "The capital  
of Serendib stands at  
the end of a fine valley,  
in the middle of the island,  
encompassed by mountains  
the highest in the world.  
Rubies and several sorts  
of minerals abound, and  
the rocks are for the

most part composed of  
a metalline stone made  
use of to cut and polish  
other precious stones. All  
kinds of rare plants and  
trees grow there, especially  
cedars and cocoa-nut.  
There is also a pearl-fishing  
in the mouth of its principal  
river; and in some of  
its valleys are found  
diamonds. I made, by  
way of devotion, a pilgrimage  
to the place where Adam  
was confined after his  
banishment from Paradise,  
and had the curiosity  
to go to the top of the  
mountain. "When I returned  
to the city, I prayed the  
king to allow me to return  
to my own country, and  
he granted me permission  
in the most honourable  
manner. He would needs  
force a rich present upon

me; and when I went to  
take my leave of him, he  
gave me one much more  
considerable, and at the  
same time charged me  
with a letter for the Commander  
of the Faithful, our sovereign,  
saying to me: 'I pray  
you give this present from  
me, and this letter, to  
the Caliph, and assure  
him of my friendship.'  
I took the present and  
letter and promised his  
majesty punctually to execute  
the commission with which  
he was pleased to honour  
me. "The letter from the King  
of Serendib was written  
on the skin of a certain  
animal of great value,  
because of its being  
so scarce, and of a yellowish  
colour. The characters  
of this letter were of azure,  
and the contents as follows:

"The King of the Indies,  
before whom march one  
hundred elephants, who lives  
in a palace that shines  
with one hundred thousand rubies,  
and who has in his treasury  
twenty thousand crowns enriched  
with diamonds, to Caliph  
Haroun-al -Raschid:  
-- "Though the present  
we send you be inconsiderable,  
receive it, however, as  
a brother, in consideration  
of the hearty friendship  
which we bear for you, and  
of which we are willing  
to give you proof. We  
desire the same part  
in your friendship, considering  
that we believe it to be our  
merit, being of the same  
dignity with yourself.  
We conjure you this in  
quality of a brother.  
Adieu.' "The present consisted,  
first, of one single

ruby made into a cup,  
 about half a foot high,  
 an inch thick, and filled  
 with round pearls of  
 half a drachm each. 2. The  
 skin of a serpent, whose  
 scales were as large as  
 an ordinary piece of gold,  
 and had the virtue to  
 preserve from sickness those  
 who lay upon it. 3. Fifty  
 thousand drachms of the best  
 wood of aloes, with thirty  
 grains of camphire as  
 big as pistachios. And, 4. A  
 female slave of ravishing  
 beauty, whose apparel was  
 all covered over with  
 jewels. "The ship set sail,  
 and after a very successful  
 navigation we landed  
 at Bussorah, and from thence  
 I went to Bagdad, where  
 the first thing I did  
 was to acquit myself of  
 my commission. "I took the

king of Serendib's letter and  
 went to present myself at  
 the gate of the Commander  
 of the Faithful, followed by  
 the beautiful slave, and  
 such of my own family  
 as carried the gifts.  
 I stated the reason of  
 my coming, and was immediately  
 conducted to the throne  
 of the caliph. I made my  
 reverence, and, after  
 a short speech, gave him the  
 letter and present. When  
 he had read what the king  
 of Serendib wrote to him,  
 he asked me if the prince  
 were really so rich and  
 potent as he represented  
 himself in his letter.  
 I prostrated myself a second  
 time, and rising again,  
 said: 'Commander of the Faithful,  
 I can assure your majesty  
 he doth not exceed the  
 truth. Nothing is more worthy

of admiration than the  
 magnificence  
 of his palace. When the prince  
 appears in public he  
 has a throne fixed on the  
 back of an elephant,  
 and marches betwixt two  
 ranks of his ministers,  
 favourites, and other  
 people of his court;  
 before him, upon the same  
 elephant, an officer  
 carries a golden lance  
 in his hand; and behind  
 the throne there is another,  
 who stands upright, with  
 a column of gold, on the  
 top of which is an emerald  
 half a foot long and an  
 inch thick; before him  
 march a guard of one thousand  
 men, clad in cloth of  
 gold and silk, and mounted  
 on elephants richly caparisoned.  
 "While the king is on  
 his march, the officer  
 who is before him on the

same elephant cries from  
time to time, with a loud  
voice: 'Behold the great  
monarch, the potent and  
redoubtable Sultan of  
the Indies, whose palace  
is covered with one hundred  
thousand rubies, and who possesses  
twenty thousand crowns of  
diamonds. Behold the  
monarch greater than Solomon,  
and the powerful Maha-raja.'

After he has pronounced  
those words, the officer  
behind the throne cries  
in his turn: 'This monarch,  
so great and so powerful,  
must die,